# How do you take an interdisciplinary approach to history?

Interdisciplinarity is the practice of using multiple disciplines to explore a subject. As a historian, you might consider the literature, art, music, geography, and / or politics of a time to better understand the period. American Studies is an interdisciplinary subject, that brings together multiple strands to help formulate our understanding of the Americas.

**Task: Pick a historical event that is of interest to you. Some examples might include: The Civil War, The Harlem Renaissance, The Great Depression, The Cold War, or The Civil Rights Movement. You can also specify a specific event within this period (for instance, The Montgomery Bus Boycott).**

**Pick three of the below subject area:**

* **Literature – What poems, novels, short stories, essays were written about this event?**
* **Music – Were there any songs written about this event?**
* **Art – How do artists represent the event?**
* **Politics – How might the political establishment – including local and national governments – have shaped this event?**
* **Geography – How might the physical and human geography at the time shape this history (e.g. demographic data, environmental factors)?**
* **Are there any other subjects that are relevant to your chosen area? Feel free to explore those as well!**

**Pick three categories from the above. For each category, research and select one source. You should have three sources – one per subject area. Taken together, what themes do you see emerging? What does taking an interdisciplinary approach reveal about this historical event?**