

What does it mean when you hear people say the good old days? What was different back then? How have things changed?

## Your Task:

Choose a point in time in Iowa's history. Explore what life was like at that time. How did people live, work and play? What were the big issues of the time? What were the hopes and fears of the people? Compare and contrast the past to what life is like today. What are the similarities? What are the differences? Why did the differences come to be? How has life in Iowa changed over time?

Follow these four steps to complete your Iowa Pathways Challenge.

### 1. Write a Question for Investigation

#### Get Your Task

Start your Challenge by considering the task.

#### Choose a Topic

Find a topic or theme that is interesting to you that you think will match the task.

#### Create a Question for Investigation

Put your task and topic together into a question to guide your investigation. Develop a clear, focused Question for Investigation to help keep your goal in mind.

#### Examples:

*What does the phrase 'the good old days' mean to you?*

*How does your question compare the past and the present?*

*Does your question ask about change over time? Is it open for investigation and discovery? Can it guide your investigation?*

### 2. Research

#### Consider Your Sources

Make a plan. List possible sources you will use and the basic facts you will research. Consider all of the resources available to you, including your library, local historical society, people in your community, Web searches, textbooks, etc.

#### Dig Deep

Explore Artifacts. Discover new Side Trails. Note important information and valuable background details that help you answer your Question for Investigation. Consider multiple perspectives. Evaluate your sources for accuracy.

#### Examples:

*How far back in history do you want to go?*

*What information would make this topic interesting?*

*What activities, events, or ideas do you want to explore?*

*What good primary sources have you found? Why are they good sources? What are the helpful Side Trails?*

### 3. Analyze and Organize

#### Make Connections

Select at least five key findings from your research. List each finding and explain how it relates to your Question for Investigation.

#### Put Your Ideas Together

Answer your Question for Investigation.

#### Examples:

*What is the real story of the 'good old days'? What was life really like back then? What is it like now? Are things better today?*

*What is the answer to your research question? What is your conclusion? How is the past similar and different to what you know is true today?*

### 4. Publish and Reflect

#### Publish

Choose a way to best show what you have learned. What do you want people to know, think, or feel about this? Is it a poster or display? Is it a speech or a multimedia presentation? Is it a poem or essay? The options are limitless.

#### Reflect

After you have completed your presentation, reflect on your work. What do you think of your work? What is good or bad? What would you do differently next time you research and publish? What do others think? What would they want you to do differently?

#### Begin Again

As you think back on your experience with this Challenge, what questions do you still have? What new questions are there? What do you want to research next?

#### Examples:

*What do you want people to know, feel and think about the 'good old days' and today?*

*How can you show similarities and differences of the past and present?*

*What will you do differently with your next Challenge?*

*What questions do you still have? What will you research next?*

Your Challenge is to research the people, places, events and ideas that have made Iowa what it is today. Use this organizer to record notes of your research, your thoughts and your questions as you move through the four steps of the Challenge.

**1. Write a Question for Investigation:**

Starting your Challenge with a clear, focused Question of Investigation helps you keep your goal in mind while you research.

**Get Your Task**

Each Challenge starts with a Task to help guide your research.

**Choose a Topic**

Browse through the Iowa Pathways website for a topic that interests you. Consider how the topic relates to Your Task.

My Challenge Task is to:

My Topic is:



**Task + Topic = Question for Investigation**

Put your topic and task together to create your Question for Investigation (T+T=Q).

My Question for Investigation is:

Your Challenge is to research the people, places, events and ideas that have made Iowa what it is today. Use this organizer to record notes of your research, your thoughts and your questions as you move through the four steps of the Challenge.

## 2. Research

A focused, research plan helps keep you on track to find valuable information. Good research takes patience. Thorough research takes time. Consider all your sources. Take good notes and enjoy the adventure!

### Consider Your Sources

List possible sources you will use and the basic facts you will research. Consider all the sources available to you, including your library, local historical society, people in your community, web searches, textbooks, etc.

Sources	Facts

### Dig Deep

Start your research. Note important information and valuable background details that help you answer your Question for Investigation. Identify primary sources and consider multiple perspectives. Evaluate your sources for accuracy.

If needed, use a separate sheet of paper to complete your summary.

Your Challenge is to research the people, places, events and ideas that have made Iowa what it is today. Use this organizer to record notes of your research, your thoughts and your questions as you move through the four steps of the Challenge.

