



Inyo County Office of Education  
Barry D. Simpson, Superintendent

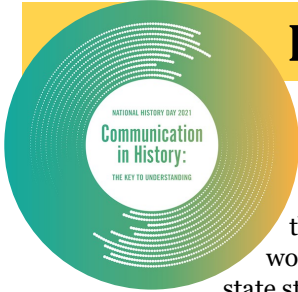
# The Inyo Insight

An Education Newsletter from the Inyo County Office of Education

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## Inquiring Minds Of Students Want To Know

Teachers in grades 4-12 interested in an engaging, student driven, project - read on! *Communication in History: The Key to Understanding* is this year's theme for History Day, a project based learning educational program for students throughout the nation. Students participating in this program choose a topic of interest related to the theme, conduct extensive research, analyze and interpret their findings, draw their own conclusions about their topic's significance in history, and finally create projects to present their work. This project helps students develop invaluable research and analytical skills, while also meeting many state standards and frameworks! Additionally, it can be adapted well for distance learning.

ICOE is offering two levels of participation for teachers interested in incorporating History Day into their classrooms:

**Process Level:** Students go through the program using the materials and suggested project guidelines, but may not complete the project to its entirety (ie: missing bibliography, process paper, etc.) or timeline may not align with county competition. Projects may be presented in classrooms or at school sites, and teachers can receive certificates from ICOE for students that participate.

**Competitive Level:** Students conduct extensive research, write a convincing thesis statement, present their findings through one of the project categories, create an annotated bibliography with both primary and secondary sources, and complete a process paper. The project is completed according to the NHD guidelines and entered into the county competition to be judged before having the opportunity to move to the state or national level.

Students may work individually or in groups of 2-5, with several project categories to choose from: exhibit, documentary, paper, performance, website, or poster (grades 4 and 5 only). Due to the circumstances, all paper or in-person projects have virtual options available. Below are some helpful resources that provide more information about History Day:

[ICOE Website](#) - this is where information about the local event will be shared

[Theme Support Video](#) - a quick introduction to this year's theme

[NHD-CA Website](#) - view state competition information

ICOE will be holding coordinator meetings throughout the year, and a final county competition is scheduled for March 11, 2020. For those interested in participating or learning more about History Day, please complete [this form](#) or contact Mini Doonan.



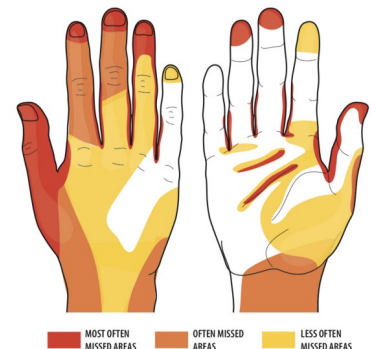
Click the picture to watch a short video about History Day

## Build Data Literacy

Math educators have been facilitating Math Talks for quite some time. Stanford University's youcubed team has developed a similar 5-10 minute pedagogical routine for K-12 classrooms to build data literacy in any content area or grade level. Stanford's Jo Boaler states that, "Data Talks are an important way to increase students' data literacy and pique their interest in Data Science – whatever their age. Data talks provide a space for students to practice considering and interpreting a variety of data and data representations in a low-stake, exploratory environment." Increasing students' data literacy skills is important in the modern world, where we are surrounded by data. The simple routine starts with showing students a data visual and asking: What do you notice? What do you wonder? What is going on in this data visualization?

For more information, see the [Data Resources](#) on the youcubed website. Another great source for visualizations is the [New York Times: What's Going On in This Graph?](#) where you will find a searchable, timely collection of visualizations and teacher supports. Have no fear, though, no need to be an expert on the topic. When students ask you a question that you do not know the answer to, you can model now knowing an answer, thinking aloud and being willing to learn! Youcubed has also created a [picture book](#) to share with young students and [lessons](#) for students in grades 6-10.

Hand Washing: What do you notice? What do you wonder? What is going on in this visualization?





