

**What is a Frontier?**

- A geographical area marking the edge of a settlement or uncharted mass of land
- The formal border between countries, societies, or cultures
- An underdeveloped area of study, understanding, or area of achievement
- Uncharted or new areas of research and discovery (including innovations)

People discover frontiers by challenging traditionally accepted or believed boundaries and limits.

1 Making Connections

- What are your students studying this year?
- What discoveries were made by important figures in your lessons?
- What types of frontiers can be seen in the historical events your students are studying?
 - Are there new art movements? Significant changes in politics, sports, medicine, or philosophy? What's changing, and how?
- Do you have students showing an interest in a particular event or discovery? What interests them about it? How can you frame it through the lens of a historical frontier?
- What connections can students make between new ideas and inventions discussed in class and the impact they had on people?

Brainstorming:

2

Encouraging & Guiding Students

Work with your students to think about the following questions as they begin their research:

- What factors contributed to the development of their frontier?
- Why did it emerge, and how did it change?
- Who was impacted by the frontier, and when it changed, how did that effect the different groups of people?
- When did it cease to be a frontier?

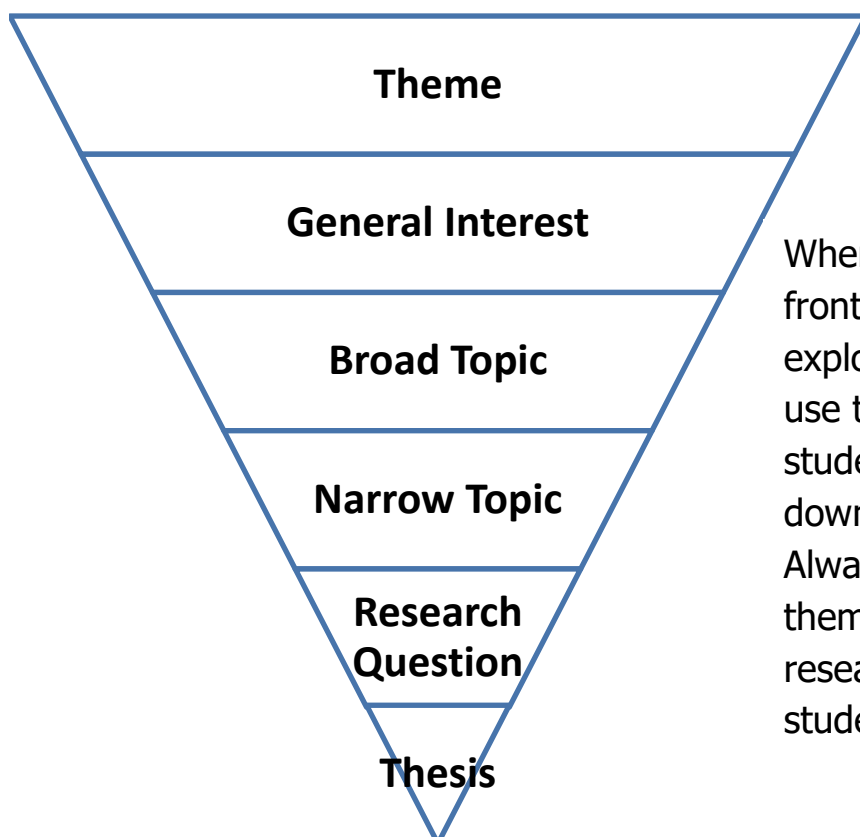
To demonstrate an understanding of the historical impact of student projects, help students brainstorm ways to research the following about their topic:

- Time and place
- Cause and effect
- Change over time
- Impact and significance

Remember - we want students to draw their own conclusions about **how** their topic affected individuals, communities, nations, or the world.

3

Narrowing Topics



When you begin thinking about frontiers your students might explore from lessons in class, use the funnel method to help students narrow their ideas down into thesis statements. Always start with the NHD theme, and work down into a research question to guide students towards their thesis.