

Item Name:	National History Day Contest
Item Type:	Complex Project
Subject and/or Course:	History, Grade 6-12
Common Core Standards:	Aligned with the Reading & Writing Standards for Literacy in History/Social Studies
Developer/Source:	©National History Day Available from http://www.nhd.org/Contest.htm
Item Features:	Administration: Curriculum-embedded Length of time for response: Multiple weeks Method of scoring: Rubric and checklist Opportunity for student collaboration: Once a week Opportunity for teacher feedback and revision: Daily

Collection of performance assessment items compiled by



Stanford Center for Assessment, Learning, & Equity

Visit <http://www.nhd.org> for complete information about this task and program.

What is National History Day?

“National History Day (NHD) is a highly regarded academic program for elementary and secondary school students.

Each year, more than half a million students, encouraged by thousands of teachers nationwide participate in the NHD contest. Students choose historical topics related to a theme and conduct extensive primary and secondary research through libraries, archives, museums, oral history interviews and historic sites. After analyzing and interpreting their sources and drawing conclusions about their topics’ significance in history, students present their work in original papers, websites, exhibits, performances and documentaries. These products are entered into competitions in the spring at local, state and national levels where they are evaluated by professional historians and educators. The program culminates in the Kenneth E. Behring National Contest each June held at the University of Maryland at College Park.

In addition to discovering the exciting world of the past, NHD also helps students develop the following attributes that are critical for future success:

- critical thinking and problem-solving skills
- research and reading skills
- oral and written communication and presentation skills
- self esteem and confidence
- a sense of responsibility for and involvement in the democratic process ...”¹

¹ <http://www.nhd.org/About.htm>

Interested in using NHD in your classroom? Check out these resources!

National History Day [Classroom Connection](#) is the base for all Teacher Resources. There you can download your copy of the [NHD theme book](#) and rule book. The 2014-2015 year contest theme is *Leadership & Legacy in History*. You can also access “Teacher Resources” in the left-hand menu bar and that will take you to resources for implementing National History Day including worksheets, judging guides, and [sample student projects](#).

If you want to implement the NHD program in your classroom, click on the “contest” tab and that will offer you tips for getting started, linking with an NHD coordinator in your geographic region.

If you’re looking for classroom resources, please check out the downloadable resources for [World War I](#), [US History in Global Context](#), and [Teaching the Civil War in the 21st Century](#). Also see the Classroom Connection page for information on the webinars, Google+ Hangouts, conference presentations, and other professional development opportunities offered by NHD.

Interested teachers can join the NHD teacher listserv by emailing Lynne O’Hara at Lynne@nhd.org.

If you have questions about implementing NHD in your classroom, please feel free to contact Lynne O’Hara, NHD Director of Programs at Lynne@nhd.org.

What is National History Day (NHD)?

National History Day (NHD) is a dynamic, year-round academic program with over 600,000 sixth through twelfth grade student participants from around the globe. NHD uses student research contests, educator professional development, and advanced evidence-based classroom curriculum to improve teaching and student performance.

Awards and Recognition

- National Humanities Medal 2011, awarded by President Barack Obama at a White House ceremony
- American Association for State and Local History Award for Merit
- Exemplary Program Recipient by the President's Committee on Arts and Humanities
- Charles Frankel Prize for Public Programming in the Humanities, awarded to Dr. David Van Tassel, NHD founder

What Others Say About National History Day

The goal of NHD is to impact the lives of students through award winning history education programs. See what those whom NHD inspires have to say about the program and their experiences:

"NHD gives me the chance to challenge all students at all levels. What they learn goes way beyond the subject matter they research. They learn self-confidence, the rewards of hard work, how to present themselves, and how to work as a team. All skills needed today in the workplace."

— Laurie Clemens, NHD Teacher, Idaho

"As a teacher in a poorer state, my students are not always afforded the opportunities of those in more prosperous areas. With NHD, I find that income is not a restrainer. Students can research in so many different facets, including local venues. This encourages students to seek out local archives, and other historic sites. Perhaps the greatest asset is that students learn the "story" of history and not just the facts."

— Elizabeth Green, NHD Teacher, Pasacagoula, Mississippi

"NHD taught me that if I take the time to really research and dive in depth into a topic while staying organized, any papers and projects that come after that will basically do themselves. And that has saved me in college."

— Sean Dolan, NHD Student, Stanwood, Washington