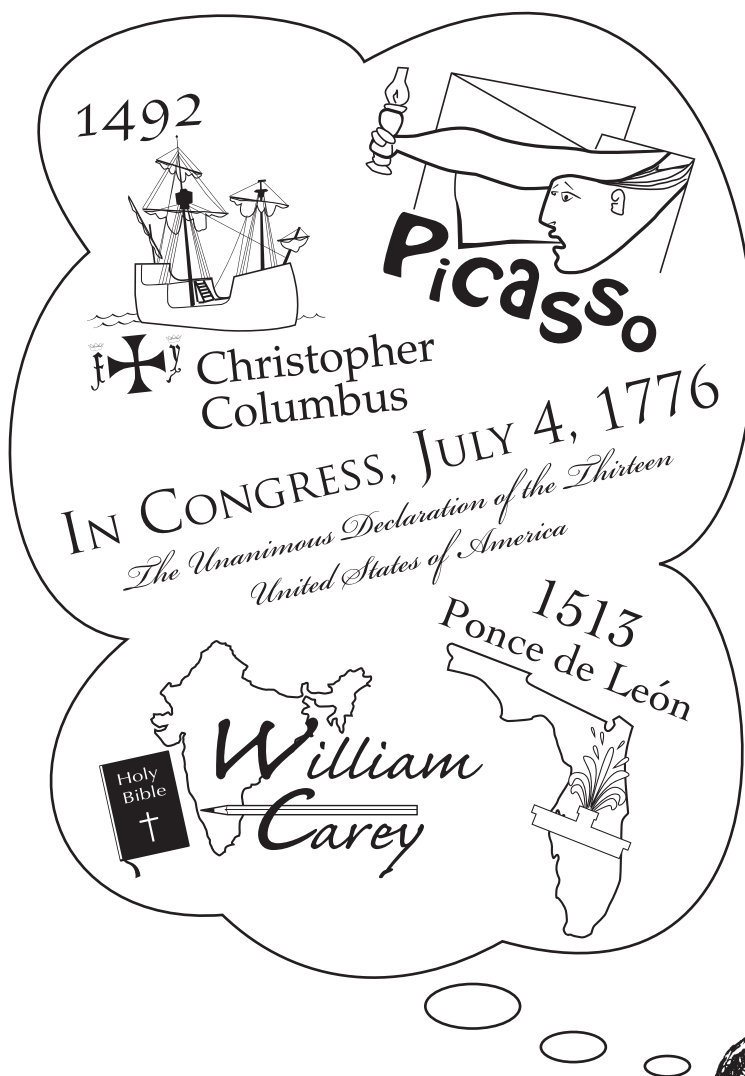


History Fair Student Packet



Getting Started

Have you ever listened to someone talk about an amazing and interesting event that took place in the past? Did you wish that you could find out more? History fair projects are an exciting way to study the past and learn about its issues, ideas, people, and events. These kinds of projects provide an opportunity to learn through creative and original presentations, documentaries, papers, and three-dimensional displays.



Choosing a Topic

- Think about a topic that interests you. What have you been studying in Heritage Studies? What caught your attention and made you want to know more?

You may be interested in art and want to know more about a particular artist. Your interest may be sports or music. Other areas might be a historical event, a famous person, an outstanding discovery, or a missionary who made an unusual contribution to the work of spreading the gospel. Sometimes you have too many ideas. Other times it seems hard to get any ideas. You might find ideas on the Internet, in the news, in books, or in magazines. Take a week or two to consider some ideas. Discuss your ideas with your parents or teacher to determine your limitations.

