

Thinking like a Historian

The History Fair provides a chance for you to be a historian and study a topic that interests you. Please answer the following questions to the best of your ability—your responses will help us know where you start at the beginning of your research journey, and to see how your skills develop as you make history.

1. Your Name _____

2. School _____

3. History Fair Teacher _____

4. Grade level: 6th 7th 8th 9th 10th 11th 12th

5. Is this your first time participating in the History Fair? yes no

6. If you have participated in the History Fair before, in which grade(s)?

 6th 7th 8th 9th 10th 11th

7. Which of the following would best describe how you feel about learning history?

strongly dislike it dislike it no opinion like it one of my favorite subjects

8. Have you ever done a research project in social studies? Yes No

Describe the process you took in completing this research project in as much detail as you can.

9. Which of the following would be the **most appropriate** question to investigate for the History Fair under the theme “The Individual in History: Actions and Legacies”?

- a. Who was Jane Addams and what did she do at Hull House?
- b. How did Jane Addams’ activist role in Chicago impact women and children in the early 1900’s?
- c. Who built the Sears Tower?
- d. How did the construction of the Sears Tower change working conditions for builders in Chicago in the late twentieth century?

10. From the answer you selected above, write the key words that made you believe it was the best choice for a History Fair question.

11. Which quote would best support a claim that suggests that the **defendants** of the Haymarket Riot believed that, even if they suffered consequences for the tragedy, that it would lead to later justice for others?

- a) “I protest against the conviction, against the decision of the court. I do not recognize your law, jumbled together as it is by the nobodies of bygone centuries, and I do not

recognize the decision of the court. My own counsel have conclusively proven from the decisions of equally high courts that a new trial must be granted us.”

--Louis Linng¹

- b) “My children—well, their father had better die in the endeavor to secure their liberty and happiness than live contented in a society which condemns nine-tenths of its children to a life of wage-slavery and poverty.”

--Albert Parsons²

12. Explain why you chose the quote you circled in question 11.

13. In your own words, define **primary source**.

14. In your own words, define **secondary source**.

15. Imagine you are doing a project on Harold Washington’s campaign to become the mayor of Chicago in 1983, the first African American to hold the office. Write the letter “P” on the lines next to all of the **primary sources** and “S” next to **secondary sources**.

_____ a *Chicago Tribune* article from 1983, announcing Washington’s campaign victory

_____ a photograph of Harold Washington taken in 1984

_____ a transcript of a 1982 interview with Washington, discussing his aspirations to become mayor

_____ an entry from the *Encyclopedia of Chicago* about Chicago politics

_____ radio documentary “84: Harold,” the story of Chicago's first black mayor produced two decades after his death

_____ biography of Harold Washington

_____ photograph of the mayor's office, taken today

_____ Harold Washington’s personal journals from 1983-1987

16. Determine the **main idea** of the passage below.

As the links between germs and illness became more widely understood, children’s health reformers stressed disease prevention through appropriate hygiene as the most effective means of reducing high rates of infant and childhood mortality. Sanitary engineering improved overall health conditions in the city, and

¹ “Haymarket Martyr Louis Linng Says Goodbye,” <http://historymatters.gmu.edu/d/45>

² “Haymarket Martyr Albert Parson’s Last Words to His Wife,” <http://historymatters.gmu.edu/d/46/>

by the early twentieth century several important public health measures had been put in place. In 1908 Chicago became the first city in the world to require the pasteurization of its milk supply, and the chemical treatment of the city's water supply began in 1913. Widespread reductions in childhood disease and death could not be fully realized, however, until significant numbers of families adopted appropriate daily hygiene practices within their own households, measures such as frequent hand washing and the sterilization of baby bottles.³

Which best states the main idea of the passage?

- a. hygiene was determined to be very important in child health in the early 1900s
- b. bottles for babies should be sterilized
- c. Chicago was the first city in the world to require milk pasteurization
- d. childhood disease and death were big problems in Chicago

17. Would the photograph below support the passage above? Explain why or why not.



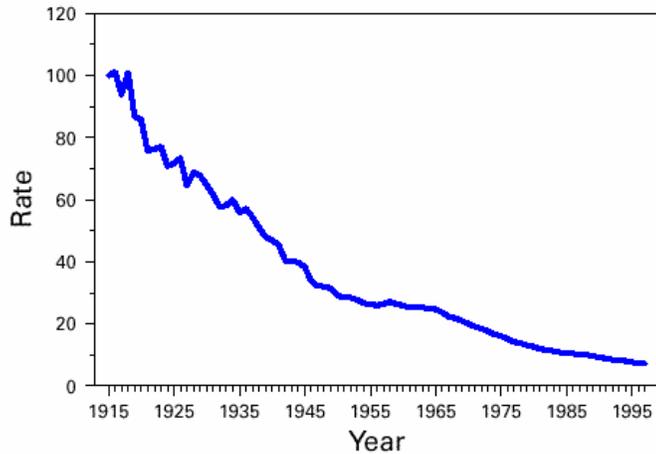
Photographer: Wallace Kirkland. University of Illinois at Chicago
<http://www.encyclopedia.chicagohistory.org/pages/281.html>

³ <http://www.encyclopedia.chicagohistory.org/pages/281.html>

18. Which of the following would be a reasonable **inference** one could draw from the photograph above?
- a. women wore ugly hats in 1930
 - b. the baby in the picture is unhealthy
 - c. weight is related to health of infants
 - d. grandmothers had to take babies to the doctors
19. Put a check mark next to the four best elements to include in a History Fair thesis:
- makes a historical argument, takes a stand
 - contains a citation
 - shows historical significance or suggests change over time
 - has a narrow and specific focus
 - summarizes important facts on the topic
 - can be proven with evidence
 - asks a historical research question
20. Which of the following is the **best** thesis for a History Fair project on the legacy of Mayor Richard J. Daley?
- a. How did Mayor Daley's decision to hold the 1968 Democratic National Convention in Chicago impact the image of the city following the tumultuous Vietnam era?
 - b. If Mayor Richard J. Daley had not been elected mayor of Chicago, the 1968 Democratic National Convention would have been peaceful and brought positive media attention to Chicagoans. Instead, it was a disaster and it was all his fault.
 - c. Prior to the Democratic National Convention in 1968, many Chicagoans supported Richard J. Daley and Chicago politics as usual. However, following his "shoot to kill" order in the wake of King's assassination and the riots of the convention, Daley's credibility diminished, paving the way for change in Chicago politics.

Study the following sources carefully and consider the **historical significance** they illustrate.

FIGURE 1. Infant mortality rate,* by year — United States, 1915–1997



*Per 1000 live births.

DON'T KILL YOUR BABY



Mother's Milk is Best of All.
Lots of cool boiled water to drink.
Clean milk (properly prepared) from a clean bottle.
Give only these and baby will keep well.

The Civic Federation of Chicago, Co-operating with the Chicago Health Dept.
Copyright, 1910, by Civic Federation, Chicago.

Such Food Will Poison Your Baby.
Don't give: Meat, bread, potatoes, fruits, sweets, coffee, tea, beer, etc.
And avoid the dread summer complaint.

21. Which of the following statements best describes the **change over time** or **significance** illustrated by the above sources?

- Advancements in knowledge and practice of children's health made little difference in infant mortality rates.
- Clean bottles helped keep babies alive.
- Public awareness of children's health needs led to improved practices and a significant decrease in infant mortality rates starting in 1920.
- Children and adults have different health needs.