

Name:

Class:

Worksheet: Research Question Starters

The questions below can help you write your own questions and help guide your research. Starting questions are in each box. Pick the questions that fit the best - and edit them to make them specific to your topic. It's okay to start with only a few of the questions in each box.

As you research, look for new questions you can ask to help you dig deeper. Record those new questions on this worksheet, too.

Pre-Research Questions: Use these to learn more about the five "W's" of your topic.

When did my topic happen?
Where did my topic happen?
What is the "main event" of my topic? What happened in my topic?
Who was involved in my topic? (Think of those both directly and indirectly involved)
Why did my topic happen? Who/What caused it?

Theme Questions: The theme will help you to focus your research! Think about the theme early in your History Day journey. It will help guide your research and make a strong connection between your topic and "*Turning Points in History*."

How does my topic connect to the **theme**?

- What was the turning point of my topic? What was the event, action, idea or innovation?
- What made my turning point significant?
- What was the change? What changed after your topic?

What different **perspectives** does my topic have?

- What people or groups were in support or not in support of the turning point? Why?
- What groups of people were not "seen or heard" when thinking about the turning point?

What are the **impacts** of my topic?

- What impact did my topic have on local, regional or world history?
- What intended and unintended consequences happened as a result?
- What impact did decisions have on groups that were excluded from the process?

Research Questions: These questions help you dig deeper into a specific part of your topic using more in-depth sources like books and primary sources. Research questions will be more in-depth and focus on a specific issue or idea, usually involving a historical concept: Cause and effect, significance or impact in history, connection to historical context, comparison and contrast, change and continuity over time, or connections to larger issues or trends in history. [Visit our website](#) for more help!