

# Process Paper

There are a few reasons that we chose ironclads and steamships as our topic for this year's National History Day contest. One of these reasons is that we were interested in maritime history and the various areas of studies in that field. Many people consider iron armor and steam power as turning points in how wars and more specifically naval battles. One topic that we found interesting was the Battle of Hampton Roads because it illustrated how naval commanders had to come up with new tactics in order to deal with new technology. The fascinating topic of ironclads and steamships broke barriers in obvious ways. Prior to the development of steamships, the relatively new idea of a steam engine had to be made small enough and light enough in order for it be suitable for shipborne usage. We found it interesting how engineers worked hard to make the new technologies efficient enough to be used on an oceangoing vessel. The topic of ironclads cannot be talked about without mentioning steam power, because otherwise, ironclads would not exist. Ironclads and steamships are very interesting topics that formed the basis of our history day project.

We researched our project through two main mediums. Our main medium was the internet where many articles, that we cross-checked, giving us many opinions. Many detailed articles helped us to obtain specific information on the specifications of the vessels. Our second medium was through books that we found. We obtained various books from our nearby libraries.

Another form of research which we pulled facts from were short documentaries and videos on the topic of how ironclads and steamships broke barriers in history.

Our project category decision for this year's History Day project. For us, the website category was very optimal and fitting to our needs which included, easy contribution without always being able to meet, and being able to easily edit the website because we could easily access pictures across the internet. The reason we needed contribution without being able to see on another was due to our conflicting timelines and schedules. One problem that we had was our transition to the new website building tool developed by National History Day. In the past, it was much easier to use Weebly. We solved this problem by first building the website on Weebly and importing the source code into the new system when we were done.

Our topic relates to the theme because ironclads and steamships achieved so many accomplishments. These vessels created a whole new area of maritime technology that is still being exploited in vessels. Many people believe that the ships were instrumental in the development of newer and better ships. They led to the development of new cannons, propulsion, and overall ship design. The theme was easy to relate to the project because there are many different ways that ironclads and steamships broke barriers. This project has opened our eyes to the many ways that ships have broken barriers in our world.