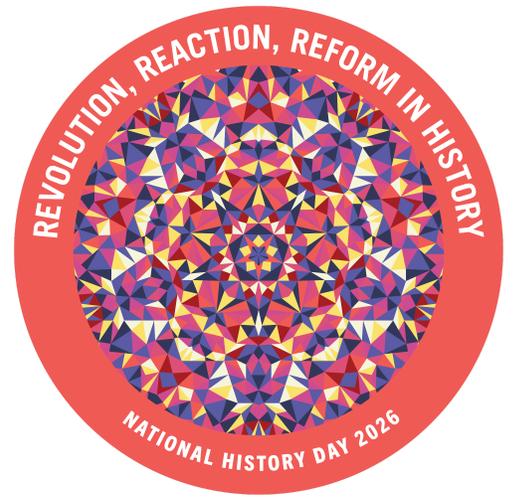


Massachusetts History Day



Revolution, Reaction, and Reform in History– Theme FAQ

Do I need to cover all three parts of the theme?

No! Some topics involve all three, but many fit just one or two. It depends on the topic. If the topic involves all three, then you should be sure to include all three.

What does 'Revolution' mean?

A big, dramatic change. Could be overthrowing a government or changing how people live, work, or think. Revolutions are big and often chaotic or violent. They can cause intense reactions.

There are many political revolutions to choose from but revolutions can happen in science and technology, business and industry, and arts and culture too!

Ask yourself: What was the big change? Who pushed for it, and why? How did it change things?

What does 'Reaction' mean?

How people or groups respond to change. It can be resistance, support, or something in between.

Ask yourself: Who reacted, and how? What happened as a result?

What does 'Reform' mean?

Trying to fix or improve something. Often happens because of a revolution or problem. Reform involves gradual rather than sudden change. Usually, reform is the result of focused effort by groups of people.

Ask yourself: What changed? Did it solve the problem—or create new ones?

How do they connect?

Revolutions spark reactions. Reactions can create reforms. Together, they set off a chain of change.

How do I keep my project manageable?

Zoom in: focus on a person, event, or local story instead of the whole movement. Think of the small stories within the larger ones. Keeping it small makes it manageable!

Does my topic need to be well known?

Not at all. Local stories are often the most powerful and sometimes easier to research. Try your local historical society for some ideas!