

**Old Capitol Museum**

24 Old Capitol  
Iowa City, Iowa 52242-1000  
319-335-0548  
[www.uiowa.edu/~oldcap](http://www.uiowa.edu/~oldcap)

**To:** History and Social Studies Teachers in the Grant Wood AEA Region  
**From:** Kathrine Moermond, Education & Outreach Coordinator, Old Capitol Museum  
**Re:** 2016 National History Day in Iowa District 10 Competition  
**Date:** September 2015

**Dear History Educators,**

Whether you are a veteran National History Day (NHD) teacher or a newcomer to the program, I invite you to take a close look at the included materials about this exciting and unique educational event.

**National History Day in Iowa** is an event that promotes the study of history in schools by creating a higher degree of engagement with historical thought in students, educators, and community members who participate. The program's central elements develop participants' ability to: (1) complete in-depth research; (2) critically analyze and develop conclusions about the information they have discovered from a variety of sources; and (3) present and defend their interpretations in a critical yet creative forum. The spirit of National History Day is based upon the recognition of excellence and the positive evaluation of every participant. Working individually or collaboratively, NHD students create original research papers, exhibits, documentaries, performances, and websites related to the annual theme. The theme for 2016 is **"Exploration, Encounter, Exchange in History."** With their projects, students compete at district, state, and national levels of NHD.

The 2015–2016 Grant Wood AEA regional competition will be held at the Old Capitol Museum and nearby Schaeffer Hall, both located at the center of the University of Iowa Campus. The staff at the Old Capitol—Iowa's first state capitol, the University's first permanent building, and a National Historic Landmark—is honored to host this exhilarating and enlightening event.

If you are new to NHD, please contact me immediately so that we can ensure you receive important information such as a theme book, sample topic lists, workshop dates, and crucial updates about the contest.

We look forward to working with you and hope your students enjoy the challenges of **"Exploration, Encounter, Exchange in History!"** Please see the enclosed materials for important participation information and contest deadlines.

If you know any teachers who may not have received these materials, but would also like to participate, please pass the enclosed information onto them.

Thank you!

Kathrine Moermond  
Education & Outreach Coordinator  
NHD in Iowa District 10 Coordinator



## Map and Parking Information

Both the Old Capitol Museum and Schaeffer Hall are located in the center of University of Iowa campus in Iowa City. Old Capitol Museum is near the intersection of Clinton St. and Iowa Ave. Just a 1/4 block north-east of Old Capitol, Schaeffer Hall is on the corner of Clinton St. and Washington St.

Parking is available in the Old Capitol Mall parking ramp—one block south of the museum on Clinton Street.

Street parking may be available as well.

For a complete list of parking options, please visit <http://www.uiowa.edu/~maps/parking/dwntwn.htm>

For a complete map of the UI campus, please visit <http://www.uiowa.edu/~maps/regional/main.htm>

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## NHD WORKSHOPS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA LIBRARIES

The National History Day (NHD) workshops offered by the University of Iowa Libraries allow school groups to visit the Libraries and do research for their NHD projects. They will have the opportunity to utilize the Libraries' research databases, explore the collections (including Reference, Maps, Government Publications, etc.,) visit Special Collections & University Archives, and the Iowa Women's Archives. \*\*This does not include visits to the State Historical Society of Iowa in Iowa City and the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library in West Branch. These visits must be coordinated separately with each institution. The University of Iowa Libraries will also be offering site visits for schools who 1.) Would like a prep session before their visit or 2.) Are unable to bring their students to one of the workshops. The UI Library NHD team can only travel within a 100 mile radius of University of Iowa, in Iowa City.

Students can apply for a borrower's permit so they may check out materials of the University of Iowa Libraries. Application information is available on the National History Day Workshop page (<http://guides.lib.uiowa.edu/nhd>).

