

HERITAGE FAIR PLANNER

Name: _____



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INTRODUCTION

What is a Heritage Fair project?

A Heritage Fair project is a fun way to learn about Canada's history and heritage. Your teacher will provide you with the guidelines, but generally speaking, you will select a topic you are interested in, come up with an interesting research question, investigate different sources, and present your findings through an oral, written, and/or creative response.

Use this workbook to plan your project and keep track of your work.

Be curious, creative and have fun!

P.S. You can also check out our publication *What's the Story?* for more advice on creating a memorable Heritage Fair project. Visit CanadasHistory.ca/WhatsTheStoryStudents

Checklist for a Heritage Fair project

- Step 1: Choose your topic
- Step 2: Create an inquiry question (we call this a Big Question)
- Step 3: Research
- Step 4: Analyze your research
- Step 5: Create your project components – a written response, oral presentation, and creative element
- Step 6: Share your work

IDENTIFYING A TOPIC

1. Brainstorm ideas for potential topics. Your teacher may provide a list or you may get to choose your own topic. Start by thinking about what interests you. Do you have any special hobbies or pastimes? What is unique about your community? Are there any interesting stories in your family? What is something you'd like to learn more about? Remember - you'll need to connect your topic to **Canada** and **the past**.

Ideas for topics:

2. Identify two topics that interest you the most and do some research to give you a better understanding (i.e. answer the "5Ws + How") about the topic. Find out what sources are available to help you with your research.

Topic 1:	Topic 2:
Key points:	Key points:
Sources:	Sources:

CREATING A STRONG INQUIRY QUESTION (BIG QUESTION)

Now that you know a little bit more about each topic, pick the one that interests you the most. Make sure your topic has enough sources to help you with your research.

Topic:

For your Heritage Fair project, you need to ask one question that will be the focus of your research and analysis. A strong question (we call it a Big Question) usually:

- Relates to something that is meaningful and interesting to you
- Is open-ended and has more than one possible answer
- Can only be answered after you look at many different sources
- Requires you to come to your own decision about what you've learned

Consider the questions below. Which do you think are strong questions? Why?

What were the main reasons for Canadian Confederation?

What was the most important reason for Canadian Confederation?

What were the impacts of Canadian Confederation?

What was the biggest impact of Canadian Confederation on Indigenous people?

What else do you think makes a strong inquiry question? Are there other criteria you should consider?

USE THE HISTORICAL THINKING CONCEPTS

The historical thinking concepts can help us ask good questions about the past. Here are some examples of questions using the historical thinking concepts:

- Historical Significance – Why is [my topic] significant? How should it be remembered?
- Evidence – How has different evidence affected our understanding of [my topic] over time?
- Cause and Consequence – What event had the biggest consequence on [my topic]?
- Change and Continuity – What change had the biggest effect on [my topic]? How has [my topic] stayed the same over time?
- Historical Perspective – How did most people in the past feel about [my topic]?
- Ethical Dimension – What lessons can we learn from [my topic] and apply in the present?

Based on what you know about your topic, what other questions do you have? Brainstorm your ideas and practice making Big Questions that use the historical thinking concepts.

Ideas for Big Questions:

Identify which of the Big Questions you are most interested in asking. Write it below – this will be your inquiry question for your Heritage Fair project. Remember: as you continue your research, you may need to make changes to your question or continue to refine it.

Inquiry Question:

HERITAGE FAIR RESEARCH ORGANIZER

Inquiry Question:			
Source Information			
Source Citation (see the Bibliography Worksheet at the end of this guide for information on how to keep track of your sources):			
What is the title?	What kind of source is it?	When was it created?	Who created the source?
What does the source say? What are the main ideas expressed? What was the creator's perspective?		What was the intended purpose of the source?	
Relevance			
How does this source help me understand my topic? What useful background information does it give me? Include key quotes and paraphrased notes.		How does the source help me answer my inquiry question? What evidence does it provide that I can use to back up my conclusions? Does it "agree" or "disagree" with the other evidence I have collected?	

