

Sample Local History Topics for History Day Projects

2009-2010

Innovation in History: Impact and Change

The theme of the National History Day 2010 is "Innovation in History: Impact and Change." Students are encouraged to examine their topic's influence on history and draw conclusions about the ways in which their topic had an impact on the course of events and on individuals, communities, nations, or the world. Students and teachers are encouraged to remember local history and local resources when selecting topics.

Listed below are general topics of innovation with [sample local topics](#).

Agriculture

Salad Bowl: Birth of the Lettuce Industry and How It Changed the Salinas Valley (Or . . . Artichokes, or . . . ?).

Fishing and Canning Industry

Protecting the Harbor: How the Campaign for the Breakwater Saved the Monterey Fishing Industry.

Abalone King: Pop Ernest.

The Sardine Capital of the World: How New Boats and New Fishing and Canning Technology Built an Industry

Community Planning and Change

Urban Beautification Projects in Local Cities (for example, Custom House Plaza: Designing a New Old Town Monterey).

Picturing Monterey County: How the Camera and Photographers Developed Travel and Tourism.

Arts and Festivals

Birth of the Monterey Jazz Festival.

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Government and Politics

Constitutional Convention of 1849: Establishing a New California.

Business and Industry

Won Yee: The Mayor of Cannery Row and the Transformation of the Lowly Squid into an International Commodity.

Monterey Bay Aquarium

Environment

Establishment of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary

Saving Point Lobos from Development

Labor

Mexican Bracero Program

Caesar Chavez and the United Farm Workers.

Literature

The Effect of John Steinbeck's Grapes of Wrath on Monterey County.

Transportation

The Railroad Transforms the Monterey Region (Example: The Del Monte Express Comes to Town: The Beginning of Tourism on the Monterey Peninsula)

To find primary source materials in local history, contact the librarians at your local library or the staff of the local history centers on these lists:

<http://www.monterey.org/library/calhist/cahist.html>

<http://www.monterey.org/library/history/regioncolls2.html>