### 3. Analyze and Organize

Find the answer to your Question for Investigation by analyzing the facts and ideas you've found.

**Make Connections**

Select at least five key findings from your research. List each finding and explain how it relates to your Question for Investigation.

**Put Your Ideas Together**

Answer your Question for Investigation.

If needed, use a separate sheet of paper to complete your summary.

Your Challenge is to research the people, places, events and ideas that have made Iowa what it is today. Use this organizer to record notes of your research, your thoughts and your questions as you move through the four steps of the Challenge.

#### 4. Publish and Reflect

**Publish:**

Now is the time to tell your story to others. This is your chance to be creative. Think of a way to showcase what you have learned, such as: a slideshow, website, brochure, video, essay, poster, short story, etc. Before you start, consider the following questions:

What do you want people to know, feel, or think about your topic?

How will you communicate your ideas? How will you make what you publish interesting and effective?



**Reflect:**

After you have completed your presentation, look through this Trail Guide and reflect on your work.

What do you think of your work? What is good and bad about your presentation?

What do others think of your work? What would they want you to do differently next time?



**Begin Again:**

As you think back on your experience with this challenge, what questions do you still have? What new questions are there? What do you want to research next?

If needed, use a separate sheet of paper to complete your summary.

# Challenge Rubric



★★★★  
Explorer

★★★  
Adventurer

★★  
Surveyor

★  
Sightseer

## 1. Write a Question for Investigation

**Goal:** Write a focused question to guide your investigation.

- Question was clear, thoughtful and creative.
- Question required deep thought and challenging research.

- Question was clear and focused.
- Question required deep thought in order to do research.

- Question asked for easily available answers.

- Question did not relate to the Challenge task.
- Question required little creative thought.

## 2. Research

**Goal:** Use good sources to find information that will help you answer your research question.

- Information included basics of the topic and an in-depth study of the topic.
- Used a variety of quality sources and carefully selected only the information that answered the research questions.
- Several primary sources were included.

- Information included basics of the topic and an in-depth study was begun.
- Used a variety of sources to find information that answered the research questions.
- Primary sources were included.

- Information was incomplete and only included basic understanding of the topic.
- Sources lacked relevance, quality, depth, balance, or accuracy.
- Primary sources were not included.

- Information was incomplete and did not include basic understanding of the topic.
- No sources included.

## 3. Analyze & Organize

**Goal:** Answer your question for investigation with a thoughtful response to the challenge task.

- Information was thoughtfully collected; ideas thoroughly explained and supported.
- Answer explains why the connections were made and what was learned.
- Several detailed conclusions were reached from the evidence offered.
- Question was answered with meaningful information that showed accuracy, attention to detail, and understanding.

- Information was collected and ideas were explained and supported.
- Answer explained the connections made and what was learned.
- Several conclusions were reached from the evidence offered.
- Question was answered in a way that showed learning, detail and accuracy.

- Information was collected but ideas needed explanation and support.
- Answer included the connections made.
- Some detailed conclusions were reached from the evidence offered.
- Response to question was not clear or only answered part of the question.

- Document restated information found in resources. Thoughts are not supported by evidence.
- Answer did not identify connections made.
- Response to question was incomplete and/or wasn't completely accurate.

## 4. Publish & Reflect

**Goal:** Show what you have learned, reflect on your experience, and determine what new questions you have now.

- Meaningful information was incorporated into overall project and showed deep understanding of the topic.
- Student learning was clearly communicated; project was logical, creative, organized and complete; project incorporated a variety of sources.
- Student demonstrated a great deal of thought and effort.
- Reflection on learning showed a thoughtful consideration of unanswered questions and new ideas.

- Meaningful information was incorporated into project and showed understanding.
- Student learning was clearly communicated; project was logical, creative, organized and complete; project incorporated a variety of sources.
- Student demonstrated a great deal of thought and effort.
- Reflection on learning showed a thoughtful consideration of unanswered questions and new ideas.

- Some meaningful information was incorporated into project and showed a basic understanding.
- Student learning was somewhat organized, but needed clearer connections among ideas and sources.
- Reflection on learning showed some consideration of unanswered questions and/or new ideas.

- Little meaningful information was incorporated into project and showed a lack of understanding.
- Student learning was not organized and lacked connections between ideas and sources.
- Reflection on learning showed little consideration of unanswered questions or new ideas.