DRAWING CONCLUSIONS

Summarizing the Context	
Topic	
Who was involved / who was affected?	
What happened?	
Where did it take place?	
When did it happen?	
Why did it happen? What caused it?	
How did it happen?	

Making an Analysis

Looking at all of your research together, what have you learned? Use the space to organize your ideas, make observations, and draw connections. Examples: draw a mind map, make a timeline, create a flowchart, write bullet point notes.

Some questions you could think about are:

- What is similar among your sources?
- Are there any themes reflected in your research?
- Did any of the sources change your initial thinking?

Inquiry Question	
Main conclusion	
Evidence to support the main conclusion	
Other conclusions	
Evidence	

Reflecting on your Inquiry

How well have you answered your inquiry question? Do you have strong evidence to support your conclusions?

Why is your topic important? What makes this significant to Canadian history? Why should people today care about your topic?

How will you share your findings with others? Is there a format that will best communicate your ideas? Are there key elements you want to include?

What new questions do you have on this topic? How would you continue this project?

SHARING YOUR WORK

What is the main message that you want to share? How can you share your conclusion with your audience in a fun and creative way? Think of yourself as a storyteller – engaging your audience with your research and helping them feel a connection to your topic.

1. What's the story?

Identify one big idea or story that you want to share with others. This should be the answer to your inquiry question.

2. Decide on the storyline

Choose the key research findings that support your conclusion and help tell your story.

3. Choose a format

How can you best communicate your story to others? Think about what kind of evidence you found – do you have images, documents, maps or interviews? What is the best format for highlighting this material?

4. Create a plan or diagram showing the layout or design of your final project

Remember you will need to provide some background information on your topic, but your main goal is to share your inquiry question and findings. Think of ways to include primary sources or a visual component. For photographs, videos, or audio files, make sure that you are allowed to share them by seeing if they are copyright-free or asking permission from their creator. Don't forget to include a bibliography of all your sources.

5. Prepare an oral presentation

When sharing your work with others, you will need to deliver a short speech that summarizes your research and findings. Draft your speech or make bullet-point notes about what you want to say. Practice reading your notes aloud. Tip: On the day of the presentation, have notecards with key ideas that you want to say, but avoid reading from a script.

HERITAGE FAIR PROJECT PLANNER

Use this worksheet to plan your final Heritage Fair project, whether you are doing a poster, slideshow, video, or something else!

Project type:
Materials needed:
Primary sources and other visuals to include:
People or places I can go to for help:

Title: _____

Subtitle: _____

Context and setting: *Tell your audience a bit about the time and place you are researching. What was life like then?*

Big Question: *Share your inquiry question with your audience.*

Key points: *What are the key messages you want to share? What evidence do you have to support your key points?*

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Conclusion: *This is the answer to your Big Question.*

Reflection: *Share a bit about your process and your experience doing this research. Was it difficult? Fun? What was your favourite part?*

HERITAGE FAIR ASSESSMENT RUBRIC

Student Name: _____

Project Title: _____

Teacher/Reviewer's Name: _____

Assessment Scale			
Needs development	Approaching expectations	Meets expectations	Exceeds expectations

Criteria	Comments
<p>Topic and Inquiry Question</p> <p>The topic selected:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • is historically significant • includes an effective inquiry question that requires thinking and judgment 	
<p>Evidence</p> <p>Evidence is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • varied and represents different perspectives • relevant to the inquiry question • sourced in a bibliography that records key information (name, title, url, publisher, date, etc). 	
<p>Product</p> <p>The final product is impactful and engages the audience</p> <p>It includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • key points about the topic • a response to the inquiry question • information that is accurate, relevant, and organized in a logical manner • a balance of text and visuals 	
<p>Communication</p> <p>The student communicates key information about their topic and responds to the inquiry question.</p> <p>Through the interview process, they can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • explain why their topic is historically significant • reflect on their process, identifying challenges, successes, and/or potential next steps • share insights on what they've learned about the process of doing historical work 	

APPENDIX 1: BIBLIOGRAPHY GUIDE

A bibliography is a list of all the sources you used while researching your Heritage Fair project. A bibliography is like giving credit to the places that helped you make your project so others can explore those sources too!

