


## HIST 1700 HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE FORM

NAME:	DATE:
	HS Project #1
	Here is an example of: my favorite historical oddity
	I found information about this subject at the following web sites: <a href="http://xroads.virginia.edu/~class/barbie/barb2.html">http://xroads.virginia.edu/~class/barbie/barb2.html</a>
<p><b>IDENTIFICATION AND SIGNIFICANCE:</b>                  Ladies and Gentlemen, Please Meet the Amazing Barbie! Not everyone is aware of the fact that Barbie began her life as a German sex toy, not as a doll for little girls. The American toy maker Mattel bought the rights to Barbie from the German inventors after World War II and, well, the rest is history. Of course, girls have played with dolls for hundreds and hundreds of years, but those dolls were almost always made to look like babies. Even dolls meant to represent adults had cartoon-like bodies, boxy and baggy. The revolutionary thing about Barbie was that she had breasts--and pretty impressive ones at that. From sex toy to child's toy--its an interesting transformation and one that tells us a lot about American society in the late 1950s and early 1960s, when the ideals of womanhood, including ideas about female sexuality, were changing and when an increasingly consumer-oriented society began targeting girls. Oh, did I mention that this whole thing came about because a woman business executive, something pretty rare in the corporate world of the 1950s, came up with the whole scheme.</p>	