ALL WORKSHOPS ARE CAPPED AT 50 STUDENTS—so register today! For additional information and dates of available NHD Workshops at The University of Iowa Libraries, please contact [lib-nhd@uiowa.edu](mailto:lib-nhd@uiowa.edu) or visit the NHD Workshop page (<http://guides.lib.uiowa.edu/nhd>).

To:

The University of Iowa  
Old Capitol Museum  
21 Old Capitol  
Iowa City, IA 52242

# *NHD in Iowa District 10 Contest*

*Save the date!*

# March 18, 2016

## "Exploration, Encounter, Exchange in History"

*Old Capitol Museum*



**NHD**  
NATIONAL  
HISTORY DAY

# Program Information

**NHD in Iowa** promotes the study of history by creating a higher degree of appreciation for the value of historical thought in the students, educators, and community members who participate. Working individually or collaboratively, History Day students create original research papers, exhibit displays, documentaries, dramatic performances, and websites related to the annual theme. The theme for 2016 is "**Exploration, Encounter, Exchange in History.**"

Categories include:

**Paper** (individual only): A historical research paper with word length between 1500 and 2500 words.

**Exhibit** (individual or group): A visual representation of one's research modeled after museum exhibits.

**Documentary** (individual or group): A ten-minute visual multimedia production much like what you would view on The History Channel.

**Performance** (individual or group): A ten-minute theatrical portrayal of research conclusions, much like living history.

**Websites** (individual or group): A multimedia presentation fit for demonstration on the World Wide Web.

For complete project details, please reference a copy of the NHD Contest Rule Book available at [www.nationalhistoryday.org](http://www.nationalhistoryday.org) or contact the State History Day office—State Coordinator **Katie Craven (State Historical Society of Iowa, 600 E. Locust, Des Moines, IA 50319, [Katie.craven@iowa.gov](mailto:Katie.craven@iowa.gov) or 515-725-0506)**. Please note, the Rule Book has been updated and a copy is available for purchase on the NHD website.

## Grant Wood AEA 10 District Contest Information

**District Coordinator:** Kathrine Moermond  
Education and Outreach Coordinator [kathrine-moermond@uiowa.edu](mailto:kathrine-moermond@uiowa.edu)  
**Old Capitol Museum** 319-335-0546 dir. 319-335-0548 main  
21 Old Capitol  
Iowa City, Iowa 52242

### Contest Registration Fee FYI

The **registration fee is \$12/student** (*not per project*). Registration fees are non-refundable, and will be due with the student registration by **Friday, February 19, 2016**. Please make checks payable to **Old Capitol Museum**.

## Important Dates

### **\*Friday, January 22, 2016: Intent to Compete Form Due**

Should you choose to participate in the competitive cycle of NHD, an Intent to Compete Form (enclosed) is required to ensure you receive all the necessary registration materials. The number of students participating can be estimated.

### **\*Friday, February 19, 2016: Registration deadline & Registration Fee Due**

Registration must be completed online. Go to the Online Registration link at <http://ia.nhd.org/> and select the **2014 Grant Wood AEA 10 (Iowa City) District Event** to begin the process.

### **\*Friday, March 4, 2016: Final Papers and Websites Due**

Students competing in the historical paper category must ***postmark and mail 4 copies*** of their project to **Old Capitol Museum** prior to the district contest for judge evaluation. Late papers will not be accepted. ***Websites will be locked for judging beginning at midnight on this date!***

### **\*Friday, March 11, 2016: Cancellation Deadline**

Teachers must inform the Old Capitol Museum of any cancellations prior to this date! Please note, registration fees will not be refunded under any circumstances. To ensure an event that runs smoothly, teachers are encouraged to inform **Kathrine Moermond at Old Capitol Museum** of cancellations as early as is possible prior to this date.

