

National History Day in Idaho Topic Ideas

Exploration

Lewis & Clark
John C. Fremont
Captain Bonneville
Hunt Party

Native American History

Bear River Massacre
Utter Massacre (Owyhee County)
Ward Massacre (outside Middleton)
Massacre Rocks incidents
Indian Reservation system & establishment of military bases to protect miners and emigrants (Fort Boise, Camp Three Forks, Camp Smith, Camp Alvord, etc)
Dawes Act and tribal allotments
Indian treaties
The "Almo Massacre"
Kootenai War of 1974
Nez Perce War of 1877 - Chief Joseph and his subsequent surrender
Battle of White Bird
Sho-Ban War
Battle of Camas Prairie
Weiser Indians refuse to go to reservation, hide out in southcentral Idaho

Fur Trade Era

Hudson's Bay Company
Fort Boise
Fort Hall

Religions & Missionaries

Henry and Eliza Spalding at Lapwai
Black Robes mission to Coeur d'Alenes
Mormon mission at Fort Lemhi (SE Idaho)

Westward Emigration

Oregon Trail
California Trail

Gold Rush and Mining

Gold discoveries in Idaho

Sunshine Mine
Superfund cleanup site in Kellogg
Dredge mining
Bunker Hill mine disaster
Coeur d'Alene mining strikes in 1890s
Western Federation of Miners - Harry Orchard and the assassination of Governor
Stuenenberg

Humans vs. Nature

Teton Dam disaster
1910 fire of North Idaho
Placing the Oregon Shortline RR through Idaho
Challis earthquake
Reclamation projects
Engineering White Bird and Lewiston Hill roadways
Building the New York irrigation canal
Start of Sun Valley as a ski destination
CCC projects in the state
1964 Wilderness Act – Senator Frank Church's involvement and subsequent
establishment of Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness Area
Bethine Church – conservation efforts
INEL site and first “atomic city” at Arco
Hydroelectric development vs. endangered species (salmon)
1917 Harrison fire
Building Mullan road
Rural telephone service
Ocean navigation to Lewiston
Flood of lower Goose Creek Reservoir
Small Idaho farmers survive agricultural depression of 1920s and become successful
rural people
Reintroduction of wolves to Idaho

Idaho personalities

Philo T. Farnsworth
J.R. Simplot
Vardis Fisher
Edith Clegg and her trip up Hell's Canyon
Evel Knievel
Buckskin Bill
Emma Edwards, only woman to design the seal for a state in the Union (1891)

Military & War

Hunt Relocation Camp (Minidoka) for Japanese internment during WWII

- Camp internees who refused to fight in the war unless their families were released from the camp – incarcerated in federal penitentiary for refusing to serve

Farragut Naval Base at Lake Pend O'Reille
Vietnam War protests

Government, Law & Justice

Women's fight for the right to vote – Abigail Scott Duniway and May Arkwright Hutton
Idaho constitutional convention – Edmunds Act (1882), the Test Oath (1884) and Peter J. Pefley

Lewiston fights to keep territorial capital from moving to Boise

1973 Old Penitentiary riot – prisoners take a stand against prison conditions

William E. Borah – the "Lion of Idaho"

- fight to keep U.S. out of League of Nations - not standing up to Hitler
- champion of States' rights v. federalism (antilynching bill)

Gracie Pfost "Helle's Belle" for fighting to stop a private dam in Hell's Canyon

Governors' stand against nuclear waste being transported or dumped in Idaho

Women's Temperance Union – against alcohol and supported prohibition in Idaho (1917-1935)

Claude Dallas' stand against Fish & Game wardens

Ku Klux Klan formed in Idaho to protect rights threatened by people of other nationalities, religions and races

Governor Clark stood against Japanese and Japanese Americans following Pearl Harbor

- fought relocation to Idaho of thousands of Japanese from west coast

1896 – Butch Cassidy (Robert Leroy Parker) & accomplices rob bank of Montpelier and are never caught despite Pinkerton Detective Agency's involvement

Anti-Chinese sentiment in 1870s and 1880s – The Exclusion Act of 1882

Capital punishment – Idaho's stand and methods of execution

1896 – Prosecution/pardon of notorious prospector Diamondfield Jack Davis & murder of shepherders in Cassia County

1992 Standoff at Ruby Ridge – use of force by federal law enforcement

Idaho downwinders – government's failure to take a stand against nuclear fallout

Economics

Discovery of gold in Idaho – miners stake and defend claims, create towns and cities, trespass on reservations

Eastern lumber barons buy up Idaho trees for logging operations

Community planners and engineers stand against nature to approve irrigation and reclamation projects in Southern Idaho for agricultural development

Sheep and cattle ranchers stand against grazing fees for public land

1974 strike at J.R. Simplot potato processing plant in Caldwell

Voter defeat of 1959 Right-to-Work legislation

1985 - Right to Work legislation

1936 - IWW lumber strike in Clearwater County

Preservation, Conservation

Preserving historic downtowns against urban renewal

State historical sites – protection and preservation

Wilderness Areas

Threatened and endangered species