

CHOOSING A TOPIC

There are four requirements for topic selection in the upcoming History Fair:



1. The topic must be historical (*anything that no longer falls under 'current events' – and something that has not occurred in the past three years*)
2. The topic must have a Canadian connection.
3. The topic cannot be the same as someone else or the same as one of your siblings from previous years.
4. The topic must be approved by your Social Studies teacher.

Students will have until **Friday, December 22** to select a topic. There will not be two projects of the same topic, so if you really want to do a topic which may be 'popular', come get it approved before then. If by this date a student has not chosen a topic, your Social Studies teacher, in consultation with that student, will pick a topic for him or her.

To help you decide on a topic:

1. **What are your interests?** – perhaps it's a hobby, try connecting it to history. For example, if you're interested in music, you might look at how an instrument has been affected by changes in technology. Or sports...How has your sport changed throughout the years in terms of its rules, equipment, style of play etc?
2. **What history have you already learned in school or Social Studies** – Look for something that you've learned before or an event in history that you've studied in Social Studies that might interest you more. Look through your textbook(s) to give you some ideas. Which one sparks your interest? (*You aren't allowed to repeat previous work, or do the same topic as one of your siblings from previous years*)
3. **Look in your community and think about what you know and what you wonder about the place and the people** – buildings, memorials, monuments, people, everyday life... for example think of things like the High Level Bridge in Lethbridge, or Fort Whoop-up, Fort Macleod etc.
4. **Talk to your family members** – maybe someone in your family has an important story about their migration to Canada, or their experiences in the war or other important events or changes. Choose one, research the background, and decide on your topic¹

¹ Find the Right Heritage Project for You. (2016, November 09). Retrieved from <http://bcheritagefairs.ca/student-resources/how-to-find-the-heritage-fair-project-right-for-you/>

HISTORY FAIR TOPIC IDEAS

Topics can range from people, to places, to events.

<p>ARTISTS & INTELLECTUALS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Artists and authors - Musicians - Dance companies - Scientists and inventors - Teachers and education - Television and movies 	<p>CANADA AND THE WORLD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Diplomacy or peacekeeping - Relationship with the USA - Seven Years War - War of 1812 - World War I - World War II - Korean War - Cold War - United Nations - Other International treaties - Canadian Armed Forces - Military leaders who fought in Canada - World-famous Canadians - 9/11 	<p>CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Transportation routes - Controversies - Chinese workers
<p>CATASTROPHES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fires - Floods - Landslides - Epidemics/pandemics 	<p>COMMERCE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Forestry - Fishing - Farming/ranching - Stores and banking - Early transportation - Growth of industry - Technological changes 	<p>CELEBRATIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Family traditions - Canada Day - May Day - B.C. Day - Leisure activities - Cultural traditions - Religious holidays
<p>COMMUNICATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Radio / CBC - Telephone / Telus - Mail / Canada Post - Newspapers - Television / CBC - Growth of the news media - Electronic communication 	<p>EARLY SETTLERS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Fur Trade - Exploration of Canada - New France - The Hudson's Bay Co./ forts - Upper & Lower Canada - The Prairies - Patterns of settlement 	<p>ENVIRONMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Endangered animals - Pollution - National Parks - Use of natural resources - Anti-pollution legislation
<p>FADS IN HISTORY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sayings and slang - Fashions and clothing 	<p>FIRSTS IN YOUR COMMUNITY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Graveyard - Newspaper - Railroad track - Electricity - Paved road - Car / motor vehicle - Baby born - retail store 	<p>FIRST NATIONS CULTURE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - History and settlement - Hunting and fishing - Games, arts and crafts - Types of housing - Residential schools - Interaction with Europeans

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<p>FOOD AND BEVERAGES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - agriculture - cooking in the home - gadgets or inventions 	<p>GEOGRAPHY AND CLIMATE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - influence on settlement - weather extremes - landscape changes 	<p>GOVERNMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - famous politicians - political parties - Confederation
<p>HOUSING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Architecture - Home furnishings - Historic buildings - Street names - Tools / building materials 	<p>IMMIGRATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Patterns of immigration - Official immigration policies - Multiculturalism 	<p>PERSONAL MEMORIES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Self and family history - Narrative histories
<p>SPORTS & RECREATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sports - Famous athletes - Dances - Parks - Old fashioned toys / games - Entertainment, i.e. theatres 	<p>SOCIAL STRUCTURES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Families - Community values - Historical figures - Famous pioneers - Influential women - Children's work - Family trees - Different customs 	<p>SYMBOLS OF CANADA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Flag - Coat of arms - Currency - National anthem - Maple leaf - Beaver - Canadian horse - Provincial flags, flowers, etc.

NOTE:

Many of these ideas are merely categories. For most, a more specific topic within each category should be chosen. If you need help narrowing one of these categories down, you could:

1. Talk to a parent
2. Find a general resource on your topic and narrow it down from there
3. Speak with your Social Studies teacher

