

2024 is the 50th anniversary of National History Day and the theme is “[Turning Points in History](#)”. Object histories and related stories from Wisconsin 101 can enrich your students’ projects.

Turning Points in Arts, Sport, & Entertainment

Objects can be game changers, sometimes literally. From graphophones that allowed people to listen to recorded music at home to a twenty-sided die emblematic of Wisconsin-born Dungeons & Dragons, these objects show turning points in arts and entertainment.

[Paramount Records Power Wheel](#)

[Paramount Records 78](#)

[A Twenty-sided Die](#)

[Earlene Fuller’s Bowling Shirt](#)

[Frank Lloyd Wright Pew/Bench](#)

[Racine Belles Movie Costume](#)

[Graphophone](#)

Turning Points in Education

From new ideas to regional needs to global migration patterns, all sorts of factors can precipitate turning points in education. These objects give us windows into mundane and monumental changes in the ways Wisconsinites taught and learned.

[Door County Bookmobile](#)

[La Crosse Normal School Fireplace](#)

[Slate](#)

[Synagogue Window](#)

[Yerkes Telescope](#)

Turning Points in Everyday Life

It’s hard to imagine everyday life without things like electric lights, indoor toilets, or vacuum cleaners. These objects represent turning points in how people, particularly in Wisconsin, lived daily life.

[1904 Kohler “Armeda” Toilet](#)

[CCC Pillow Sham](#)

[Hearthstone House Chandelier](#)

[Vacuum](#)

[Sholes and Glidden Typewriter](#)

[Penguin Server](#)

Global Turning Points

Local objects can give us insight into global shifts such as how events half a world away can change Wisconsin society.

[Pasty](#)

[Horlick’s Malted Milk](#)

[A Hmong Baby Sash](#)

[Hmong Baby Carrier](#)

[Le Maire Sundial](#)
[Trade Blanket](#)

Turning Points in Manufacturing & Trade

Products made and traded in Wisconsin have shaped the lives of Wisconsinites and the landscape of our state. From the Fur Trade Era to the recording industry in the twentieth century, exchanging goods and ideas has brought cultures together and created conflict. Using these objects can help you think about how the arrival of Europeans changed Wisconsin, the tools that powered nineteenth-century industry, or the Wisconsin-born products that changed how people live.

[Galena \(Mineral\)](#)
[Log-Marking Hammer](#)
[Esterly Broadcast Seeder](#)
[Ingersoll-Sergeant Pneumatic Rock Drill](#)
[James D. Williams' Windlass](#)
[The SS Meteor](#)

Turning Points in Science & Medicine

Objects related to science, medicine, and technology can help illustrate turning points in how people thought and interacted with the world. Throughout Wisconsin history, these new ideas have changed Wisconsin's lives and revolutionized industries in the state and beyond.

[Henk Mineral Spring Water Bottle](#)
[Clair Mathews' Feed Grinder](#)
[Cupping Kit](#)
[Babcock Butterfat Tester](#)
[Silsby's Steam Powered Pumper](#)
[Yerkes Telescope](#)
[X-Ray Shoe Fitting Machine](#)

Turning Points in Politics & Society

From elections to protest movements, Wisconsin history is full of political turning points. These objects represent periods of political and social change in our state and world.

[National Guard Nightstick](#)
[The Land of the Freed-up Woman](#)
[Potawatomi Beaded 'Soldier Coat'](#)
[Old Abe, the Live War Eagle](#)
[A Ballot Box](#)
[Victor Berger Campaign Banner](#)
[Draft Drum](#)

Turning Points in Transportation & Tourism

Modes of transportation have shaped the ways Wisconsinites moved around the state. For instance, the Harley-Davidson V-Twin revolutionized the streets of Milwaukee and plank roads made more areas accessible for more travelers.

[The Harley-Davidson V-Twin Engine](#)
[Manitowoc Breakwater Lighthouse](#)
[Wind Point Lighthouse](#)
[Sterling Safety Bicycle](#)
[The Crab Tree Special](#)
[Plank Roads](#)
[A Dam Tower in the Kickapoo Valley Reserve](#)