

Teaching History with Kit Kittredge, An American Girl Doll

Take your child's natural interest in American Girl dolls and use their stories to study American History. For example, use Kit Kittredge to learn about the Great Depression. Look for ways to bring this time period to life through directed discussions and by incorporating hands-on activities like crafts and games.

Preparation

- Determine how long you'll take to study each doll/time period.
- Plan the historical points you'd like to cover.
- Read books (the doll's and others) and determine questions you will discuss.
- Decide on some activities like games, crafts, and food to incorporate.
- Gather and prepare any supplies you'll need.

Execution

- Book Questions – ask questions that will prompt discussion and thought
- History – explore and discuss what is happening historically in the doll's era
- Activity – play games that children would be playing during that time
- Craft – choose one for the doll, the child or for both
- Snack – select food relevant to the time period or situation

Extension

- Study history with friends, make it a co-op.
- Expand on the history you're studying, see what else is going on in the time period.
- Choose extra subjects to study further, like sewing, art or geography.

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Sample questions from the book *“Meet Kit.”*

- Did the great depression affect all families the same? Why or why not? Has Kit’s family been affected by the depression in the first two chapters?
- How does Kit keep her dad informed of her daily activities? How do you let your dad know about your day?
- Kit felt she was unjustly accused/blamed for an accident when she opened the door and Mrs. Howard dropped her tray. What does that mean? Have you ever had that experience? What did Kit decide to do about it?

History topics to study aside from The Great Depression:

- The Roaring 20s
- The Dust Bowl
- As we were going through the Depression, what was happening in the rest of the world?

Craft Information:

- Pencil Topper - Cut a triangle out of foam that will fit as a pencil topper. Make sure to cut slits on the long end to fit over the pencil. Give the girls glitter glue to decorate their pennants.
- Tulle skirt – sew a piece of elastic together so it fits around the doll’s waist. Cut out approximately 50 strips of tulle (2” x 14”) and tie them around the elastic.

Check out our Pinterest page for other great ideas – <http://pinterest.com/homeschooletc>

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I’m a founder of Homeschooling etc, a company dedicated to supporting homeschool families as they Educate Through Community. I live in Central Florida with my husband and two girls, who have always been homeschooled. Most days you’ll find us out of the house learning in our big, beautiful world!