

Each year throughout California and Arizona, thousands of 6th-12th grade students and their teachers participate in the National History Day competition. After selecting a topic of their choice related to the annual theme, students become historians as they perform research at libraries, archives, museums and historic sites. Students use their discoveries to create exhibits, essays, documentaries, websites or performances.

Students and teachers are encouraged to take advantage of the rich array of area resources in their communities to pursue local, regional, national and global topics of historical note in connection with this year's theme.

The National Archives at Riverside is pleased to provide National History Day research assistance for individual National History Day competitors. The extensive primary resources and the informed advice from the National Archives staff can help students create more effective projects.

We can help you discover a variety of topics, using primary sources throughout the nationwide network of National Archives facilities. Our records document national policies and their effects in the communities throughout Arizona, southern California and Las Vegas, Nevada.

Contact the National Archives at Riverside for assistance with National History Day topics at Riverside.Archives@nara.gov.

Please Note: Students are always welcome to come in and research, but if they are under the age of 14 they must be accompanied by a teacher, parent, or guardian.

The National Archives at Riverside maintains Federal records from southern California, Arizona and the Las Vegas, Nevada metropolitan area.

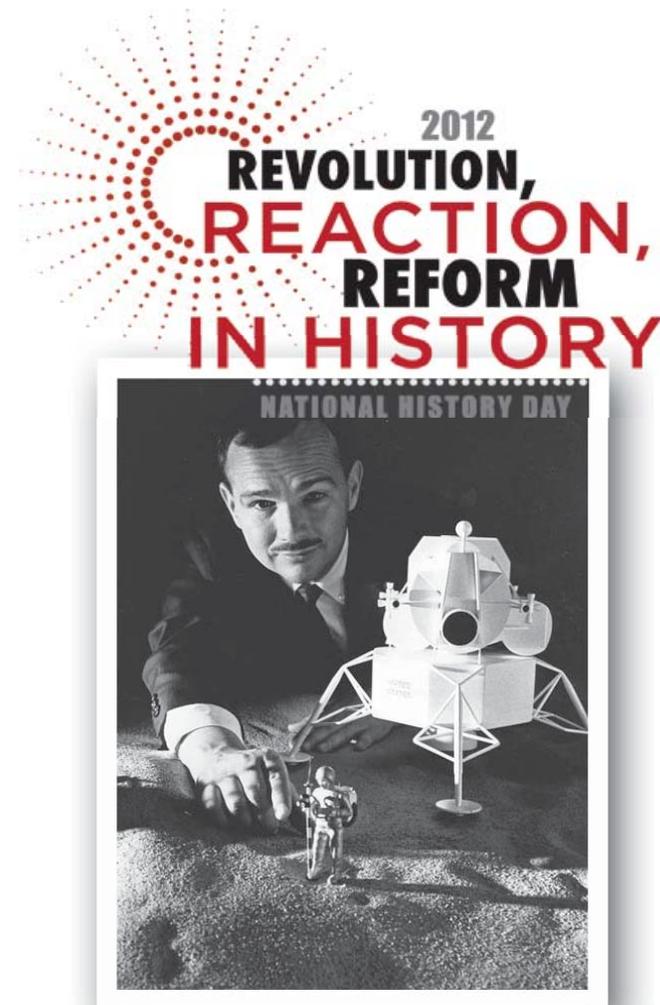
We preserve more than 38,000 cubic feet of historical primary sources from the 1790s to the 1990s on a variety of topics.

For more information about National History Day, www.nhd.org

OR CONTACT:

The California state coordinator at <http://ca.nhd.org/>

The arizona state coordinator at <http://arizonahistoricalsociety.org/nhd/>



**GETTING READY FOR
NATIONAL HISTORY DAY**

Using Resources from
The National Archives
at Riverside

Revolution, Reaction, Reform in History

Sample Topics from The National Archives at Riverside



The National Archives at Riverside maintains records which tell stories of American citizens and their struggles to fulfil their view of the American dream:

Mendez v. Westminster, the case brought by the fathers of Mexican-American children who were being sent to segregated schools. They won desegregation of California schools eight years before the Brown v. Board of Education case desegregated schools across the nation.

Japanese-Americans fought their own war during World War II. They battled to be called American while being confined in War Relocation Authority camps. Some were trapped in Japan during the war and struggled as US Citizens and enemies in their parents homeland.

Chicano students struggled to express themselves during the brown rights movement of the 1970s against the “man” at their high school in Brawley.

Ricardo Flores Magon recruited revolutionaries to fight against Mexican dictator Porfirio Diaz during the Mexican Revolution. He lived in the United States and published revolutionary propaganda in his news-paper, La Revolución. He was tried and convicted of violating American neutrality laws.

The Indian New Deal. During the 1930s, the Federal government began to reformits policy of assimilating Indians into mainstream society in favor of tradition and self-governance. With passage of the Indian Reorganization Act in 1934, the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) implemented a policy of limited sovereignty for recognized Indian tribes.

The BIA began to reform Indian education, ending the exploitation of Indian children for labor. Tribes were assisted in the writing of tribal constitutions and establishing tribal governments. This policy revolutionized the relationship between the government and Indians.

At the same time the government began a project to limit the Navajo grazing animals. Sheep were indicators in Navajo culture of status. The killing of tens of thousands of sheep, goats, and horses turned the Navajo people against the BIA. They rejected the New Deal, and established their tribal government on their own. Today, Navajo Nation is one of the most complicated and powerful tribal governments in the nation.

We’re in the Military Now! WAVES and WACS in WII. During WWII, women were involved in industry, and more and more in the military. The US Navy brought women into the service as WAVES and the US Army brought them in as WACS, revolutionizing what it means to be a soldier and a sailor.



Chuck Yeager breaks the sound barrier. only 50 years after the Wright brothers flew their plane at Kitty Hawk, Yeager broke the sound barrier marking the first step towards the entry of the United States into the field of space exploration.

These stories and many more are represented in the records housed at the National Archives in Riverside. Stories of Revolutionary inventions, social changes, and political views are here. Information about the Federal government’s Reactions to a changing world and the struggles for the Reform of national ideas and policies.