SOCIAL STUDIES FAIR TOPICS FOR STUDENTS

“CONFLICT AND COMPROMISE IN HISTORY”

Every year the Social Studies Fair frames students’ research within a historical theme. The theme is chosen by the National History Day (NHD) Foundation for the broad application to world, national, or state history and its relevance to ancient history or to the more recent past. This year’s theme is Conflict and Compromise in History. The intentional selection of the theme for NHD is to provide an opportunity for students to push past the antiquated view of history as mere facts and dates and drill down into historical content to develop perspective and understanding.

The following is not an exhaustive list but simply a set of suggestions. Students can choose from these topics or use these to help them brainstorm for other ideas. Students are free to choose from a broad range of individuals, groups, or documents relating to the theme.

National Topics – Some topics excerpted from National History Day
U.S. HISTORY SAMPLE TOPICS

• The Canandaigua Treaty of 1794: Compromise After Conflict
• The Government Versus the Farmers: George Washington’s Lack of Compromise in the Whiskey Rebellion
• The Treaty of Mortefontaine: Compromise to End the Quasi-War
• The Second Great Awakening: Religious Conflict Driving Social Compromises
• Conflicting Ideas over Religion: New Immigrants Challenging the Protestant Ideal
• Fighting in World War I and Not Compromising Ideals: The Harlem Hellfighters
• The Conflict of Monopoly and the Compromise of the National Association of Theatre Owners
• Social Conflict During War: Japanese Internment
• Conflicting Opinions, Compromised Values: The Vietnam Generation
• Rodgers and Hammerstein: From Lighthearted Musicals to Serious Social Issues
• Ronald Reagan and the Berlin Wall
• The Camp David Accords
• Theodore Roosevelt and the Completion of the Panama Canal
• The Connecticut Compromise: The Prevention of Conflict
• Opposing the War of 1812: The Hartford Convention
• No Taxation Without Representation: The Failed Compromise That Led to a Revolution
• Conflict in Salem: The Witchcraft Trials
• Preventing Conflict: The Compromise of 1850
• Antebellum Politics: The Nullification Controversy
• The Revolution of 1800
• The New York City Draft Riot of 1863
• The Indian Removal Act of 1830
• Reconstruction: Conflict and Compromise in the South
• The Compromise of 1877
• The Pullman Strike
• The Silver Question: Farmers Versus Industrialists
• The Burlingame Treaty and Chinese Exclusion
• The Big Three: Conflict and Compromise at Yalta
• Dollar Diplomacy: Ending Conflicts Through Economic Investment
• UAW v. General Motors: Sit Down for Compromise
• Conscientious Objectors in World War II
• Taking the Fight off the Ice: The Creation of the NHLPA
• The Truman Doctrine
• The Marshall Plan
• The Compromise to End All Conflict: The Kellogg-Briand Pact of 1928

EUROPEAN HISTORY SAMPLE TOPICS
• The End of Compromise: Boudicca’s Fight Against Rome
• Charlemagne’s Conquest and the Spread of Architectural Ideas
• The Crusades: No Compromise for Faith
• Martin Luther’s Refusal to Compromise His Ideals • Otto von Bismarck and the Unification of Germany
• The Congress of Vienna: The Legacy of Napoleon’s Downfall
• The Edict of Nantes: Compromise to End Conflict
• For the Sake of Divorce: Henry VIII Versus Rome
• Bloody Mary: A Catholic Who Refused to Compromise
• Oliver Cromwell and King Charles I: Conflicts and Compromises
• Conflict at Sea: How the British Defeat of the Spanish Armada Changed the Face of Naval Warfare
• Isabella, Ferdinand, and the Spanish Reconquista
• Galileo: The Conflict and Compromise Between Science and Catholicism
• The Division of Berlin After World War II
• The Castle Hill Rebellion: Conflict Without Compromise
• The European Coal and Steel Community That Led to a Union
• George Fox and the Quakers: Conflict with Society, Compromise with a New Faith
• Selling Souls for Sugar: Slavery and the Sugar Islands
• The Conflicts and Compromises Needed to Unify Italy
• The Munich Agreement: Appeasing Conflict
• The Treaty of Versailles: Prelude to the Second World War
• Emmeline Pankhurst and Her Militant Struggle for Suffrage in Great Britain
• Henry II and Thomas Becket: A Conflict That Led to Compromise
• Catherine de’ Medici and the Huguenots
• Conflict and Compromise in the Restoration of King Charles II of England
• The Troubles: The Conflict and Compromise of Ireland
• The Glorious Revolution: A Conflict That Led to the English Bill of Rights
• The Treaty of Madrid: The Compromise to End Conflict
• The Treaty of Paris: The Uneasy Peace of the Seven Years’ War
• Settlement of New Land: Conflict and Compromise of the Treaty of Tordesillas
WORLD HISTORY SAMPLE TOPICS
• The Unbalanced Compromises of the Opium Wars
• King Rajaraja Chola I Conquers Ceylon
• Buddhism and Hinduism: Conflicting Ideas and Their Cultural Impacts
• Sikhs and Hindus: A History of Conflict and Compromise
• The Forced Compromise of the Boer Wars
• Conflicts over Religious Interpretation: Sunnis and Shi’ites in Islamic Tradition
• Conflicts over Borders Necessitate Compromise: The Indo-Pakistani War of 1971
• Constantine’s Conflict and Compromise over the Date of Christmas
• The Paris Peace Accords: Compromises to End the Vietnam War
• The Conflict and Compromise of Repatriation of Ancient Artifacts: Howard Carter and King Tut’s Treasure
• Athens, Sparta, and the Battle of Marathon
• The Rule of Akbar: “The Great Mughal” over India
• The Establishment of the Manchu Dynasty in China
• The Japanese Constitution of 1889 • The Crimean War
• The Six-Day War
• Colonization Conflicts: King Leopold’s Vision in the Congo
• Resolution 181: The Conflict and Compromise of Creating a Nation
• United Nations Peacekeeping Missions: Compromising to Avoid Conflict
• The Iran Hostage Crisis: Coming to a Compromise
• Nelson Mandela and the Fight for Equality in South Africa
• “Men and women are equal; everyone is worth his (or her) salt”: Mao Zedong’s New Marriage Law
• Mikhail Gorbachev and Ronald Reagan: Ending the Cold War Through Conflict and Compromise
• King Bhumibol of Thailand: The Conflict and the Compromise of General Srimuang
• Desmond Tutu’s Truth and Reconciliation Commission
• Zapatista National Liberation Army and the Conflict and Compromise of the 1994 North American Free Trade Agreement
• The Conflict and Compromise That Led to Rwanda’s Arusha Accords
• The Conflict of Blood Diamonds and the Compromise of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme
• The Internal Settlement: Conflict in Rhodesia Leads to the Compromise of Zimbabwe
• Filipino Insurrection: Compromise with America to Win a Conflict Against Spain