

INSPIRATION

Canadian history

- The Numbered Treaties and Canadian Confederation
- Treaties and the Indian Act
- Treaties and broken promises
- The fur trade as an ad hoc Treaty
- Relationships between First Nations and settlers [re: early settlement on the prairies – Icelanders, Ukrainians, Mennonites, etc.]
- Role of the Hudson Bay Company in the making of the Numbered Treaties

Counterfactual history

- What might have happened if Treaties had been honoured? Are there other groups with agreements with the Canadian government (Crown) that were honoured (think: Mennonites)

Historiography of Treaties

- How have Canadians told the story of Treaties?
- How has this changed over time?

Military history

- From Treaty partners to military allies
- Indigenous allies in Seven Years, WWI, WWII

Indigenous perspectives and understandings

- Oral history and Treaty making
- Spirit and Intent of Treaty
- Indigenous languages, ways of knowing, and Treaties
- Indigenous Treaties (e.g. – Iron Alliance)

Genealogy (family history) and local history

- Your own Treaty story
- Treaty history in your local area

People in Treaty history/Biographies

- Chief Peguis, Lord Selkirk
- Chief Berens
- Alexander Morris
- James McKay

Canada's historic places that mark Treaty

- How we commemorate and/or should commemorate Treaty-making sites

...and more!

STEPS

- Start with a **question** about Treaties. ASK: *I wonder ...?*
- Find and evaluate relevant historical **sources**. ASK: *Do have I oral sources? Am I including First Nations' perspectives, languages?*
- **Organize** your information. ASK: *Did I create a timeline or storyboard? Does it help visualize the chronological flow or theme of my Treaty project?*
- **Create** your project. ASK: *Did I bring my research to life? Did I use effective storytelling? Have I used appealing visuals and artifacts?*
- Prepare to **present**. ASK: *Did I practice my public speaking skills? Did I seek help in pronouncing First Nation words? Did I make a list of answers for anticipated questions?*



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TREATIES & HERITAGE FAIR PROJECTS: A GUIDE



TREATY RELATIONS
COMMISSION OF MANITOBA

DESIGNING A TREATY PROJECT

Projects must explore an aspect of Treaty history, relationships, heritage, and/or contemporary Treaty issues. These entry points may connect to Canada's national history or to provincial, local, or family history.

This guide is adapted from
<https://ottawaheritagefair.org/project-selection-and-topics/>



START WITH A QUESTION

The best Heritage Fair projects begin with a research question to which you try to find an answer.

Use some of the historical thinking concepts as a guide:

- **Historical Significance** – *What and who should be remembered?*
- **Evidence and Interpretation of Evidence** – *Does your evidence support your conclusions?*
- **Causes and Consequences** – *Why did historical events happen the way they did and what are the consequences?*
- **Continuity and Change** – *How are lives and conditions alike over time and how have they changed?*
- **Perspectives** – *What does the past look like when viewed through the lens of time?*
- **Ethical Judgement** – *Is what happened right or fair?*

HOW TO SELECT YOUR PROJECT

What interests you? Start with what you may be learning in your classroom and/or your own interests. Find a topic related to Treaties that is fun and develops curiosity and creativity!

Can you back it up? Make sure that your topic has lots of sources. These include both primary and secondary as well as oral history. Remember, Treaty history often is found in oral history, community histories, and Indigenous languages.

Is it important? Even a Treaty project with a very local or family entry point can be important if you can link it to a larger story in history.

Is this new information to the public? Until a couple of decades ago, Treaties and Treaty relationships did not appear regularly in the story of Canada. Does your topic offer new learnings and insights? Does your Treaty story enrich our shared understanding of history?