**Friday, March 18, 2016: District Contest at Old Capitol Museum and  
Schaeffer Hall, Iowa City, Iowa**

# National History Day 2016 Theme: Exploration, Encounter, Exchange in History

Adrienne Harkness, Contest Manager, National History Day  
Lynne M. O'Hara, Director of Programs, National History Day

National History Day welcomes you to explore the theme, *Exploration, Encounter, Exchange in History*, during the 2015-2016 academic year. This theme is broad enough in scope to encourage investigation of topics ranging from local to world history and across any geographic area or time period. Consider this theme an invitation to look across time, space, and geography to find examples in history of when people took a risk and made a change.

You can begin brainstorming for possible topics by thinking about subjects you are interested in, whether it is science, sports, art, travel, culture, or even specific people. Make note of any areas of interest, creating a list of possible subjects. Talking with your classmates, teachers, and parents about your list can help you narrow down your selection. Throughout this process, keep in mind that your topic must relate to *Exploration, Encounter, Exchange in History* and must be historical, not a current event.

A million ideas flood your mind when you think about exploration, encounter, and exchange, especially because they can mean many different things. So let us first look at them one at a time.

## Exploration

Exploration likely conjures up visions of travelers setting out on a journey to discover new lands. Consider the voyages of Vasco da Gama, Hernán Cortéz, or Ferdinand Magellan. Certainly we can see this in Christopher Columbus' attempt to find a quicker sea route to the Indies, where spices and other desired goods could be found and then sold back in Europe. Of course, we know that while the original goal of that exploration was not achieved, Columbus and his party did succeed in transforming the Americas, Europe, and Africa forever. Can you think of other examples where exploration led to unforeseen consequences?

Exploration also can be examined in the field of science. Researchers are constantly undertaking scientific explorations to find new medications or possible cures for diseases such as cancer. How did Jonas Salk's exploration into a vaccine for polio lead to better industry standards in producing vaccines? How did the work of Francis Watson and James Crick in exploring the structure of DNA lead to cracking the code of the human genome? Consider Sigmund Freud's exploration of psychoanalysis and the developments of various theorists in the field of psychology.

The search for new modes of movement has captivated humans since the beginnings of recorded time. This form of exploration has resulted in the invention of a variety of vehicles that could make excellent topic choices. From the invention of the wheel to the development of the space shuttle and the International Space Station, there is a range of explorations, encounters, and exchanges. How did the design of the longships affect the Vikings' encounters with non-Vikings? Ships, trains, cars, airplanes, and rockets each dramatically transformed ideas about what kinds of exploration were possible. In addition, new routes, pathways, and roads played a pivotal role in helping certain transportation options grow in usefulness or popularity. How

did the Erie Canal increase encounters and exchanges between different areas within the United States? Once the interstate highways were built, how did they affect travel in the United States?

Exploration does not need to be literal—think of exploration as a new idea, concept, or theory that is tested. This idea can come from the fields of politics, economics, or military science. Consider the ways that political campaigns explored the use of radio, and later television and the internet, to introduce candidates to the public. How did the economic theory of mercantilism drive the exploration of the Americas and exploitation of the resources found there? How did new advancements in both strategy and technology influence the outcome of the Battle of the Atlantic in World War II?

## Encounter

Exploration, of course, almost always leads to encounters—with different peoples, unfamiliar environments, and new ideas. Encounters are often unexpected and unpredictable, and they reveal much about those involved.

When Meriwether Lewis and William Clark began exploring western North America in 1804, Americans knew little of the vast territory west of the Mississippi River. The explorers' encounter with that region, however, was shaped in part by individuals like Sacagawea, a Shoshone woman who understood the land and its inhabitants, and served as a guide and translator for Lewis and Clark. How did she influence the expedition's encounters with other Native Americans? With the plants and animals they encountered along the way? How did Lewis and Clark's notes and drawings of the geography, wildlife, and inhabitants influence the encounters of later Americans?

