Name: **Class**:

Worksheet: Research Question Starters

The sentence starters below can help you to write your own research questions. Starting questions are in each box. Pick the questions that fit the best - and edit them to make them specific to your topic. It's okay to start with only a few of the questions in each box.

As you research, look for new questions you can ask to help you dig deeper. Record those new questions on this worksheet, too.

Beginning Questions: Use these to learn more about the five "W's" of your topic.

> **When** did my topic happen?
> **Where** did my topic happen?
> **What** is the "main event" of my topic? What happened in my topic?
> **Who** was involved in my topic?
> **Why** did my topic happen? What caused it?

Theme Questions: The theme will help you to focus your research! Think about the theme early in your History day journey. It will help guide your research and make a strong connection between your topic and "Communication in History: the Key to Understanding."

> How does my topic connect to "communication"?
> Is my topic a new communication tool or technology?
> - What problem did the new tool/technology address?
> - Did my topic fix the problem?
> - Did my topic lead to other problems?
> - Did my topic help everyone? Only certain groups?
> Is my topic a message or idea that was communicated?
> - What was the message?
> - How was it communicated?
> - Why was it communicated?
> - What was the impact?
> - What values were in the message?
> - What values or points of view were not represented in the message?
> - What did the message change?
> How does my topic connect to "understanding"?
> - Did my topic lead to understanding? How?
> - Did my topic lead to misunderstanding? How?
> - Did my topic have unintended consequences? Were these positive or negative?

Digging Deeper Questions: Write here the questions that come up for you as you research answers to the "Beginning Questions" and "Theme Questions." For example, in researching the Montgomery Bus Boycott, a "digging deeper" question might be "What inspired people to keep boycotting for over a year?"