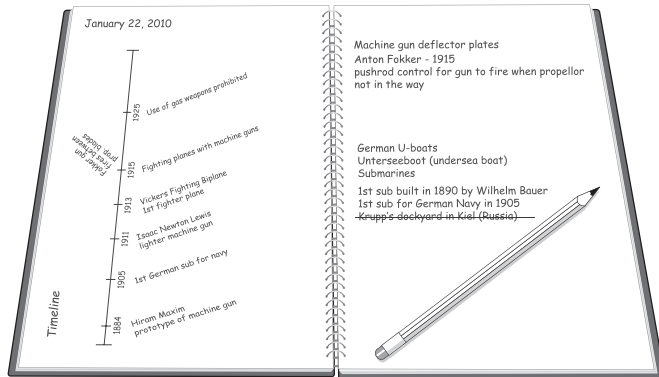
- After choosing an idea, you may need to narrow the subject area. For example, if you are interested in the Civil War, you may want to focus on the Battle of Gettysburg or the Underground Railroad. Perhaps you choose to study the Underground Railroad. Now you must decide which aspect of it is most interesting to you. Do you want to present the slave escape routes from the point of view of the slaves or of the people who helped the slaves escape? Search for information about your choice in history books, in the library, and on the Internet. You can also talk with experts on your topic. Many colleges have extension agents who are willing to help.



Developing a Logbook

The logbook is a record of everything you do throughout the project.

- Begin by listing possible topics that interest you. Mark off the ones you decide not to do. Explain how you chose your topic and list the names of any books or articles you used to determine your final idea.



- Write the date at the top of each entry.
- Write down everything you do as you continue to work on the project. Make notes to yourself about what you do and the information you find. Do not erase information but cross out things that become unimportant as you go along.

Gathering Resources

Local libraries have many helpful books and articles. History magazines are excellent sources for many projects. Textbooks, encyclopedias, and interviews with historians or people who were alive at the time of an event can also provide interesting input.

- **Primary sources** are materials directly related to a topic by time and participation. These materials include letters, speeches, diaries, documents, photographs, artifacts, or anything else that provides first-hand accounts about a person or event. Typically, primary sources carry more weight in the judging process.
- **Secondary sources** are usually published books or articles by authors who base their information on primary sources. An interview with an expert is a secondary source. Quotations from historical figures in secondary sources are considered secondary sources.



Writing the Report

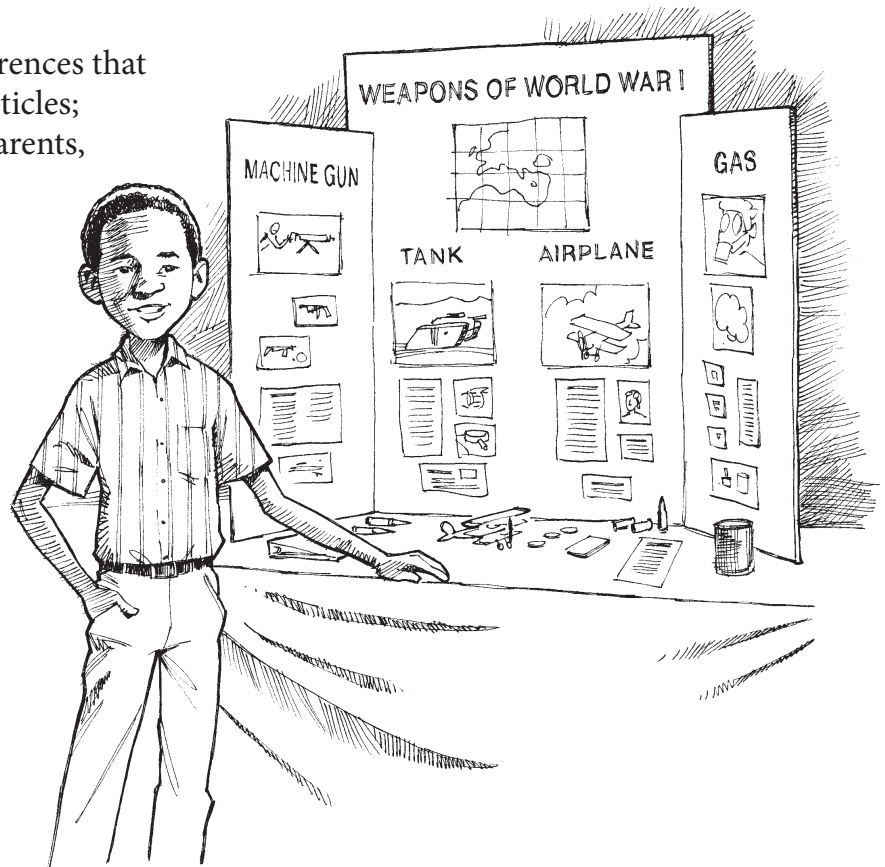
The display also includes a written report. The written report should be typed and double-spaced and contain the following parts in addition to the body of your report.

