

Think Like Gov. Robert Ray

- Robert Ray welcomed the Tai-Dam refugees from Vietnam to Iowa in 1975. How might Iowans have felt about Tai-Dam immigrants coming to the state? How might the immigrants have felt coming to America?
- More than 3 million Vietnamese, Laotians and Cambodians were forced from their homes because of the Vietnam War and violent conflict. Why do you think Ray felt the need to help them?
- Many other immigrant groups have settled here in Iowa over the years forming tight-knit communities. Why do you think so many immigrants stay together as groups after arriving in Iowa? What towns near you celebrate their heritage?



Governor Robert Ray (1928-2018)

Robert Ray was born on September 26, 1928. He graduated from Roosevelt High School and enlisted in the U.S. Army. He received a business degree from Drake University and completed law school there in 1954. Ray was elected as governor in 1969 and served until 1983. During his time in office, Ray was an advocate for the Vietnamese immigrants attempting to escape the violence of the Vietnam War. A committee was formed, and Governor Ray focused on a specific group of immigrants to help: the refugees of Tai Dam. Working with the federal government, Governor Ray helped almost 1,400 Tai-Dam refugees find homes in Iowa. Governor Ray continued to advocate for refugees from Southeast Asia and was invited to many conferences all over the world. Robert Ray died in 2018 after a long life of humanitarian aid and advocacy.

Think Like Henry Peter Scholte

- Pella was founded by a group of Dutch immigrants. What are some benefits of living in a community with people of the same heritage? What are some disadvantages?
- Under what circumstances would people leave the only home or country that they've ever known? Do similar problems still persist today? How are these problems impacting immigration?
- Think about the journey that the immigrants took. How do you think the long journey, by both boat and wagon, impacted the immigrants? What would you bring on a journey to a new home?



Henry Peter Scholte (1806-1868)

Henry Peter Scholte was born in 1806 and completed his education at Leiden University's theological school. He and other Calvinist clergy attempted to break away from the church, which earned Scholte jail time for civil disobedience. In 1838, Scholte succeeded in forming the Christian Seceded Church but its members continually experienced social ostracism, economic boycotts and job discrimination. Scholte immigrated to the United States in 1846. Landing in Baltimore in 1847, the group moved to St. Louis before settling in Marion County where he founded the town of Pella, Iowa. Scholte spent the rest of his life fostering community growth and investing in small businesses. He attended President Abraham Lincoln's inauguration and urged Iowan support of the Union. Scholte died at the age of 62.

Think Like a Geographer

A person who studies the environment and how it impacts people.

- Describe details about this location. What do you notice that can help figure out where this place is located? What is unique?
- Why would people move to or leave this place?
- How would people travel to this location? How has traveling to this location changed over time?
- Describe details about people who live here and how they impact the location? How does the location impact the people who live there?



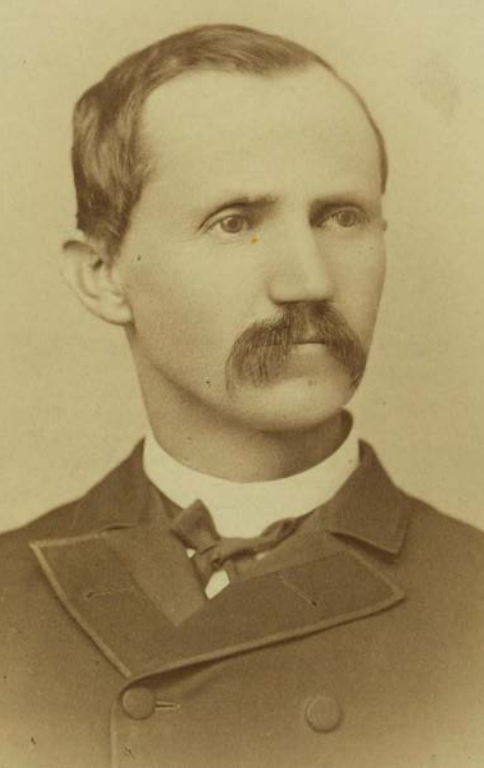
Ira Cook (1821-1902)

