

Sample History Day Pacing Junior Division

As you think about pacing the History Day process throughout your school year, the most important consideration is your project registration due date (February 14). You should work backward from this date to allow time not only for your students to complete their projects, but also for you to select which projects will advance from your school to the CMHD regional contests.

The following pacing guides can be used to plan 16-week and 12-week options for teaching History Day. In both cases, the “weeks” on the plan run Monday-Friday (weekends are excluded). Projects are due (to you) on January 30, and the following week is allotted for you to grade, judge, and select which projects will advance to the regional contests (see Project Allowances).

These plans are just guides and we encourage teachers to change them however best fits their students’ needs and school schedules. For the 2022-2023 school year, we highly encourage teachers to build in a 2-week “buffer” in the schedule to allow for Covid absences/delays and other unanticipated challenges throughout the year.

History Day Activity	16-Week Plan	12-Week Plan
Introduce Theme	Weeks of 9/19 and 9/26	Week of 10/17
Select Topics	Weeks of 10/3 and 10/10	Weeks of 10/24 and 10/31
Historical Question and Thesis	Weeks of 10/17 and 10/24	Weeks of 11/7 and 11/14
Research and Analysis	5 Weeks: 10/31- 11/28	3 weeks: 11/28-12/12
Argument and Student Voice	Weeks of 12/5 and 12/19	Weeks of 12/19 and 1/9
Building the Project	3 weeks: 12/19-1/23	Weeks of 1/16 and 1/23
Final Projects Due	1/30	1/30
School Contest/Selections	Week of 1/30 or 2/6	Week of 1/30 or 2/6
Registration Due to CMHD	2/14	2/14

Sample History Day Pacing Senior Division

As you think about pacing the History Day process throughout your school year, the most important consideration is your project registration due date (February 14). You should work backward from this date to allow time not only for your students to complete their projects, but also for you to select which projects will advance from your school to the CMHD regional contests.

The following pacing guides can be used to plan 14-week and 10-week options for teaching History Day. In both cases, the “weeks” run Monday-Friday (weekends are excluded). Both paces are based on a project registration due date of February 14. The student due date of January 30 gives you time to evaluate projects and make your school’s selections for the regional contests, if applicable (see Project Allowances).

The 14-week plan has you introduce History Day to your class shortly after Teacher Kickoff and requires students to select their topics by the following week. After two weeks developing their historical question and working thesis, students spend about a month doing their main research. This plan has the two weeks of winter break “off,” allowing you to use it as a buffer/grading/catch-up time. Upon returning from break, students have just under a month to assemble their arguments and build their projects.

The 10-week plan has you introduce History Day immediately before Thanksgiving Break; we recommend asking students to contemplate possible topics over Thanksgiving and spend the week when they return narrowing down their possibilities. After another week asking questions and developing their working theses, students will have four weeks to conduct the bulk of their research, which includes winter break and takes them through January 6. This is an accelerated plan that will require significant student commitment during winter break.

These plans are just guides and we encourage teachers to change them however best fits their students’ needs and school schedules. For the 2022-2023 school year, we highly encourage teachers to build in a 2-week “buffer” in the schedule to allow for Covid absences/delays and other unanticipated challenges throughout the year.

History Day Activity	14-Week Plan	10-Week Plan
Introduce Theme	Week of 10/17	Week of 11/14
Select Topics	Week of 10/24	Week of 11/28
Historical Question and Thesis	Weeks of 10/31 and 11/7	Week of 12/5
Research and Analysis	4 weeks: 11/14-12/12	4 weeks: 12/12-1/2
Argument and Student Voice	Weeks of 12/19 and 1/9	Weeks of 1/9 and 1/16
Building the Project	Weeks of 1/16 and 1/23	Week of 1/23
Final Projects Due	1/30	1/30
School Contest/Selections	Week of 1/30 or 2/6	Week of 1/30 or 2/6
Registration Due to CMHD	2/14	2/14