There are a few ways to do a bibliography, but this guide uses the MLA format. Just follow the template below for each of your sources - whether you are using a book, website, or an interview.

For more examples, visit <https://columbiacollege-ca.libguides.com/MLA9>

Article - Unknown Author (print)

"Title of Article: Subtitle if Any." *Title of Magazine*, vol. Volume Number, no. Issue Number, Date of Publication, pp. Page Numbers.

Example: "Life at Home." *Kayak: Canada's History Magazine for Kids*, April 2020, no 72, pp 12-15.

Article - Known Author (print)

Author's Last Name, First Name. "Title of Article: Subtitle if Any." *Title of Magazine*, vol. Volume Number, no. Issue Number, Date of publication, pp. Page Numbers.

Example: Jiang, Debbie. "Unwanted." *Kayak: Canada's History Magazine for Kids*, no. 85, Feb 2023, pp 8-11.

Book - One Author

Author last name, Author first name. *Book title*. Publisher, Date.

Example: MacLeod, Elizabeth. *Lucy Maud Montgomery: A Writer's Life*. Kids Can Press, 2001.

Encyclopedia - Known Author (online)

Author last name, Author first name. "Article Title." Encyclopedia name, Date of publication or last edit, URL. Date accessed.

Example: McLean, Steve. "The Tragically Hip." *The Canadian Encyclopedia*, 26 Mar. 2015, www.thecanadianencyclopedia.com/en/article/the-tragically-hip-emc. Accessed 27 Jun. 2016.

Interview

Interviewee last name, Interviewee first name. Interview. By Interviewer full name, Date.

Example: Swain, Thomas. Interview. By Rachel Swain, 12 Mar. 2023.

Page or Document on a Website - Known Author

Author's Last Name, First Name. "Title of Page or Document." Title of Website, Name of Organization Affiliated with the Website, Date of copyright or date last modified/updated, URL. Accessed Day Month Year site was visited.

Example: McRae, Matthew. "Japanese Canadian internment and the struggle for redress." Canadian Museum for Human Rights. 19 May 2017. <https://humanrights.ca/story/japanese-canadian-internment-and-struggle-redress>. Accessed 12 February 2023.

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"Title of Page or Document." Title of Website, Name of Organization Affiliated with the Website, Date of copyright or date last modified/updated, URL. Accessed Day Month Year site was visited.

"Terry's Story." The Terry Fox Foundation, 2021, <https://terryfox.org/terrys-story/>. Accessed 6 January 2023.

Primary Source from an Online Collection

Author's Last Name, First Name (if known). "Title of Primary Source Document: Subtitle." Year of creation. *Title of Website*, Publisher of Website, Publication Date, URL. Accessed Day Month Year site was visited.

"Commercial sketch of Montreal and its superiority as a wholesale market." [c. 1868]. *Canadiana Online*, <https://www.canadiana.ca/view/oocihm.03408/12>. Accessed 25 Oct. 2021.

Video from a Website (YouTube, TikTok, etc)

Last Name, First Name of video creator or Username of Creator. "Title of Video." Title of the Hosting Website, uploaded by Username, Day Month Year of Publication, URL of video. Accessed Day Month Year video was viewed.

"History Bits: Wildfire." *YouTube*, uploaded by Canada's History, 2 June 2022, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wlp49S2aqAY&list=PL0yxSe7HtMnAnadeq-318NAifET6SjKG9&index=6>. Accessed 24 Sept 2022.