Much like how a geographer studies the land, a land surveyor is someone who measures land areas in order to determine boundaries for settlers to purchase. Ira Cook was one of many lowans to receive a contract from the government to be a land surveyor when Iowa territory had to be measured. Cook endured tough conditions, long journeys by foot and wagon and harsh weather from 1849-1853 as he crossed the state measuring the land. He was elected mayor of Des Moines, Iowa, in 1861 and later moved to Washington, D.C., to become Deputy United States Revenue Collector in 1864.

Think Like an Economist

A person who studies the ways people make a living.

- Describe the people in relation to the location. What jobs or occupations do you think people had? Why do you say that? How do you think they met their needs and wants?
- How do decisions made by individuals affect themselves and the economy?
- How do decisions made by businesses affect people?
- How do jobs impact people and the economy? Describe what happens when jobs are lost.



Voltaire Twombly (1842-1918)

Voltaire P. Twombly was elected Treasurer of Iowa in January 1885. The treasurer officially oversees the state's revenue and finances. He served three terms in the position before stepping down in 1891. Not only was Twombly financially savvy, he also was a war hero. During the Battle of Fort Donelson during the Civil War, he picked up and carried his regiment's national colors after three other members of his regiment were killed or incapacitated by Confederate fire while attempting to secure the flag. Twombly received a Medal of Honor in 1897 for his heroic deeds during the battle.

Think Like a Historian

A person who explains changes that happened in the past.

- What happened in the past? Why is it important to understand what has happened in the past?
- How did past decisions or actions significantly transform people's lives?
- What has changed or stayed the same over time? Who benefited from the change? Why? Who did not benefit? Why?
- Who or what made changes happen? Who supported the change? Who didn't? Why?



Louise Noun (1908-2002)

Louise Frankel Rosenfield Noun spent her life preserving and sharing Iowa history. She was born in Des Moines to Meyer Rosenfield, owner of the Younker's department store, and Rose Frankel Rosenfield, a suffrage-supporting mother. Noun and Mary Louise Smith, the former chair of the Republican National Committee, worked together to found the Iowa Women's Archives at the University of Iowa Main Library. The archives include important manuscripts and papers which record women's history in Iowa. Louise Noun also authored numerous books and papers regarding feminist history in Iowa.

Think Like a Political Scientist

A person who studies governments and how they work.

- What problems might people have faced in this society?
- What rights do people have? What rights are people missing?
- What might lead to people being treated fairly? What might lead to people being treated unfairly?
- What information can be gathered about trends at this location or time period that might change or impact the future?



George Gallup (1901-1984)

A native of Jefferson, Iowa, and graduate of the University of Iowa, George Gallup invented the now famous Gallup Poll. The Gallup Poll is a method of survey sampling (asking different people the same question for their answers) to help figure out public opinion. Polls are important for elections and helpful for political scientists. The first instance of using the Gallup Poll for politics was the 1932 campaign of Gallup's mother-in-law, Ola Babcock Miller, who successfully ran for Iowa Secretary of State.

Think Like a Journalist

A person who tells others about the story.

- What are the major headlines of this historical topic?
- What people would you want to interview? What questions would you ask?
- What details are needed to tell this particular story to people not from this area?
- Why is it important to share news about what is happening at this time period or this location?



George Mills (1906-2003)

There was not a story developing within the Iowa Capitol's hallways or chambers that George Mills did not cover for *The Des Moines Register* newspaper. Mills covered events and political news at the capitol building from 1943-1971 and later served as a reporter for television station WHO-TV. From 1943 to 1954, Mills was also the Iowa correspondent for *Time*, *Life* and *Fortune* magazines, writing Iowa stories for a national audience.