# Pear Deck™ for all Inyo County Teachers!

Need a way to increase student engagement? ICOE has purchased a premium subscription of Peardeck for all Inyo county teachers and administrators. Peardeck is an interactive tool that allows teachers to integrate interactive questions directly into Google Slides. The slides can be used for formative assessment, active learning, practice, and feedback driven metacognition. Students can enter text, select from multiple choice, or drag and drop items directly on the slide deck. Teachers in real time can see students' answers and provide feedback. Not only are you able to design your own Peardeck features in Google Slides from scratch, but your premium subscription includes ready made templates for Newsela, community building, trivia and games, National Park adventures and much more. To create an account, visit this [website](#) and confirm your school email address. Once you open a slide you will see that the Peardeck Add-On is there! If you need assistance with getting started you can watch the Peardeck [training recording](#), register for a [live webinar](#), watch a [help video](#) or contact [edservices@inyocoe.org](mailto:edservices@inyocoe.org).



## Thank You! You Matter, You are Valuable! There is Support for You!

Thank you for your dedication to student success. This year has tested our ability to persevere, to be resilient, to be innovative. It has tested our ability to learn new things, our ways of collaborating, the avenues in which we teach and grow. You have and are continuing to make a great impact in the lives of our students and families, thank you, you are sincerely appreciated!

As we begin to integrate on-campus, in classroom learning back into our lives, and enjoy the ability to see each other in person, the privilege of being able to connect, socialize, and learn in person again; Let us be mindful that every student's experience through this pandemic is different. Let us remember to be empathetic, to consider their experiences and livelihood affects their ability to participate, learn, and grow. Let us remember that if a student is experiencing difficulty there are resources available that can help support

them through their academic journey, and that as a community we can work together to see that each student succeeds and becomes educated. We are available for brief consultations with teachers regarding behaviors students express. To make a referral to North Star <https://tinyurl.com/NSCCReferral> after receiving approval from your school's administrators.

North Star Counseling Center through Inyo County Office of Education also wants to relay to teachers and staff that we are available to you for support. We can work together to assist you in determining how to overcome the challenges and stressors you may be facing. We welcome you to reach out as we look forward to working with you and for you to help you achieve your goals toward wellness. North Star contact number is 760-873-4206 or Vincent Miller: [vmiller@inyocoe.org](mailto:vmiller@inyocoe.org) or Shelby Dolim: [sdolim@inyocoe.org](mailto:sdolim@inyocoe.org)

## Lead the way with your own learning!

Looking for a little inspiration or need help with a new tool that you are using in your classroom? The Ed Services website has a professional learning calendar that is continually updated with various subject specific and ed tech offerings for you to choose your own path. This is a great way to connect and learn with other teachers! Additionally, upcoming meetings or PD offerings led by ICOE staff, as well as links to recordings and materials from previous PD sessions can be found on the calendar page: <https://learn.inyocoe.org/teachers/professional-learning>

Below are a few upcoming PD options we would like to highlight:

**October 14:** Let's talk about SCIENCE! Join ICOE staff for an informal science discussion and collaboration meeting with a quick overview of the EP&Cs. [Link to flyer](#)

**October 22 & 24:** Grades K-5 can participate in Region 10 Science Community of Practice to gather new information and collaborate on all things science! [Link to flyer](#)

If you're looking for something specific, feel free to schedule a one-on-one or small group meeting with us using this link: <https://calendly.com/ed-services/distance-learning> or call extension 2106.



## Congrats!

Last month we raffled registrations to a virtual conference. Congratulations to the following teachers who will be attending the Fall CUE Virtual Conference!

*Amy Ablanedo, Kathy McLaren, Sunny Meza, Kelly O'Neill, Katherine Anderson, Joslyn Hernandez, Jennifer Batcheller, Danielle Kuhl, and Amy Dutton.*

Look for more raffles and opportunities in future newsletters.



October is Emotional Wellness month and one way for you and your students to practice self care is through mindfulness activities with Inner Explorer! Due to excellent reviews from teachers around the county, ICOE extended their license and is ready to get you signed up and using this program.

The Inner Explorer program is a series of daily 5-10 minute audio-guided mindfulness practices. The program focuses on key areas of development, bringing mindfulness to education and helping students prepare for learning.

An email with information about signing up may be coming to your inbox. For any questions about Inner Explorer, contact Shelby Dolim: [sdolim@inyocoe.org](mailto:sdolim@inyocoe.org)