

Tennessee Topics for National History Day 2012

Revolution, Reaction, Reform in History

Students should keep in mind that the topics below are simply that, topics. When deciding on a topic, ask yourself these questions:

Am I interested in my topic?

Will I enjoy researching this topic for the entire school year?

Is my topic narrow enough that I can manage it within the constraints National History Day places on project length? (10 minute documentary and performances, 500 word limit exhibits, etc.)

Does my topic relate to the theme of "Revolution, Reaction, Reform in History?" Am I looking at an event that has taken place at least 20 years or further in the past?

Will I be able to find primary sources that will help me research and interpret my topic?

Once you've decided on a topic, be creative with your titles! Use your title to tell us exactly what your specific research project is. Keep in mind that most any revolution or reform topic will have a reaction. If more than one component of the theme applies to your topic, you should address it. Be sure to examine the impact/significance of your topic. Why does it matter to us today?

Also, don't consider this topic list as fully complete list of Tennessee history topics. Many more topics could be added to this list and many of the topics listed below could be interpreted in many different ways.

If you have questions or want some feedback on your topic selection, do not hesitate to contact your state coordinator, Kelly Wilkerson, at historyday@tennesseehistory.org or your district coordinators.

To learn more about these topics, visit the online edition of *The Tennessee Encyclopedia of History and Culture* available at <http://tennesseeencyclopedia.net>.

Attakullakulla, the Overhill Cherokees, and Colonial Governments

Fort Loudoun: Reaction on the Frontier

John Sevier and The Battle of King's Mountain: Fight for American Independence

Treaty of New Echota: Revolution in Indian-White Relations

Dragging Canoe and the Chickamaugas: Reaction to the Treaty of Sycamore Shoals

The Nickajack Expedition: Reaction to Native American Raids on the Cumberland Settlements

Fort Mims and The Creek War

Cave Johnson & U.S. Postal Service Reform

Andrew Jackson & Political Reform

Governor William Carroll and Nineteenth Century Penal Reform

Tennessee Secession from the Union

Abolition movement in Tennessee

The Confederate States of America: Tennessee's Three Grand Divisions React

The Southern Convention of 1849: The South's reaction to the Wilmot Proviso

Slave Emancipation in Tennessee

The Memphis Race Riot of 1866

The Ku Klux Klan

Changes in Transportation (Railroads, Steamboats, etc.)

Agricultural Revolution in Tennessee

Manumission Society of Tennessee & the Anti-slavery Reform Movement

Fanny Wright, Nashoba, and the Anti-slavery Reform Movement in West Tennessee

Yellow Fever Epidemic in Memphis: Reaction and Reform

Night Riders of Reelfoot Lake

Tobacco Night Riders and the Black Patch War

The Agrarians: Reaction to Southern Industrialization

Piggly Wiggly: Clarence Saunders Revolutionizes Grocery Shopping

Tennessee Prison Reform

Governor Austin Peay & Progressive Era Reforms

Temperance Reform in Antebellum Tennessee

Women's Christian Temperance Union

Columbia Race Riot of 1946

Urban Resistance to Prohibition: Nashville, Chattanooga, or Memphis

Debate over Suffrage: Tennessee and the Ratification of the 19th Amendment

Elizabeth Avery Meriwether and the Women's Christian Temperance Union

Elizabeth Avery Meriwether and the National Women's Suffrage Association

The Knoxville Riot of 1919

"The Volunteer State": Reaction to Calls for Service

The Scopes Trial: Tennessee Reacts to the Butler Act

Tennessee and the Anti-War Movement: Protest at the University of Tennessee

FedEx: Revolutionizing Delivery Service

Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency: Protecting Native and Game Animals

Great Smoky Mountain National Park: Reaction to Eminent Domain

Highlander Folk School's efforts to reform both the Southern Labor & Civil Rights
Movements

New Deal Reform: The Tennessee Valley Authority

New Deal Reform: The Civilian Conservation Corp

Religious Transformation: Camp Meetings in Tennessee

Cumberland Presbyterian: Reforming the Presbyterian Church

African-Americans in Jim Crow Tennessee

R.H. Boyd & The Union Transportation Company

Ida B. Wells' vs. the railroads

Labor Struggles

Elizabethton Textile Mill Strike

Memphis Sanitation Strike

Harriman Hosiery Mills Strike

Coal Creek Rebellion: Labor Reaction to the Convict Lease System

Progressive Era Reform Movements

road building

public health

education

government

Public Education Reform

(Public education was in itself a reform activity. Since then, attempts at reform in education are seen repeatedly in public education in Tennessee.)

Topics could include reforms for women, African Americans, reforms in public and higher education, as well as desegregation of public schools.

Peabody Education Fund: Teacher Training Schools in Tennessee

Kelly v. Board of Education: Desegregation Nashville Schools

Freeman's Bureau & Tennessee Schools

Rosenwald Fund & Tennessee Schools

Settlement Schools in Tennessee

Fletcher Dresslar, George Peabody College for Teachers, and Rural School Reform

Civil Rights

(Many events in the Civil Rights movement could be great topics for this year's NHD theme)

Lunch counter desegregation

Clinton, TN school integration

Nashville school integration and *Kelley v. the Board of Education*

Charles S. Johnson, Kelly Miller Smith, James Lawson, Z. Alexander Looby,
Diane Nash and other leaders of the Civil Rights Movement in Tennessee

Agricultural Reforms

Sharecropping

Agricultural Wheel

Farmer's Alliance

Kudzu: Agricultural Reform?

Mechanization of Farms