

Name:

Class:

Worksheet: Research Question Starters

The questions below can help you write your own questions and help guide your research. 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.

Pre-Research 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? (Think of those both directly and indirectly involved)
Why did my topic happen? Who/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 "*Frontiers in History: People, Places, Ideas.*"

How does my topic connect to the **theme**?

- Is there a literal frontier or a figurative frontier?
- How does my topic fit with people, places, and ideas? One of them, two, all?
- What was the frontier that was trying to be crossed, changed, created, or improved?

What different **perspectives** does my topic have?

- What people or groups were in support or not in support of changing the frontier?
- How did different groups or sides view the frontier? Advocate for change or consistency?
- What groups of people were not "seen or heard" when thinking about the frontier?

What are the **impacts** of my topic?

- Was a new frontier created as a result of your topic?
- What intended and unintended consequences happened as a result?
- How has the frontier changed since your topic took place?
- What impact did decisions have on groups that were excluded from the process?
- What impact did my topic have on local, regional or world history?

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?"