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My competition entry was about...

...the effects of the industrial revolution in the textile production of my hometown in the middle of the 20th century. I wanted to create a personal view on local history, so I chose to focus on a local businessman. To illustrate my research and results I designed an interactive scrap book.



*1997

Topic of history competition:

The Person Who Made History

Year of participation:

2016

Title of your competition entry:

»The textile city of Axel Hansen in the 20th century «



How did you decide on your topic ?

One day, a peculiar building caught my eye as I was stuck at a red light. Old buildings are not very common in my relatively young city so it sparked my interest. I found out that it was an old factory, and suddenly I was on the track of an industrial adventure in the middle of nowhere. A story, I was way too curious to leave undiscovered.



How did you react when you came upon surprising points during your research?

I think the most surprising discovery I made was how big an influence something that happened 60 years ago has had on the local mentality. My city really has a “can-do”-spirit but I never really thought of why. Turns out, a lot of it can be traced back to the confidence the citizens earned when a business miracle happened in the aftermath of the Second World War. Anything is possible through smart choices and hard work, words that almost became the motto of my hometown.



I based my research

- ...on source material
- ...on interviews
- ...on family history
- ...on literature
- ...on the internet



Did the research affect you personally?

I feel much more connected to my hometown now. By digging a bit deeper, I found roots I did not expect to find. Earlier, I considered my city rather uninteresting when it came to history, but I found that not only it did play a big role in the middle of the 20th century in Denmark, but my city also showcases the little consequences of big European changes such as World War Two and the fall of the Berlin Wall.

»There's history in everything. You just have to dig a bit deeper. «

