

Unit 4: The Theme

The Annual History Day Theme

Each year National History Day selects a theme. When participating in history day, students will need to choose a topic related to that theme. In fact, one of the important components of a history day project is the student's ability to **relate** their topic to the theme. The annual theme frames the research for both students and teachers. It is intentionally broad enough that students can select topics from any place (local, national, or world) and any time period in history. Once students choose their topics, they investigate historical context, historical significance, and the topic's relationship to the theme by researching in libraries, archives, and museums; through oral history interviews; and by visiting historical sites. Remember: History Day projects aren't just reports with dates and facts; they are studies of a topic's **significance** and **importance** in history.

2027: Innovation in History – Impact, Influence, Change

This year's theme, *Innovation in History: Impact, Influence, Change* really focuses on the difference between invention and innovation as determined by historical analysis. While innovation is often associated with science/technology it is not exclusively so. Students can explore topics in any area of history they choose but they must be able to show how their topic fostered long term influence and change. This theme has a lot to 'unpack' so take some time to work through it with your students. You can download the 2027 Theme book and theme narrative at the [NHDGeorgia website](https://www.nhd.org/2027-theme). While there check out the 2027 Theme video as well!

Strategies for discussing the theme with your students

1. Begin with definitions - Find out what the terms mean. Start with a dictionary. Discuss.
2. Work through the vocabulary found in the narrative (word mapping, vocabulary triangles, examples) - make certain students are comfortable with the vocabulary in the text itself.
3. When reading the theme narrative - highlight the different questions/points in the text.
4. Annotate the theme narrative, including questions students come up with as they read it.
5. Use the materials found in the Student Guide to support and assist your discussion.