

Possible Topics for Science and History Research Paper

1. Ancient anatomical experiments by Egyptians.
2. Phineas Gage's railroad accident and what it revealed about the brain.
3. Jonas Salk and the development of the polio vaccine.
4. The Centers for Disease Control's efforts to eradicate smallpox.
5. Edward Jenner and the invention of the first vaccine.
6. Mathematician John Nash's battle with schizophrenia.
7. Serial killer David Berkowitz (aka, the Son of Sam) and schizophrenia.
8. Joseph Merrick, aka "The Elephant Man".
9. The whale attack and sinking of the *Essex*, and the crew's fight to survive.
10. The man-eating lions of Tsavo, Kenya.
11. The Human Genome Project, the first attempt to sequence the entire human DNA genome.
12. Collapse of the honey bee colony in 2006.
13. The massive decline in the population of amphibians around the world.
14. Dolly the Sheep, the world's first cloned animal.
15. Human cloning.
16. Transposons, or "jumping genes," in organisms, including humans.
17. Phantom Limbs. Some humans still experiencing feelings in limbs that have been amputated.
18. Epigenetics. How DNA and phenotypes can change in the middle of a person's life.
19. The endosymbiotic theory, or how multiple cells combined to form the first eukaryotic cell.
20. Senescence, the science of aging and death.
21. The life and death of zoologist and anthropologist, Diane Fossey.
22. Jane Goodall's life living among the gorillas of Tanzania.
23. The extinction of the passenger pigeon.
24. The extinction of the dodo bird.
25. The Endangered Species Act of 1973.
26. The Svalbard Global "Doomsday" Seed Vault, home to ¼ of a billion seeds.
27. The Miller-Urey Experiment, which attempted to model the creation of life on prehistoric Earth.
28. The experimental procedures of face transplanting.
29. The connection between cannibalism and disease.
30. The connection between incest/inbreeding and genetic disorder.
31. DDT, the "miracle" pesticide and ecological disaster.
32. Rosalind Franklin's x-ray crystallography
33. The science of forensic technology.
34. Bioremediation, the use of pollutant-eating bacteria to clean oil spills or other pollutants
35. The aquatic ape hypothesis; ancient primates possibly were amphibious
36. Genetically engineered and modified crops
37. The small population of humans who are immune to HIV
38. The possible connection between HIV and the Black Plague.
39. Typhoid Mary, the first carrier of typhoid who was quarantined to prevent spreading the disease
40. Using sunken ships, cars, etc to build artificial coral reefs
41. Ebola virus outbreaks
42. Lassa fever viral outbreaks
43. Hanta virus outbreak
44. History of HIV
45. Virology (mechanism of how the virus works) of HIV
46. The SARS (severe acute respiratory syndrome) of 2002-2003
47. The Children of Thalidomide (widespread birth defects)
48. Lasik Surgery
49. Emergence of the cicada insect swarms every 17 years
50. Prions and Mad Cow disease
51. Choose a disease (Parkinson's, Tourette's, etc) for research.
52. The sudden birth and rise of the 1000 ft Paricutin volcano in a Mexican cornfield
53. Processes and attempts to date the age of the earth.
54. The Luis and Walter Alvarez asteroid theory.
55. Continental drift of land throughout the history of the earth.
56. Cause and effects of the Ice Age.
57. The first scientific explanation of the dinosaurs.
58. The discovery of the Archaeopteryx, a prehistoric bird/lizard.

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59. The Olduvai (Oldupai) gorge, and the cradle of civilization.
60. The discovery of Lucy, a fossilized Australopithecus.
61. The discovery and debate over the Kennewick Man, a 9,600 year old skeleton.
62. The Piltdown skeleton hoax.
63. The Calaveras skull and the existence of humans and dinosaurs: real or hoax?
64. Ivan Pavlov's dog drooling experiment.
65. Clever Hans the horse, and the Clever Hans effect.
66. History and phenomenon of feral children, or children raised by animals/in isolation.
67. BF Skinner's experiments with operant conditioning.
68. The Little Albert human classical conditioning experiment.
69. Washoe and Lucy, ASL-speaking chimpanzees.
70. Konrad Lorenz and the science of imprinting (are you my mother?).
71. 1962 Columbus Day Storm
72. 1991 Halloween Nor'easter (The Perfect Storm)
73. The 1993 Storm of the Century
74. The 1993 Mississippi and Missouri river floods.
75. The Wellington, Washington avalanche.
76. The 1925 Tri-StateTornado, the deadliest tornado in USA history.
77. 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami.
78. The LEZ (London Low Emission Zone).
79. The global warming debate.
80. The Kyoto Protocol on international climate change.
81. The myth and discovery of the giant squid
82. Hypnotism
83. Cancer victim Terry Fox's one-legged "marathon of hope" across Canada.
84. Paraplegic Rick Hansen's "Man in Motion" wheelchair trek around the world.
85. NBA player Magic Johnson's admission of HIV.
86. The rise of CTE and suicides due to head trauma in the National Football League.
87. The effects of concussions on famous boxers throughout history.
88. NCAA basketball player Hank Gathers sudden death and heart condition
89. NCAA basketball player Len Bias' death and controversy due to cocaine
90. Tennis player Arthur Ashe's activism and death from HIV
91. Canadian Olympic sprinter Ben Johnson, the first major athlete associated with steroids
92. Survival of Uruguayan Flight 571's passengers in the Andes Mountains
93. The mercy sled run to deliver diphtheria antitoxin to Nome, Alaska.
94. Deepwater Horizon's fire and oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico.
95. The Exxon Valdez tanker oil spill.
96. Pollution and the Cuyahoga river fire.
97. Minamata, Japan and mercury poisoning.
98. Love Canal, New York: neighborhood/chemical waste dump.
99. The Bhopal cyanide accident, site of the world's worst industrial accident.
100. The 1918 worldwide influenza (Spanish flu) pandemic.
101. The survival of the final members of the Donner Party.
102. The 1982 Chicago Tylenol murders.
103. Mabton, Washington's mad cow, the first in the USA.
104. John Scopes and the evolution "monkey trial."
105. Allan Hills 84001: the meteorite with Martian fossils?
106. Victims of Hanford, Washington's radiation release; the "downwinder's trial."
107. History of conservation and the National Parks.
108. Animals that can speak like humans.
109. Rejuvenation of Chernobyl since the accident.
110. H1N1, or the Swine Flu.
111. Black Plague of Europe in the 1300's.
112. The possibility of creating a "Jurassic Park."
113. Terri Schiavo and the debate over what it means to be alive.
114. Hydroelectric Dams and their effect on salmon migration.
115. Secret recipes and ingredients (coca-cola, KFC, etc).
116. Earth Hour.
117. Tracing the evolutionary history of where corn came from
118. Discovery of the coelocanth, a living-prehistoric.