



Mississippi History Day 2024 Turning Points in History

So, what is a turning point in history?

Well, a turning point in history is more than just an important event that happened a long time ago. It is more than a new idea or a particular action taken by an individual. A turning point is an idea, event, or action that directly, or sometimes indirectly, causes change. Sometimes a turning point has immediate repercussions, making its significance obvious to people at the time. Sometimes, however, the impact of an event or decision or person is clear only in retrospect. A turning point can be a personal decision in the life of one person or a political choice affecting millions. It can be an event or idea with global or local consequences, or it can be the life of a single person whose actions inspire or affect others. The effect of a turning point in history might be social, political, economic, or cultural. It might be a combination. History is often complicated.

For more information on the 2024 theme, visit:
<https://nhd.org/en/contest/theme/>

To start your research, explore:

- <https://www.mdah.ms.gov/mississippi-history-day>
- <https://mississippiencyclopedia.org>
- <https://da.mdah.ms.gov>

Mississippi Topics

Politics

- Election of Mike Espy in 1986 (Senator)
- Constitution of 1868 (Progressive constitution giving African Americans rights)
- Constitution of 1890 (Reinstituted White supremacy)
- The Mississippi Plan
- Election of Harvey Johnson in 1997 (First Black mayor of Jackson)
- William Winter (Governor)
- Charlotte Capers (Former MDAH Executive Director and conservationist)
- Nellie Nugent Summerville (Vice-President of National Women's Suffrage Association)

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- Married Women's Property Act
- Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek
- Women's Temperance Movement
- Prohibition
- Creation of the Mississippi Territory
- Unita Blackwell (First Black female Mayor of Mayersville)
- Robert Clark (First Black Mississippi Representative since Reconstruction)
- Blanche K. Bruce (First Black Representative to serve a full term)
- Daughters of the Confederacy and the Lost Cause Myth

Civil Rights

- Hezekiah Watkins (Civil Rights activist)
- Hiram Revels (Senator)
- Medgar and Myrlie Evers (Civil Rights activists)
- Chaney, Goodman, Schwerner (Civil Rights activists)
- Ida B. Wells (Journalist, Civil and women's rights activist)
- Tougaloo Nine (Civil Rights activist)
- James Meredith (Integration of Ole Miss)
- The Black Codes (Countered three Reconstruction Amendments)
- Citizen's Council
- Mississippi State Sovereignty Commission
- James K. Vardamann's policies and rhetoric
- Freedom Schools
- Emmett Till
- MFDP Trip to Atlantic City
- 1964 Freedom Summer
- Isaiah T. Montgomery (Founder of Mound Bayou)
- Dr. TRM Howard (Civil Rights activist)
- Carolyn Bryant
- Freedom Vote (Combat disenfranchisement of African Americans)
- Stokely Carmichael and Willie Ricks (Civil Rights activists and members of SNCC)

Arts and Entertainment

- Game of Change (MSU basketball)
- Mark Twain
- Tennessee Williams
- Oprah Winfrey
- Charley Pride
- George Ohr
- Walter Anderson
- Eudora Welty
- Richard Wright
- Elvis Presley
- Robert Johnson
- Jim Henson and Educational Television
- William Faulkner

Science and Technology

- Lunar rocket testing
- James Hardy's transplants (lung and heart)
- Hurricane Camille
- 1927 Flood
- 936 Tupelo tornado

Economics

- Casino industry
- Cotton farming
- Catfish farming
- Coca-Cola bottled in Vicksburg

Education

- Education Reform Act of 1982
- Alcorn University (First Black land grant university in the nation)
- Green vs. County School Board
- Alexander v. Holmes
- Richard Holmes (Integrating MSU)
- Raylawni Branch and Gwendolyn Armstrong (Integrating USM)
- Mississippi University for Women (First public women's college in the nation)
- Rod Paige (No Child Left Behind)

Military

- Battle of Corinth
- Mississippi seceding from the Union
- Siege of Vicksburg
- Camp Shelby
- Vera Anderson