

# National History Day Project Ideas For Students

Here are the latest National History Day project ideas for students:

## **Politics and Government:**

1. How the Magna Carta changed the way kings ruled
2. The story of women fighting for the right to vote
3. What happened when America became its own country
4. How Abraham Lincoln kept the United States together
5. The time when people marched for civil rights
6. Why the Berlin Wall was built and torn down
7. How Nelson Mandela helped end unfair laws in South Africa
8. The way Native American tribes governed themselves
9. What the French Revolution did to change France
10. How the United Nations tries to keep peace in the world

## **Social Issues:**

11. When kids stopped working in factories and went to school
12. How people fought to end slavery in America
13. The time when everyone had to save food during World War II
14. Why some towns didn't let certain people live there
15. How the telephone changed the way people talk to each other
16. What happened when cars became popular, and roads were built
17. The way TV showed people what was happening in Vietnam
18. How vaccines stopped deadly diseases from spreading
19. Why people started caring about keeping the Earth clean
20. The story of how sign language helped deaf people communicate

## **Science and Technology:**

21. When humans first flew in an airplane
22. How computers changed from big machines to small phones
23. The race to be the first country to send people to the moon
24. Why the steam engine made factories and trains possible
25. How electricity lit up cities and homes
26. The time when people first talked to each other on the internet
27. Why have farmers started using giant machines to grow food
28. How doctors learned to do heart transplants
29. The way DNA helped solve crimes and find family members
30. What happened when scientists split the atom

## **Arts and Culture:**

31. How jazz music started in New Orleans
32. The story of the first movies with sound

33. Why Shakespeare's plays are still famous today
34. How Native American art tells stories about their culture
35. The way hip-hop dance began in New York City
36. Why people started collecting comic books
37. How the printing press made books available to everyone
38. The time when abstract art became popular
39. Why some books were not allowed to be read in schools
40. How graffiti became a respected form of art

### **Sports and Recreation:**

41. The first Olympic Games in ancient Greece
42. How baseball became America's favorite sport
43. Why the rules of football changed to make it safer
44. The story of the first women allowed to run in marathons
45. How video games went from arcades to living rooms
46. The time when African American athletes weren't allowed in pro sports
47. Why people started climbing mountains for fun
48. How skateboarding went from sidewalks to the Olympics
49. The way surfing spread from Hawaii to beaches around the world
50. Why chess became a battle of minds between countries

### **Exploration and Discovery:**

51. How Columbus accidentally found a new world
52. The Journey of Lewis and Clark across America
53. Why people risked their lives to climb Mount Everest
54. The story of finding King Tut's tomb in Egypt
55. How underwater cameras showed us life in the deep sea
56. The search for a way to sail around Africa to reach India
57. Why people tried to find a Northwest Passage through ice
58. The time when astronauts walked on the moon for the first time
59. How Jane Goodall learned about chimpanzees by living with them
60. The journey to map the human genome

### **War and Conflict:**

61. Why World War I was called "The War to End All Wars"
62. How spies helped win World War II
63. The story of young soldiers in the American Civil War
64. Why do countries fight over who owns the seas
65. How the Cold War divided the world without fighting
66. The time when England and Spain's ships battled on the ocean
67. Why Japan attacked Pearl Harbor
68. How the Vietnam War changed how people felt about fighting
69. The way tanks changed how battles were fought
70. Why countries today fight against computer hackers

## **Economics and Trade:**

71. How the Silk Road connected China to Europe
72. The time when people used shells and beads as money
73. Why the Great Depression made it hard for families to buy food
74. How Henry Ford made cars that more people could buy
75. The story of how coffee became a popular drink around the world
76. Why some countries stopped using coins made of gold and silver
77. How credit cards changed the way people shop
78. The time when America stopped trading with Cuba
79. Why the price of gas goes up and down
80. How online shopping changed the way stores do business

## **Religion and Philosophy:**

81. The story of how Buddhism spread from India to other countries
82. Why Martin Luther disagreed with the Catholic Church
83. How Islam quickly spread across many lands
84. The time when it was dangerous to be a witch in Salem
85. Why Galileo got in trouble for saying the Earth moves around the Sun
86. How different Native American tribes saw the world
87. The way Confucius' ideas shaped life in China
88. Why some people chose to live in monasteries
89. How Greek philosophers tried to understand the world
90. The story of how different religions came to America

## **Education:**

91. When girls were first allowed to go to school with boys
92. How sign language schools helped deaf students learn
93. The story of the first African American students in white schools
94. Why some teachers had to pass tests about the Bible
95. How summer vacation became part of the school year
96. The time when students used slates instead of paper
97. Why do some schools teach in languages other than English
98. How computers changed the Way Students Do Homework
99. The story of how kindergarten became part of school
100. Why do some kids learn trades instead of going to high school

## **Health and Medicine:**

101. How people found out that washing hands stops the spread of germs
102. The story of finding a cure for polio
103. Why people started brushing their teeth every day
104. How X-rays let doctors see inside the body
105. The time when smoking was allowed in hospitals
106. Why do some medicines come from plants in the rainforest
107. How glasses helped people see clearly for the first time

108. The story of the first heart transplant
109. Why cities started cleaning their drinking water
110. How exercise became part of staying healthy

### **Immigration and Migration:**

111. Why millions of people came to America through Ellis Island
112. How the Dust Bowl made farmers move to California
113. The story of Chinese workers building the railroad
114. Why some people left Europe to find religious freedom
115. How different foods came to America with immigrants
116. The time when Irish people came to America during a famine
117. Why some cities have a Chinatown or Little Italy
118. How the Underground Railroad helped people escape slavery
119. The story of refugees finding new homes after World War II
120. Why some Native American tribes were forced to move to new lands

