

After hearing this year's theme for History Day, We thought of a couple of ideas for my project including The Killers of the Flower Moon, Alcatraz, and the Smallpox epidemic. Out of all of our ideas, we were more drawn towards studying crimes, which two of my ideas involved. As we continued thinking of my projects, We decided that Alcatraz is a well-known location, and that would make it a less unique topic. Faced with our next question on how to tie The Native American Osage Murders into this year's theme, I thought of two major ideas, one of which was that this was one of the FBI's first big cases and how that lead to further development in that field, the other idea was that The Killers of the Flower Moon is one of the first books that gained popularity and shined a light on how bad we were to the Native Americans. To avoid controversy, We choose the first option.

After discovering that there was a lot more information on the topic then we originally expected, we got to work researching. One of our main sources was a book called *Killers of the Flower Moon* by David Grann, which was a secondary source that summed up the entirety of the event. Another source that was helpful was the FBI's case files, around 500 pages of letters and documents that had been scanned into an online database. The FBI also had a brief summary of the events but that didn't help as much as we would have hoped.

We chose to present our topic as a website due to the lack of video footage from the events. We also had both made websites in the past, making our understanding of the concept better. As this is a sensitive topic we had to be careful about what we said. To be completely honest at some point we both experienced an extreme lack of motivation, hindering the amount of work we got done for a short period of time.

Our historical argument is that this event was a first for many things, including fingerprinting, lab work on evidence, and revealing the flaws of the BOI (Bureau Of Intelligence). In 1921, a

series of brutal murders of the Osage People occurred, following the discovery of oil beneath their sacred land. Motivated by greed, a widely popular man led the Reign of Terror, hoping to gain the headrights of the inheritors. The resulting investigation placed a national spotlight on the BOI and caused the refinements of their investigative practices. Many people watched as the agents failed the country for eight years straight, only bringing justice after changing tactics way too late in the game. This also revealed government bias against Native Americans, as the case would have almost certainly been solved faster if it impacted white Americans.