

# 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> Accelerated Social Studies Summer Assignment

## Theme: Turning Points in History

### Due: First Day of School

For all Social Studies classes in the NC MIST, we will be researching a history topic. This year's topics will tie to the 2024 National History Day theme, **Turning Points in History**.

#### **Part One: Select a Topic**

Select a historical event from the list provided below or find a topic in Washington State history that would work with the theme, **Turning Points in History**. Topics can be from local, state, national, or world history. A good way to determine whether your topic will work is if there is a book written on your topic. Below are some ideas, but don't feel limited by these choices. Think about what you are interested in and figure out if there is a turning point that has a meaningful impact on society. The question to ask yourself is, "This is an event in history, but is it a turning point? Another point to consider is how long ago did the turning point happen? Try not to select a current event – we want to have a topic that is far enough back in history to allow for historians to have studied it and provided perspectives. Finally, although scientific changes are key events in history, be sure to keep in mind that this is a history project.

#### **Example topics to get you thinking:**

1. Business models changing: McDonalds - how has the creation of the fast-food industry changed America? Walmart – how did this change shopping?
2. Environment: Creation of the Environmental Protection Agency. What impact did the creation of this agency have on protecting animals or restricting development?
3. Exploration Era: Old World meets New World. Discovery of the Americas. This could be from either side of the event.
4. Native American topics: The 1974 Boldt Decision in Washington State gave Native Americans the right to co-manage salmon and other fish. This court ruling upheld treaties made in the 1800s between the federal government and Native Americans. Indian Removal Act
5. Court cases: Obergefell v. Hodges (right of gay couples to marry), Goss v. Lopez (requires hearing before suspension), Brown v. Board of Education (separation based on race is unconstitutional),
6. Music: are there significant changes that altered the course of the music industry?
7. People: For any event or idea that influenced the course of history, there is a person attached who could be focused on in relation to that turning point.
8. Art: is there an art form that moved the art world in a different direction? Some possibilities are Gothic art, the infusion of Japanese art into Western art, or artists like Andy Warhol who made art more mainstream.
9. Big events: there are some super large events that may be of interest but would need to be whittled down to bite-size projects. Napoleon invading Russia, Mao Zedong taking control of China, the Chinese Cultural Revolution, Fall of the Berlin Wall

#### **Part Two: Find Three Sources**

Where to Conduct Research:

1. Within the Spokane Public Library, you can, of course, check out print books. At the Downtown location, there is the Northwest Room which carries one-of-a-kind copies of books on the Inland northwest. The Northwest Room might be a good place for researching these Washington state topics. Information about hours and books can be found at [spokanelibrary.org](http://spokanelibrary.org). The library also provides online databases. Sample databases:

- Opposing Viewpoints in Context
- Masterfile Explora Magazine/ Ebsco
- ProQuest

2. Also, when researching sites, try to find .gov, .edu, or .org urls.

3. Documentaries are good beginning resources. They can help explain a topic that you are unfamiliar with.
4. Podcasts are also a great way to give us perspectives we have not thought of. I have listened to *99% Invisible* for ideas.

**Part Three: Writing**

These questions should be fully answered with specific details and pieces of information. More is better. Be sure to use your words, not anyone else’s. Typed responses are preferred, but you may hand write them if necessary. We realize that you are just beginning to learn about this subject – your job is to see what you can learn, try to explain it to people around you, try to put it in your own words, and don’t be afraid to work through a big topic.

1. **What should we know about this turning point? Provide as much description here as you can.**
2. **What were the effects of this turning point? The effects may not have been immediate.**
3. **What questions do you have about this topic? What would you look up next?**
4. **Assess each of your sources. (Wikipedia is not a viable source for this work, but it could be a source that you use to begin understanding your topic.) For the three sources you examine, answer the following questions.**
  - a. **What is the title of your source, who is the author, and where can it be found?**
  - b. **What do you think about the reliability of your source? Do you feel this is a trustworthy source? Explain why you think this.**

This is the rubric that will be used to grade this assignment:

**Becoming Familiar with a history topic related to the 2024 History Day Project**

Student’s Name:		Comments:
All questions are answered thoroughly in student’s own words.	8 11 13 15	
Has a beginning grasp of the topic and demonstrates effort to “dig in.”	8 11 13 15	
Neatness: All questions answered on separate paper. Typed is preferred	1 2 3 4 5	
Total Score:	/35	

**Help!** If you have a question email Mrs. Korus ([paulak@spokaneschools.org](mailto:paulak@spokaneschools.org)), Mr. Duggan ([glennd@spokaneschools.org](mailto:glennd@spokaneschools.org)), or Mr. Zappone ([zackz@spokaneschools.org](mailto:zackz@spokaneschools.org)). All three of us will be in and out of contact but will return your email as soon as possible.