### **Fashion and Clothing:**

121. How blue jeans became popular around the world
122. The story of why men stopped wearing wigs and makeup
123. Why some schools make students wear uniforms
124. How zippers changed the way clothes were made
125. The time when it was shocking for women to wear pants
126. Why people started wearing clothes made in factories
127. How different hats showed what job someone had
128. The story of why American soldiers wear camouflage
129. Why some people wore powdered wigs in colonial times
130. How sports shoes went from the gym to everyday wear

### **Architecture and Engineering:**

131. How the Golden Gate Bridge was built over water
132. The story of building the Great Wall of China
133. Why did some buildings in cities grow taller and taller
134. How the Eiffel Tower changed the Paris skyline
135. The time when people lived in houses made of sod on the prairie
136. Why Roman aqueducts were important for cities
137. How the Erie Canal connected lakes to the ocean
138. The story of how the pyramids were built in ancient Egypt
139. Why covered bridges were built over rivers
140. How air conditioning changed the way buildings were designed

### **Transportation:**

141. How the Wright brothers built the first airplane
142. The story of building the railroad across America
143. Why have people started riding bicycles

144. How the Erie Canal made it easier to move goods
145. The time when horses and buggies filled city streets
146. Why have some cities built subways underground
147. How the Panama Canal changed ocean travel
148. The story of the first solo flight across the Atlantic Ocean
149. Why cable cars became popular in San Francisco
150. How jet planes made the world feel smaller

### **Environment and Geography:**

151. How the Grand Canyon was formed over millions of years
152. The story of why the Dust Bowl turned farms into deserts
153. Why the Mississippi River is important for America
154. How beavers change the land by building dams
155. The time when a volcano buried the city of Pompeii
156. Why the Great Lakes are like freshwater seas
157. How glaciers carved out valleys and lakes
158. The story of why the Aral Sea almost disappeared
159. Why the Amazon rainforest is called the Earth's lungs
160. How earthquakes have shaped the land

### **Food and Agriculture:**

171. How wheat became a food people eat all over the world
172. The story of how the potato famine changed Ireland
173. Why honeybees are important for growing food
174. How rice farming feeds millions of people
175. The time when people learned how to make cheese
176. Why fast food became popular around the world
177. How fish farming helps feed more people
178. The story of how corn became a big crop in America
179. Why people started raising chickens for eggs
180. How the invention of the refrigerator changed food storage

### **Communication and Media:**

181. How the printing press made books cheaper to buy
182. The story of how people first sent messages by telegraph
183. Why TV became a way people watched the news
184. How radio shows entertained families before TV
185. The time when newspapers were the main way to get information
186. Why some people write blogs to share their ideas
187. How social media changed the way people talk to each other
188. The story of how typewriters made writing faster
189. Why podcasts became a popular way to learn and listen
190. How people used Morse code to send secret messages

### **Law and Justice:**

191. How the U.S. Supreme Court made school segregation illegal
192. The story of the trial that ended with a decision to end slavery
193. Why people have the right to a trial by jury
194. How fingerprints became important for solving crimes
195. The time when some countries banned alcohol
196. Why people started needing a driver's license to drive
197. The story of how the Miranda rights protect people
198. How lie detector tests work and why they're used
199. Why some laws protect endangered animals
200. The story of how DNA evidence solved old cases

### **Inventions and Discoveries:**

201. How the light bulb changed people's lives
202. The story of the invention of the telephone
203. Why people started using refrigerators to keep food fresh
204. How Thomas Edison created the phonograph to record sound
205. The time when people first started using cars
206. Why the invention of the airplane changed travel
207. How Velcro was invented by accident
208. The story of how penicillin was discovered and saved lives
209. Why the microwave oven became popular in kitchens
210. How Nikola Tesla's inventions helped make electricity available

### **Space Exploration:**

211. How NASA sent people to the moon
212. The story of the first satellite to orbit the Earth
213. Why space shuttles were built to be reusable
214. How Astronauts Live on the International Space Station
215. The time when the Hubble Space Telescope took pictures of space
216. Why scientists study the planet Mars
217. How space probes help explore faraway planets
218. The story of how the Space Race started between the U.S. and the Soviet Union
219. Why some private companies are now launching rockets
220. How satellites help track weather and climate changes

### **Entertainment and Media:**

221. How the first silent films were made in black and white
222. The story of how talking movies changed Hollywood
223. Why comic books became popular with kids and adults
224. How radio was used for entertainment before TV
225. The time when cable TV brought more channels into homes
226. Why music streaming services became popular
227. How cartoons became a popular way to tell stories
228. The story of how video games grew from arcades to homes
229. Why do people enjoy watching sports on TV

230. How movie theaters became a place to watch films together

## Turning Points in History NHD Topic Ideas

1. The invention of the printing press
2. The fall of Constantinople (1453)
3. Columbus's voyage to the Americas (1492)
4. The Protestant Reformation
5. The Scientific Revolution
6. The Industrial Revolution
7. The American Revolution
8. The French Revolution
9. The end of slavery
10. The invention of the telephone
11. World War I
12. The Russian Revolution
13. The Great Depression
14. World War II
15. The atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki
16. The founding of the United Nations
17. The discovery of DNA structure
18. The Civil Rights Movement
19. The Moon landing
20. The fall of the Berlin Wall
21. The invention of the internet
22. The end of apartheid in South Africa
23. The Human Genome Project
24. The rise of social media