

History Resource Center

US History- covers United States history from colonial times to the present. The database includes the text of many primary sources (letters, diaries, memoirs, speeches or other first-hand account of events) as well as articles written by historians (secondary sources).

Computer commands, field names and mouse actions are in *Italics*.
Text that you must type is within single quote marks ('').

Go to: **RCPL** (<http://www.myrcl.com>)

Click on: **Research and Learning**

Click on: **Research Tools**

Click on: **History**

Scroll down to: **History Resource Center – US**

Click on: **inside the library** OR **home access**

★ To begin a new search after each question below, click the Home button near top of database screen.

1. A hairdresser wrote a memoir or diary in the 1800's but I can't remember her name. What was it?

- ☐ In the *Basic Search* field, type 'hairdresser'
- ☐ Click *Search* button
- ☐ Select the *Primary Sources* tab
- ☐ Select *A Hairdresser's Experience in High Life* (a memoir)
- ☐ Select *View Commentary*, or *View Image*

2. During the American Revolution, who led the American side against the British in the Battle of Camden?

- ☐ In the *Basic Search* field, type "battle of Camden" (use quotation marks to keep phrase together)
- ☐ Click *Search* button

Note: Within the *Reference* tab there are several sources. There is also a diary within the *Primary Sources* tab.

3. I need a brief description of the Trail of Tears.

- ☐ Select the *Subject* button
- ☐ Type "trail of tears" (use quotation marks to keep phrase together) in the *Enter Subject Term(s)* field
- ☐ Click *Search* button
- ☐ Select *Trail of Tears 1838-1839*
- ☐ Select any result described as a *Topic Overview* (see example below)



EXAMPLE:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Trail of Tears.	Topic Overview
Mark	<i>Dictionary of American History</i> . 7 vols. Charles Scribner's Sons, 1976.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Trail of Tears.	Topic Overview
Mark	<i>Encyclopedia of the American West</i> . 4 vols. Macmillan Reference USA, 1996.	

4. I have to write a paper about someone who lived during the Reconstruction era (post-Civil War). Can you help me find a biography from that time period?

- ☐ Select *Subject Search* button
- ☐ Type 'reconstruction US'
- ☐ Select *American Reconstruction, 1865-1877*
- ☐ Select the *Biographies* tab

Note: A list of over 50 biographies will appear.

5. Do you have any diaries written during the 1800's?

- ☐ Select *Advanced Search* button
- ☐ Type 'diary' in 1st search box;
- ☐ In *Time Period* field: type '1800' in *FROM* field; type '1899' in *TO* field
- ☐ Click *Search* button
- ☐ Select *Primary Sources* tab
- ☐ Select any result described as *Diary*

6. My class has to use the *History in Dispute* reference books to find pro/con articles about Middle East events. However, the volumes I need are being used by someone else. Can you help me?

- ☐ From *Home* page, find the *Search a Reference Work* section (see below).
- ☐ Scroll down to *History in Dispute, Vol. 14: The Middle East Since WWII, Part One* **OR** *Part Two*
- ☐ Type a search term(s) in order to narrow your list of results.