- The **title page** gives the title of your project, your name, and grade level. (*Note:* In an attempt to be impartial, some judges ask that entry numbers, rather than names, be used.)
- The **contents page** lists the sections of your paper and the corresponding page numbers.
- The **purpose** explains the historical event or person being reviewed.
- The **biblical application** shows God's control over historical events and honors God's leadership in life, no matter how difficult the circumstances. How does God work in history even when people don't understand the real purpose at the time of the event? Psalm 37:23 states, "The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord: and he delighteth in his way."
- The **bibliography** lists the references that you used, such as books and articles; acknowledges any help from parents, professionals, or businesses; and acknowledges any people or businesses who donated supplies.
- Arrange the title, your research, and the biblical application on the board. Much like a small museum, the pictures, drawings, visual aids, and documents need to be displayed attractively and in logical order. They should capture the viewer's attention and tell what was learned.
- Most fairs allow the use of purchased adhesive letters for the title of the project. You may also create your own lettering using various textures or designs. The lettering must be an appropriate size and neatly designed and arranged. The title should have the largest lettering on the display.
- Squares, circles, and rectangles cut in a variety of sizes from colored paper can help organize the information on the display. Using color appropriately can draw attention to the information; however, it is important not to use too many different colors.

Making the Display

The display should capture attention and provide a clear and simple explanation of your project.

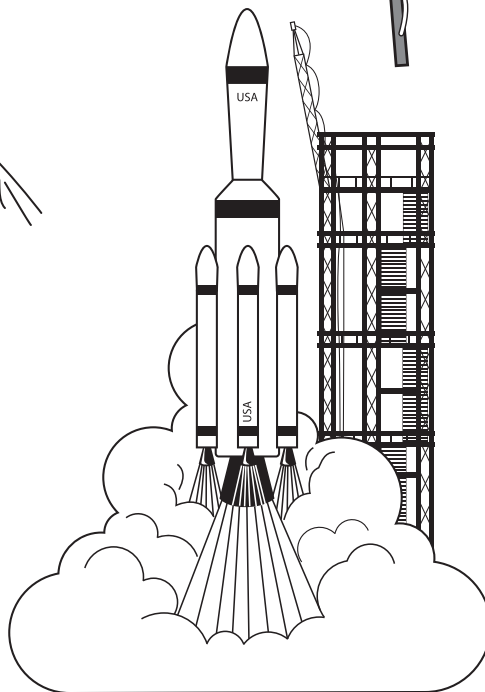
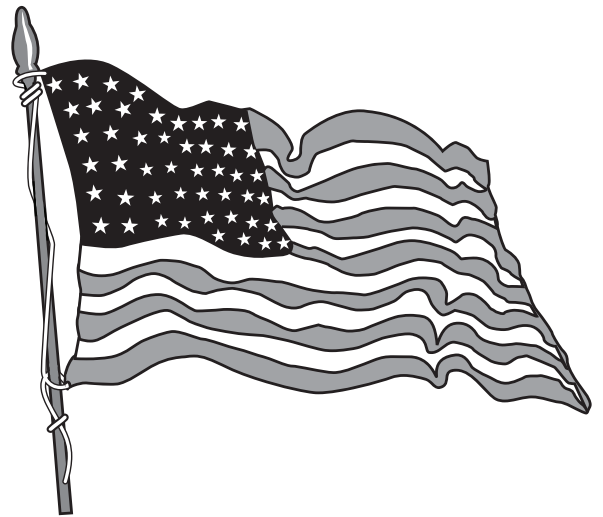
- Purchase an upright display board or make one of lightweight plywood or heavy cardboard covered with cloth or construction paper.



Preparing for the Fair

By the time your project is ready for the fair, you will have worked on it for many weeks. That is one reason it is important to choose a topic that interests you!