Many times encounters involve peoples, plants, and animals that have not previously interacted. How did Matteo Ricci's efforts at understanding Chinese culture affect his encounter with the Chinese intelligentsia? Consider the major effects on world history resulting from the Columbian Exchange, when people, plants, microbes, animals, food, religions, and cultures moved across continents.

Often exploration leads to occupation or subjugation of other groups of people. Consider the encounters between the Romans and the Germanic tribes of Europe. How did the Mongols, Aztecs, or Incas interact with their neighbors? What factors influence whether a new encounter is seen as a positive exchange or as a disastrous occurrence? Consider the event from both sides and analyze the perspectives of both the conquerors and the conquered.

Encounters also occur between familiar parties. How did the political, social, and cultural differences between the Athenians and the Spartans, differences with which each side was familiar, affect the way the Peloponnesian Wars were waged? How do military encounters differ from environmental and cultural encounters in their consequences? How have these encounters remained the same across time, and how have they varied with changing historical circumstances? How did the horrific encounter with trench warfare in World War I lead to new strategies ranging from bombing campaigns to blitzkrieg?

## Exchange

It is impossible to make a journey of exploration, encounter new ideas, and not have some ideas exchanged between the groups of people.

Encounters can lead to many types of exchanges, whether it be goods, food, ideas, disease, or gunfire. The Silk Road, a series of ancient routes connecting the lands bordering the Pacific Ocean to those of the Mediterranean Sea, formed a means of exchange between European, Eurasian, and Asian peoples for more than a thousand years. The Silk Road brought gunpowder,

the magnetic compass, printing press, and silk to the West. To China, it brought precious stones, furs, and horses. One of the road's best known travelers, Marco Polo, recorded his observations in his *Travels of Marco Polo*. But as we know, exchange is not necessarily mutually beneficial.

**W**hen Europeans were exploring the New World, they brought with them diseases such as smallpox and measles that were contracted by many members of the native tribes they encountered. Having no previous exposure to these illnesses, the natives' immune systems could not naturally fight these diseases, nor did native healers have the knowledge to treat them. As a result, many natives perished because of their encounter and exchange with the Europeans.

But exchanges do not happen only in the physical realm. The sharing of ideas, beliefs, and customs can have widespread consequences for the people and cultures involved. Consider the spread of any of the world's major religions. Sometimes the exchange of new or controversial ideas within a society can have a significant effect on how that society thinks and acts. What changes occur within the society because of that exchange? How did Charles Darwin's theory of evolution, for example, lead to the cultural conflicts of the 1920s?

Politics also can be an area of dramatic exchange. In 1971 the American table tennis team, in Japan for the world championships, was unexpectedly invited by the Chinese team to visit the People's Republic of China. At that time it had been more than 20 years since a group of Americans had been invited to China, since the Communist takeover in 1949. How did that exchange help President Richard Nixon renew diplomatic relations with China? Did it lead to future encounters and exchanges between the two countries? Establishing relationships is often a major part of new encounters and exchanges.

As you can see, all three elements in this year's theme—exploration, encounter, exchange—are closely related. Try to find examples of each in your chosen topic, though you should note that some topics will lend themselves to focus mainly on one area. You are not required to address all of these elements in your project. Remember that you are not just reporting the past, but you are investigating, searching, digging deeper into the research to thoroughly understand the historical significance of your topic and support your thesis. You will need to ask questions about time and place, cause and effect, and change over time, as well as impact. To truly grasp your topic, think about not just when and how events happened, but why they happened and what effect they had. Your project should be able to answer the all-important question of "So what?" Why was your topic important, and why should we study or understand its effects today? Answers to these questions will help guide you as you conduct your research and decide how to present your information.

