

Your Quest:

Your quest is to find your own story of Iowa – what is interesting to you and why it is important. You will investigate Iowa people, places, events, and ideas. Discover your own pathway as you make connections between topics.

Use this organizer to record notes of your research, your thoughts, and your questions as you move through the four steps of the Quest.

1. Browse the Site

Consider possible topics for your investigation. What topics interest you? How could they be interesting to others?

Check off your progress:

- I looked at each main section of the website.
- I clicked on a few Pathways to see where they go.
- I read some articles.
- I explored the Side Trails.
- I browsed a few Artifacts.

2. Choose a Topic

Start your Quest by looking around the Iowa Pathways website to see how it is organized. Click on a few Pathways to see where they take you. Read some articles, explore the Side Trails, and dig up a few Artifacts.

Your topic can be a big idea or a specific point of interest. For example, your topic may show how something changed over time or how a particular event or era was significant. It may be about an important decision or an event that happened by chance. It could be about a person or an issue.

What is your top choice?

Short list of possible topics:

I chose _____ as my topic.

3. Make Connections

Focus your research by considering specific questions you want to answer about your topic. Consider the following when constructing your questions:

- What else was going on at the time?
- Why was this important at the time?
- How did this shape Iowa's past? Its future?
- Does this have an impact today? How?

I want to answer the following research questions about my topic:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

If needed, use a separate sheet of paper to complete this step.

3. Make Connections (continued)

Research your topic. Read through the articles for basic facts and explore related Pathways. When investigating, consider your research questions:

List at least five other topics or ideas from the website that relate to your topic and your research questions. Explain how each topic or idea relates to your research questions. (Hint: Be sure to check out the related Pathways, Artifacts, and Side Trails for topic ideas.)

4. Tell Your Story

Summarize your Quest by telling the story of your Iowa pathway. How are all of these ideas connected? Explain why your topic is important to Iowa. Why is it important to you?

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