- Think ahead about what a judge's opinion might be. Teachers, parents, or history fair coaches encourage you to do your best work and make suggestions for improving the project. And although a judge may also give suggestions, the judge evaluates the project in a different way. Ask yourself questions like the following:
 - Is my project similar to other projects that have been done before? What makes mine different?
 - Is my project suitable for someone at my grade level? Is it too easy or too hard?
 - Does my project show what I learned about the topic I studied?
- The judge will expect you to have a thorough understanding of your topic. Both the display and project will be evaluated by the judge. Check the spelling and grammar on the written parts of your display. Ensure that you have followed directions carefully and that the project looks well planned and prepared.
- Be ready to explain your project clearly and answer questions about it. Demonstrate enthusiasm and interest about the subject as you talk about your project to the judge. You are the expert; enjoy telling about what you have learned.



History Fair Checklist

A good history fair project involves many steps. Use the following checklist as you prepare your project.

Choosing a Topic

- ☐ Make a list of possible topics in your logbook.
- ☐ Choose one topic from your list of possible topics.
- ☐ Form your research question.

Developing a Logbook

- ☐ Write the date at the top of each entry.
- ☐ Write your question in your logbook.
- ☐ Record your research, concentrating on things that pertain to your question.
- ☐ Contact people who may be able to help with your project.
- ☐ Keep accurate records of your findings.
- ☐ Record primary and secondary sources used.
- ☐ Review your data and determine your conclusion.

Writing a Report

- ☐ Write a draft of your report.
 - ☐ State clearly the purpose of the report.
 - ☐ Describe how the research was conducted and developed.
 - ☐ Include biblical references, truths, and applications related to the historic study.
 - ☐ List the sources used in a bibliography.
- ☐ Proofread the report to check for grammar, capitalization, punctuation, and spelling.
- ☐ Write the final draft of your report.
- ☐ Create a title page with the title of your project, your name, and grade level.
- ☐ Write the sections of your paper with their corresponding page numbers on a contents page.
- ☐ Proofread the report again to check for grammar, capitalization, punctuation, and spelling.

Finishing Up

- ☐ Decide how to present your data. Prepare any visuals that you will need.
- ☐ Plan your display.
- ☐ Gather materials needed to make your display.
- ☐ Make your display.
- ☐ Include the final copy of your report with your display.

Presenting Your Project

- ☐ Practice what you will say about your project. Be able to clearly explain all aspects.
- ☐ Present your project.

Use the rubric as you form your research question.

History Fair Research Question Rubric

Title _____

Category	Possible points	Points earned	
Problem is written as a question.			
Question is specific.			
Question indicates the subject(s) to be studied.			
Question stimulates curiosity.			
Question reflects proper use of grammar and spelling.			
Total			Grade

Comments:

History Fair Judging Form

Name _____ Number _____

Project Title/Subject _____

Display	Inadequate	Needs improvement	Acceptable	Commendable	Outstanding	Comments
Historical significance (15 points)						
Information is organized and well illustrated.	0	2	3	4	5	
Understanding of historical context is demonstrated with accuracy.	2	4	6	8	10	
Records and research (25 points)						
Logbook record is thorough, including a step-by-step description of the plans and procedures used to accomplish the project.	2	4	6	8	10	
Research demonstrates use of available primary and secondary sources.	0	2	3	4	5	
Written report describes how the research was developed and conducted.	0	2	3	4	5	
Bibliography is included in proper format.	0	2	3	4	5	
Biblical application (5 points)						
Biblical references, truths, and applications are related to the history studied.	0	2	3	4	5	
Layout (20 points)						
Display is well constructed, neat, well laid out, and attractive with an appropriate amount of work done by the student.	2	4	6	8	10	
Presentation of information is sequential and complete.	1	2	3	4	5	
Good spelling and grammar are evident.	1	2	3	4	5	
Interview (35 points)						
Knowledge and understanding of concepts are evident.	2	4	8	12	15	
Conclusions and applications from findings are logical.	2	4	6	8	10	
The topic is communicated with confidence, clarity, and enthusiasm.	2	4	6	8	10	
Total score (100 points)						

Comments: