

2020 NHD topic ideas. Theme: “Breaking Barriers in History”

(You are NOT required to pick a topic from this list.)

Florida Topics

16th–18th Centuries [Key words: Spanish Florida, British Florida]

- Forever Changed: Florida and Juan Ponce de León’s 1513 Voyage
- The Arrival of Europeans in Florida: Breaking Barriers or Disrupting Cultures?
- Juan Ortiz: From Indian Captive to Expedition Leader
- Jean Ribault, René Laudonnière, and Fort Caroline: A Challenge to Spanish Supremacy
- Pedro Menéndez de Avilés and the Founding of St. Augustine
- Fort Mose: Spanish Florida’s First Line of Defense
- The Spanish Mission System in Florida: Breaching Cultural Barriers on the Florida Frontier
- Escape to Freedom: Runaway Slaves and Spain’s Refugee Policy in Florida
- James Moore and the English Attacks on Spanish Florida
- John Bartram: A Naturalist’s Journey through the South
- Bernard Romans: Breaking Geographic Barriers through Mapmaking
- The 14th and 15th Colonies: East and West Florida in the American Revolution

19th Century [Key words: Antebellum, Civil War, Reconstruction, Segregation]

- Kingsley Plantation: Slavery and Freedom in Plantation-Era Florida
- The US Acquires Florida: The Adams-Onís Treaty
- The Man with the Branded Hand: Florida Abolitionist Jonathan Walker
- David Levy Yulee, the First Jewish Senator in the US
- Dr. Esther Hill Hawks: Architect of an Integrated Free School in Civil War Florida
- A Barrier Afloat: “Anaconda” and the Union Blockade in Florida
- Black Men in Blue Coats: African American Soldiers at Florida’s Battle of Olustee
- Free at Last: General Edward McCook and the Emancipation Proclamation in Tallahassee
- The Freedman’s Bureau in Florida: A Path to Stability for Former Slaves
- Governor Ossian Hart’s Struggle for Reconstruction in Florida
- Florida’s 1885 Constitution: A Reaction to the Era of Reconstruction
- Insurmountable Barriers: Florida’s Jim Crow Laws and Segregation
- Florida’s Age of Rails: Flagler, Plant, and the Coastal Railroads

20th Century [Key words: Progressive Era, World War I, World War II, Civil Rights]

- Napoleon Bonaparte Broward: Orphan, Smuggler, Governor
- Governor Sydney Catts: An Agenda That Created Barriers
- *Alligator*: Donald Roebling’s Innovative All-Terrain Vehicle
- General Daniel “Chappie” James: Pensacola’s Black Eagle
- Florida’s Concrete Ships: Breaking the Mold of World War II Vessel Construction
- Conscientious Objectors and Their Contributions to Florida’s World War II Home Front
- Harry T. Moore and the NAACP: Leading Florida’s Fight for Civil Rights
- The Groveland Four Trial and the Impenetrable Barrier to Justice
- The Tallahassee Bus Boycott of 1956: A Collective Stand Against Segregation
- Governor LeRoy Collins: A Moderate Figure for Civil Rights in a Southern State
- Afro-American Life Insurance Company: The Right to Financial Security
- Uneasy Neighbors: Florida and Cuba in the 20th and 21st Centuries

Themed Topics

African American History

- Francisco Menéndez: From Escaped Slave to Military Captain at Fort Mose
- A Free Black Builder in Florida's Slave Territory: The Story of George Proctor
- The Negro Fort at Prospect Bluff: An Ill-fated Fortress
- Black Seminoles during the Seminole Wars: Crossing Cultural Barriers
- Josiah T. Walls: A Life of Responsibility in a Time of Barriers
- Florida's First Black Cabinet Member: The Political Career of Jonathan C. Gibbs
- Thomas D. Tucker: Higher Education for African Americans
- Dr. William Gunn: In the Vanguard of Healthcare
- T. Thomas Fortune: From Slavery in Florida to Fame in New York
- Mary McLeod Bethune and the School for Girls
- A. Philip Randolph: Organizing Florida's Railroad Porters
- Casualties of Racial Prejudice: Harry T. and Harriette V. Moore
- Dr. William Allen: Breaking Barriers in Radiology
- Virgil Hawkins: Desegregating Florida's Law School

Art and Literature

- Jacques le Moyne: First Views of First Peoples
- John James Audubon in Florida: Unveiling Florida's Birds
- Abolitionist and Author Harriet Beecher Stowe—Florida's Early Tourism Advocate
- Winslow Homer: Creating Images of Florida
- Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings: A Leader in Literature
- "Lift Every Voice and Sing": The Achievements of James Weldon Johnson
- Zora Neale Hurston: Breaking Barriers as a Chronicler
- Ernest Hemingway: Legendary Literature, Legendary Lifestyle
- River of Grass: Breaking a Barrier to Everglades Conservation
- Jim Morrison: Iconic Frontman for Rock and Roll
- Stetson Kennedy: Unmasking the Klan

Native American History

- Alexander McGillivray: Statesman for the Creek Indians
- William Augustus Bowles and the State of Muskogee
- Panton, Leslie, & Company and Trade with Native Americans
- Claims Against Native Lands: Holatta-Micco (Billy Bowlegs) and Governor Thomas Brown
- Andrew Jackson's Campaign Against Florida's Seminoles
- The Longest War: The US Government versus the Seminole Indians
- Osceola, Micanopy, and the Seminoles: Fighting for Survival in the Second Seminole War
- Polly Parker's Escape from the Trail of Tears
- Ivy Stranahan and the Reemergence of Seminole Culture in Florida
- Seminole Voting Rights: Joining Florida's Citizenry
- Harriet Bedell and Seminole Tourist Villages: Lowering Barriers for Survival
- Betty Mae Jumper: A Life of Service to the Seminole People

