

Research Project: The Year I was Born

What happened the year that you were born? What was going on in your town? Were there important events going on in your state or country? For this project, you'll find out all the answers!

To find out what happened the year you were born, you'll interview family members and adults, search for information at the library, and look for details on the Internet. Once you've gathered your information, write a paper telling the story of what happened the year of you were born.

Since you were just a tiny baby, you won't be able to tell the story yourself. Instead, write the story of the year you were born from an older family member's or another adult or friend's point of view. You'll publish your story as a booklet.

Procedure:

1. As you complete your research, record your information using the research form. Include all information you will need to prepare a **Works Cited page**.
2. Interview your family and other adults about your birth and first year of life. If available, look through photo albums, baby books, and so forth. Before your interview, brainstorm a list of questions to ask. You can include questions about your parents' occupation, other members of the family and community, pets, significant family and community events (in addition to your birth), activities family and friends were involved in, extended family members, favorite music, book, or sports team, and so on.
3. Choose a storyteller. The only qualification is that the person has to be older than you so he or she will know about the year you were born. It can be a family member such as an older sibling, a parent or grandparent, or an aunt or uncle. It can also be a family pet, a friend, or a community member or adult. A religious leader or neighbor, for instance, could also be a storyteller.
4. If possible, interview your storyteller about the year you were born. Ask the person about feelings and memories related to your first year.
5. In the library, consult periodicals such as *Time*, *Newsweek*, *U.S. News and World Report* for the month and year you were born. As you conduct your research, you can look for commercials, slogans, births, deaths, sports

news, movies, books, plays, music, financial, national news, international news, and religious events.

5. Search for your birth date on the Internet, using the sites listed below. Many of these sites give information for your birth date throughout history. To find more details for the month and year you were born, search your birth date and the following days for one month and choose only those events that occurred in your birth year.

<http://www.historychannel.com/tdih/index.html>

<http://www.inthe80s.com/movgross.shtml>

<http://www.calendarhome.com/tyc/>

<http://www.olywa.net/blame/cal/index.htm>

<http://www.scopesys.com/anyday/>

<http://www.yahooligans.com/docs/tdih/>

<http://features.yahoo.com/history/0222.html>

<http://www.elibrary.com/>

<http://dmarie.com/timecap/>

<http://kclibrary.nhmccd.edu/decade80.html>

<http://inthe80s.com/movgross.shtml>

6. Weave all of the information you find together into an interesting story and include a works cited page.

9. Use the ReadWriteThink Printing Press or a word processor to publish your story. In the Printing Press, use the booklet or newspaper layout.

10. Either copy and paste or type your paper into the template. Add your works cited information at the end of your article.

11. Print out your newspaper or booklet.

12. If desired, add a picture of yourself as a baby.