

Think of a book, movie, or documentary about an historical topic. Consider how the author used a sequence of events to tell a story. How did things begin? How did the story unfold over time? What was the conclusion? Is the story really finished?

Your Task:

Your task is to uncover a story based on a sequence of events over time in Iowa history. Choose a topic, theme, or issue. Work forward from some beginning to an end or outcome— or work backward from some issue, problem, or event to explain how it started and developed over time. Discover and explain why this story is important in Iowa history. How would things have worked out if part of the story had been different?

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:

How can a sequence of events tell a story?

What is an important story of Iowa's past? Your Iowa story could span several decades or a single year.

Does your question ask about a sequence of events that led to an important outcome? 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:

Why is this sequence of events important?

What information and examples will you need from each event to demonstrate how all the events are important?

What were the actions and motivations of people who were there?

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 connects each event in the sequence? How did each event come to be?

What is the beginning, middle, and ending to your Iowa story? Is the story still unfolding today?

How might things have turned out differently if one of the events in the story was changed or didn't happen at all?

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 your Iowa story?

How can you show that historical events are connected by time, reason and purpose?

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.