

Psychology History Day Topics List

Social Studies Content Standards	History Day Example Topics
1. Examine the foundations of psychology and its origins as a separate social science discipline.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Andrew Jackson: Hero or Sociopath? • Freud and the Exploration of the Human Psyche through Psychoanalysis
2. Examine the development of psychology as an empirical science by describing the scientific method, explaining research strategies, and identifying ethical issues.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broca, Mustard Seeds, and Bearings: The Dangers of Subconscious Bias in Scientific Experiments • Pseudoscience and Phrenology: How Behavior is Affected by the Physiology of the Brain, Not the Skull
3. Investigate the structure, biochemistry, and circuitry of the brain and the nervous system to understand their roles in affecting behavior.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Industrialization and the Creation of Adolescence: How American Labor Shortages Created a Myth • Lead is Murder: How the EPA has done more to lower Homicide Rates in the U.S. than any other Institution
4. Analyze physical, social, emotional, moral, and cognitive development from conception through the latter stages of adulthood.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pigeons Can Fly (Airplanes): B. F. Skinner and the Exploration of Human Behavior through Experimentation • The Stanford Prison Experiment: The Effects and Ethical Issues of Perceived Power
5. Understand how organisms adapt to their environment through learning and cognition.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Milgram Experiment: An Explanation of Nazi Killing?
6. Understand the principles of motivation and emotion.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Studies of Homosexuality (Freud, Havelock, Ellis, Alfred Kinsey, The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual)
7. Understand how society and culture influence a person's behavior and mental processes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legacy of the Tuskegee Syphilis Experiment • PETA and the Campaign to Protect Animals
8. Examine how psychological disorders are diagnosed, classified, and treated.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Mercator Projection: How We View the World
9. Evaluate the many factors that promote mental health.	