

# History Checklist

World History Units	
	Ancient World
	Ancient Egypt
	Ancient Greece
	Ancient Rome
	Middle Ages
	Muslim Empire - Spread of Islam
	Renaissance
	Reformation
	Explorers
	American and French Revolutions/Napoleon
	Nationalism
	Imperialism
	World War I
	Great Depression
	World War II
American History Units	
	Native Americans
	Early Colonies
	American Revolution
	Westward Expansion - Ohio Valley Settlement (French and Indian War), Tecumseh, Trail of Tears, Lewis and Clark, Mountain Men, the West
	Slavery, Plantation System
	Civil War
	Inventions
	Industrialization, Big Business, Progressive Era
	1920s
	Civil Rights Movement
	1950s - Cold War, 1960s, 1970s
	Vietnam War
Unit Studies	
Regions or Countries & General Topics	
	China
	India
	Africa
	Russia
	Australia (Aboriginal Culture, Settlement of Australia)
	Civics - Government (A study of the Constitution, Bill of Rights, How our government functions on a national, state and local level)
	Economics

# Building Historical Skills

## Mapping

Understand regional differences

Look at symbols and landmarks from different cultures

## Categorizing

Placing events in a larger historical context - via timelines, chronology

Understand different individuals' role in history

See different points of view

Interpreting political cartoons

Graphing, reading tables

Identifying different perspectives

Analyzing primary sources such as photos, posters, documents, cartoons, etc.

Be able to see cause and effect

start to see turning points in history

see historical developments that occur not just in one society, but in multiple areas -- (See how events are interconnected)

## Historical Props:

**Start to understand how these play into the field of history:**

written documents,

historic images such as pictures, paintings,  
illustrations;

music and songs,

biographies,

maps,

political cartoons,

oral traditions,

artifacts,

archaeological evidence

# History Activity Ideas

It is easy to incorporate creative lessons into history. In the early years, students can do art projects, lap books and interactive notebooks. They can do hands-on geography projects and posters. As kids get older, they can delve into history more, beginning to understand the complexity of certain issues and how issues and events grow from the past.

- Interactive Slides - Share the spotlight with pictures from the past
- Analyze Historical Images - paintings, photographs, maps, illustrations, etc.
- Use maps to show changing political boundaries
- Use political cartoons
- Create questions that lead to discovery -- Have students progress from basic observations about an image to interpretation. Then go on to analyze images.
- Create opportunities for students to understand the deeper emotions and circumstances surrounding historical events.

Mini-dramas - Act out scenes. Have students take on the facial expressions someone from that era/event/scene would have. Create a dramatic presentation that brings to life the experience of one social group.

Create historical simulations

Role play -- have students take on famous historical figures. Have them meet, greet and discuss, issues staying in that role. (Then have them switch positions and take the other side of an issue)

Conduct fake interviews... have students play a role and interview them (news style). Ask probing questions.

Have the students play historical detective... Look for hidden meanings in paintings, cartoons, etc.

Bring in period music when students act out a particular scene/meeting/painting/photo.

Match a photo (painting, cartoon) with its descriptive paragraph.

Evaluate historical events -- rate them as ethical/unethical... by standards of that day... by today's standards. Debate and discuss.

Look for bias and different perspectives on historical issues (for example, examine WWI posters from the Central Powers and Allied points of view)

Challenge stereotypes... Understand stereotypes from that period... and from today's lens.

Learn to analyze bias, perspective, stereotypes, etc. with **creative writing assignments**:

- Spectrum of Views: Challenge the students to find multiple perspectives on issues (such as slavery, women's rights, prohibition, etc.)
- Write a letter to the editor
- Have the students take one side of an issue and write a letter to a friend/relative from that time sharing their opinion.
- React to a quote from the time
- create a poster from the time (propaganda piece)

### **Experiential Exercises:**

- recreate historical moments, events, circumstances
- Create a physical or emotional experience for the students
- create role-cards each containing a description of a character to play during the activity. Provide general parameters of how the character would react.
- transform the space into the historical setting
- Recreate a scene/event
- Discuss and debrief
- What did students learn being in the historical shoes of others?
- Did they connect emotionally to the role they were playing?

**Examples:** Assembly line -- how alienated/isolated people might feel working in that setting with a repetitive, monotonous job  
Trench warfare

\*\*Increase empathy for an event (Great Depression when people lost their life savings, the danger someone would be in hiding a fugitive slave in the 1850s or Jewish family in the WWII)

\*\*Help students understand the conditions in order to understand the behavior of a person or group of people in history

\*\*Capture the moment or feeling of that period

Create multimedia presentations about historical periods -- using music, dance, written resources, slides, video...

Create a Press Conference -- that helps explain the complex nature of the period, multiple view points, the volatility of that period (anger, frustrations of the people involved)

Create an advertisement to convince others of your view.

Have a panel discussion with famous historical figures or assign specific roles.

Create a frozen statue scene of an event/period. (Students get into certain pose, with create a plaque for their statue). Students have a set amount of time to discuss how to arrange themselves and create a statue that illustrates daily life, a particular scene, etc.

Mask: Have the students use a mask to help transform them into a different historical figure and role play that person.

You Make the Decision: Take a well-known event in history where one person (seemingly) made a decision. Role play and explain how/why you made a decision (or why you would change your actions.)

## History Writing Assignments

- Write a letter to a historical figure explaining how you feel about them
- Write letters that convey the feelings of a person from that period (ie. have a soldier write a letter home)
- Write a dialogue between two historical figures
- Write a eulogy for a historical figure - elaborate on that person's legacy
- Create a "wanted" or "hero" poster that highlight's a historical figures "crimes" or accomplishments
- Write a historical journal entry to bring to life events of the past (use colloquial language of the time)
- Oral history
- Interviews
- Editorials - Write a letter to the editor
- Integrate your knowledge of history by writing a historical fiction story
- Read poems from that period, then write your own poem
- Create a cartoon history of...

## History Questions and Research

develop essay writing skills -- write essays that include a clear thesis statement, supporting details, conclusion, etc.

learn to do research and write research papers

write a position paper that takes a definitive stand on a controversial issue