

7th Accelerated Social Studies Summer Assignment

Breaking Barriers in History

Due: First Day of School

Welcome seventh graders! For 7th grade Accelerated Social Studies, we will be doing research on a history topic. This year's topics will tie to the 2020 National History Day theme, *Breaking Barriers in History*.

Part One Research: Find three sources.

Select a historical event from the list provided below or find a topic in Washington State history that would work with the theme, Breaking Barriers in History. Below are some sample topics. You DO NOT have to use this list! However, your topic must be tied to the theme, *Breaking Barriers in History*. A good way to determine whether your topic will work is if there is a book written on the subject. Students who choose to take their research out to Eastern Washington University's Regional History Day competition in February typically have 10-15 sources, so the more you find now, the better!

List of sample topic ideas:

1. Local and State History (Local and state history is a great choice because there are loads of sources very accessible. And, sometimes you may know of a topic that few people have ever heard of.)

- a. May Arkwright Hutton – voting rights for women
- b. Removal of Elwha River dam in Olympic National Park (road trip!)
- c. Black Robes who spread Christianity in Native American cultures
- d. Carl Maxey - Spokane lawyer who broke down racial barriers
- e. Railroad construction – geographic barriers needed to overcome to build the railroads?
- f. Washingtonians Clyde Pangborn and Hugh Herndon – first non-stop flight over Pacific Ocean

2. Women's history

Some women who broke barriers: Amelia Earhart, Bessie Coleman, Sara Winnemucca, Valentina Tereshokova, Nelly Bly, Isabella Bird, Gerlinde Kaltenbrunner, Jeanne Baret, Dian Fossey, Gertrude Belle

3. Environment – be sure to keep the focus on barriers in history.

- a. Creation of Earth Day
- b. Passage of Clean Air Act or Clean Water Act
- c. Passage of National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act
- d. Aldo Leopold's publication of *A Sand Country Almanac* (heavy topic)
- e. Rachel Carson's book, *Silent Spring* about insecticide awareness (heavy topic)
- f. For more ideas see National Geographic's webpage: 49 environmental victories since the first Earth Day, published April 22, 2019, written by Brian Clark Howard.

4. Sports, arts, entertainment

- a. Be careful with this topic. Ensure you cover something worthy of researching – there must be a meaningful impact to society. Make sure there are enough resources.
- b. Althea Gibson – first black woman to win U.S. Nationals and Wimbledon
- c. John L. Sullivan - first sub 4 minute mile
- d. Perry Young - first black pilot employed by a U.S. airline.

Part Two 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. I 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 barrier? Provide as much description here as you can, minimum half page.
2. What should we know about the process of breaking the barrier in history? Again, provide as much description here as you can, minimum half page.
3. What were the effects of breaking this barrier? The effects may not have been immediate.
4. What questions do you have about this topic? What would you look up next?
5. 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.

Places 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. The library also provides online databases for those who own a card. Sample databases:
 - Oposing 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.

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

Becoming Familiar with a history topic related to the 2020 History Day theme: Breaking Barriers in History

Student's Name:		
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	

Questions? Email me at paulak@spokaneschools.org. I will check email over the summer :-)!