

New Jersey History Day 2022
Debate and Diplomacy in History: Successes, Failures and Consequences

New Jersey History Topics

1. During the Revolutionary War, New Jersey residents struggled over whether to support the patriot cause or remain loyal to the crown. What was at stake for them?
2. During the Revolution, Quakers refused to be pay taxes or serve in the military. How did they justify their position?
3. During the Revolution, several delegations of Native Americans came to visit Washington while he was in New Jersey. How did Native Americans negotiate their position in relation to the British and the colonists?
4. During the Revolution, French forces marched through New Jersey on their way to Yorktown. Assess the relationship between the French and the colonists during the war.
5. What was the role of the Spanish and/or the Dutch during the Revolution?
6. What was New Jersey's role in the debate over slavery leading up to the Civil War?
7. In 1869, the women's suffrage movement split over whether to support the 14th and 15th amendments, which granted African-Americans the right to vote but excluded women. Suffrage leaders Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucy Stone both resided in New Jersey at the time. What were the terms of the debate? Who was correct?
8. The Paterson Silk Strike of 1913 was more complicated than a simple demand for better working conditions. What were the perspectives of the mill owners and the various groups of workers?
9. The National Prohibition Act, also known as the Volstead Act, was enacted on October 18, 1919. What were the pros and cons of prohibition? What was the impact on New Jersey?
10. During the campaign for the vote in the early twentieth century, women activists differed over tactics. Do you support Alice Paul's more aggressive stance or the more moderate policies pursued by the New Jersey Woman Suffrage Association?
11. Consumers League of New Jersey campaigned against child labor in the state. For families in severe poverty, was it wrong to prevent their children from working?
12. New Jersey held a Constitutional Convention in 1947. What was the impact of early civil rights legislation debated at the convention?

13. What were the causes of the Newark rebellion of 1967? Who was to blame for the destruction that ensued?
14. In 1969, Conklin Hall on the Rutgers-Newark campus was taken over by the Black Organization of Students, who demanded more diversity in the student body among other issues. Do you agree with the students' tactics? What were the results?
15. Princeton University became coeducational in 1969, while Rutgers College first accepted women students in 1972. What were the arguments for and against coeducation?
16. New Jersey ratified the Equal Rights Amendment in 1972. For the next decade, New Jersey women lobbied for the ratification of the amendment in other states. What were the arguments for and against ratification?
17. The Mount Laurel decisions of 1975 and 1983 sought to ensure that affordable housing was available for New Jersey residents throughout the state. What were the terms of the debate? What was the long-term impact?
18. The Baby M case in 1984 centered on the issue of the rights of birth adoptive parents. What was the impact of case?
19. In 1985, the case of TLO vs. New Jersey established that students have a reduced expectation of privacy while in school. Do you agree with the outcome? Why or why not?