Politics and Social Issues

- Denys Rolle and His Utopian Dream in Florida
- Jose Martí: Fighting for Cuban Independence

- Cyrus Teed and the Idea of Koreshan Unity
- Vietnamese Refugees and Their Settlement in Northwest Florida
- The Gideon Lawsuit: A Florida Case Reforms the National Justice System
- Simmering Tempers: The Florida Teachers' Strike of 1968
- Anita Bryant and the Struggle For and Against Gay Rights
- Governor Lawton Chiles Takes on Big Tobacco
- Commercial Fishing Net Ban: Economics, Ecology, and Responsibility
- Governor Reubin Askew and Dawn of Government in the Sunshine
- Equal Rights Amendment: Florida's Role in a National Reform Movement
- The Johns Committee: Fighting Communism or Hunting for Witches?

Science and Technology

- John Gorrie: The Father of Air Conditioning, Ice, and Refrigeration
- Flagler's Folly: Building the Overseas Railroad
- Thomas A. Edison and His Florida Laboratory
- Henry Webb's Palmetto Plow: Clearing the Way for Florida's Growth
- Captain Tony Jannus and a New Phase of Transportation in Florida
- Breaking Barriers in Tampa: How the Cigar Industry Changed the Face of a City
- Frozen Sunshine: Concentrated Orange Juice and Its Impact on Florida's Citrus Industry
- Destination Outer Space: Florida's Role in the Space Race

Women's History

- Anna Madgigine Jai Kingsley: Florida's Innovative Matriarch
- Chloe Merrick Reed: Breaking Barriers in Public Education
- Eartha M. M. White—Philanthropist, Businesswoman, and Humanitarian
- Sister Mary Thomasine Wins the Right to Teach Black Students
- May Mann Jennings: In the Vanguard of Civic Issues
- Jackie Cochran and Breaking Aviation's Barriers
- Marjory Stoneman Douglas and the Fight to Save the Everglades
- Patricia Stephens Due: An Icon of Florida's Civil Rights Movement
- Gwen Cherry: A Pioneering Legislator
- Marjorie Harris Carr: Defending Florida's Environment
- Breaking the Political Gender Barrier: Florida's Senator Paula Hawkins
- Betty Skelton and the Checkered Flag: Speed Records of a Florida NASCAR Driver
- Roxcy Bolton, Pioneer Feminist

USA National Topics

Topics are not in chronological order.

- No Taxation Without Representation: The Stamp Act and the American Revolution
- The Monroe Doctrine: A New Nation Opposes European Colonialism
- *Brown v. Board of Education* and the Integration of American Schools
- Breaking the Barriers to Equality: Lyndon B. Johnson and the Voting Rights Act
- The ACLU and the Defense of Liberty in America
- Cato and the the Stono Rebellion
- Rosa Parks: Breaking the Barrier of Segregation
- The Fight for Social Equality: Jane Addams and Hull House
- The American Indian Movement (AIM)
- The Exchange of Religious Ideas between Puritans and Native Americans in New England

- The Great Migration of African Americans to the North and its Consequences
- Eisenhower and the Integration of Central High: Civil Rights and Federal Responsibilities
- Lilly Ledbetter: Leading the Charge for Equal Pay
- The National Organization for Women and the Struggle for the Equal Rights Amendment
- Philip Randolph: Leading the Way to Integrate America's World War II Labor Force
- The Wagner Act and the Rights of Labor
- The Great Railroad Strike of 1877: Workers' Rights, Government Responsibilities
- Ronald Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachev: Leading the World Out of the Cold War
- The Interstate Highway Act of 1956 and the Growth of Suburban America
- The Truman Doctrine: Setting American Foreign Policy in the Cold War
- The Veterans Administration: Leading the Fight for Veterans Rights
- Breaking Big Business: The Sherman Antitrust Act
- The Zimmerman Telegram: The Exchange that Broke Down American Isolationism
- The International Space Station: Leading an International Effort to Unite Space
- Apollo 11: First on the Moon
- Exploring African-American Culture: The Harlem Renaissance
- Rosalind Franklin: Exploring the Human Genome, Encountering Prejudice

International Topics

Topics are not in chronological order.

- The Effects of the Fall of Constantinople
- The Breaking the Berlin Wall and the Decline of the Soviet Empire
- The Transformative Impact of the Printing Press
- Prince Henry the Navigator and Portugal's Exploration into Africa
- "Reaching the Heart of Africa": The Africa Inland Mission and Evangelism
- Andrei Sakharov and Human Rights in the Soviet Union
- The World Health Organization: Leading the Fight to Eradicate Communicable Disease
- Toussaint L 'Overture: Leading the World's Only Successful Slave Rebellion
- Nelson Mandela and the Fight for Equality in South Africa
- Emmeline Pankhurst: Leading a Militant Struggle for Suffrage in Great Britain
- Vladimir Lenin: Leading the Russian Revolution
- Linking Europe, Africa, and Asia: Construction of the Suez Canal
- Charles V and the Peace of Augsburg: Leading to a New Map of Europe
- Isabella, Ferdinand, and the Spanish Reconquista
- James Cook and the European Encounter with Oceania
- Exploration and Ice: Encountering the North Pole
- Exploring the Galapagos: Charles Darwin and the Theory of Evolution
- Breaking Communism: The Creation of NATO
- The French Impressionist Movement
- Martin Luther: The Start of the Reformation
- Breaking the Monarchy: The Birth of the Magna Carta
- Breaking the British: Gandhi's Salt March to the Sea
- Galileo: The Breaking the Barrier of Catholicism for Science
- The Troubles: Fighting for Independent Ireland
- The Paris Peace Accords: Compromises to End the Vietnam War