# Sample Topics List

- New Spain and the Comanche: Encounters, Missions, and Conquests
- The Spark that Ignited a Flame: China's Explosion into Gunpowder
- Roger Williams: The Exploration to Establish Rhode Island and Provide Religious Tolerance
- Mansa Musa: Exploring Africa
- Encounter and Exchange of Religious Ideas between Puritans and Native Americans in New England
- Jesuit Missionary Matteo Ricci: Italy and China Exchange Philosophy and Astronomy
- Catherine the Great's Encounters with Voltaire and the Enlightenment
- Commodore Matthew Perry and Exchange with Japan
- The Exchange of Disease: Encounters between Europeans and Native Americans in the Colonial Era
- Catherine of Siena and Gregory XI: The Exchange that Returned the Church to Rome
- James Cook and the European Encounter with Oceania
- How the Encounter of the Chesapeake-Leopard Affair Led to the War of 1812
- Venice 1348: A Global Encounter, a Deadly Exchange
- Exploration and Ice: Encountering the North Pole
- The Silk Road and Cultural Exchange
- Encountering New Spain: Manifest Destiny and the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo
- Exploring the Galapagos: Charles Darwin and the Theory of Evolution
- American Missionaries, China, and Religious Encounters
- Brigham Young, Mormonism, and Westward Expansion
- Ada Lovelace: Exploring Computer Programming in 1840s England
- Galileo: Exploring the Universe, Encountering Resistance
- Athens and Sparta: Military Encounter and Exchange
- Exploring the Nation: The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad
- Rudolf Roessler: The Allies' Exchange with an Undercover German Decoder
- An Encounter with Fanaticism: John Doyle Lee and the Arkansas Mountain Meadows Massacre
- Exploring Disease: Jonas Salk and the Polio Vaccine
- The New York Stock Exchange: Money as Power
- Margaret Mead: Exploring Human Development
- Diplomatic Encounter: The SALT Talks
- Exchange between France and the United States: The Louisiana Purchase
- Exploring African-American Culture: The Harlem Renaissance
- Intimate Exchange: Abigail and John Adams
- Expanding the Boundaries of Dance: Martha Graham
- Rosalind Franklin: Exploring the Human Genome, Encountering Prejudice
- Exploring New Technologies: Andrew Carnegie's Steel Empire
- Exploring America: Immigration
- Nelson Mandela's Encounters with Apartheid
- Exploring an Empire: Hammurabi's Expansion of Mesopotamia
- Patterns of Exploration and Encounter: French Jesuits in Canada
- Turkey and the Armenian Genocide: a Violent Encounter of Religious Difference on Close Borders
- The Artistic Exploration: Bierstadt and Moran's Journey and the Creation of Yellowstone National Park
- The Zimmermann Telegram: The Exchange that Broke Down American Isolationism
- *Reynolds v. United States*: The Encounter between Polygamy and Law
- Encounter in Little Rock: Desegregating Central High School
- Encountering Communism: The Creation of NATO
- *Minersville School District v. Gobitis*: When Idolatry Encounters Patriotism
- Exchanging Musical Performance for Morale: Captain Glenn Miller's Contribution to World War II
- The Exchange between Congress and the Executive: Who Decides to Fight a War?
- The Iran-Contra Affair and the Controversial Exchange of Hostages for Arms
- Waco: The Deadly Encounter between the Branch-Dravidians and the FBI
- Apollo 13: Exploration in Space
- Pop Art: The Exchange of Consumerism and Culture
- Impressment: The Unwanted Exchange between Great Britain and the United States

## Intent to Compete Form

# Yes, I want to Participate in National History Day 2016!

Teacher(s): \_\_\_\_\_

School District: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

Approximate total number of students participating: \_\_\_\_\_

Approximate number of students participating in the WEBSITE category \_\_\_\_\_

Is this your first year participating in NHD? YES NO

**BY FRIDAY JANUARY 22, 2016:** Please complete and mail this form to Kathrine Moermond, Education & Outreach Coordinator, Old Capitol Museum, 21 Old Capitol, Iowa City, IA 52242. Or, email the information to [Kathrine-moermond@uiowa.edu](mailto:Kathrine-moermond@uiowa.edu) . Thank You!

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