

# The 39 Clues

AGES 7-11

National Museum of American History

Have an Adventure Like Amy and Dan!

Uncover the clues that objects hold!



## Introduction

Are you in search of a thrilling adventure? Look no farther than your own history! That's the premise of *The 39 Clues*, a book series featuring Dan and Amy Cahill, two kids who travel around the world to explore some of history's greatest mysteries. In *The 39 Clues: Day of Doom* by best-selling author David Baldacci, Dan and Amy visit the Museum on the hunt for a compass used by Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, legendary explorers of the American West. Use this self-guide to help you find the compass—and test your own clue-hunting skills!

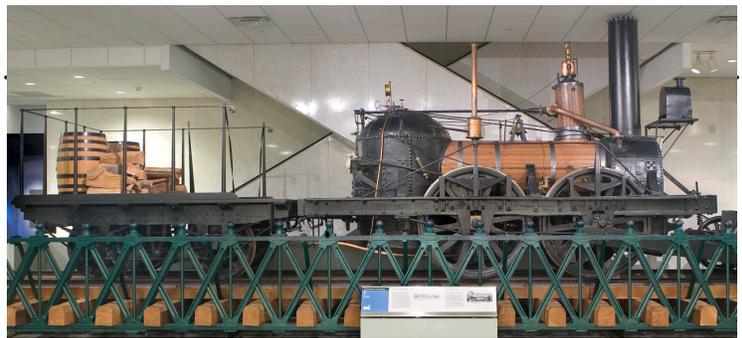
### John Bull Locomotive ▶ 1 East

John Bull was one of the first “locomotive,” or moving, steam engines in the United States.

It began operating between New York and Philadelphia in 1833. John Bull could reach

speeds of 30 miles per hour—the fastest most Americans had ever traveled! ▶ **Steam—made by boiling water in John Bull's big tank—made the wheels turn and the whistle blow. How was the water brought to a boil? Look for clues on the locomotive for the answer.**

Have a smart phone? Scan this QR code to see the John Bull run!



### The Star-Spangled Banner ▶ 2 Center

This is the actual flag that inspired Francis Scott Key in 1814 to write the song that became the national anthem of the United States of America. The flag's fifteen “broad stripes and bright stars” are filled with clues about its history. ▶ **Look very closely at the flag. Then visit the interactive table in the corner to discover the flag's secrets!**

**“Dave” Jar** ▶ 2 East, *American Stories*, “1801–1870 Expansion & Reform”

David Drake, an enslaved African American potter in South Carolina, made this jar in 1862. Although it was against the law for slaves to read or write, Dave defiantly declared his literacy by signing his name and writing a poem on the jar.

▶ **Look for the poem near the rim: “I made this Jar all of cross/If you don’t repent, you will be lost.” Can you decode the meaning of Dave’s message?**



**Abraham Lincoln’s Pocket Watch** ▶ 2 East, *American Stories*, “1801–1870 Expansion & Reform”

In April 1861—when the first shots of the Civil War were fired on Ft. Sumter—a watchmaker repairing President Abraham Lincoln’s pocket watch scratched a message inside it. Later another watchmaker also added a message. Lincoln never knew about the hidden words he carried in his pocket.

▶ **When descendants of the first watchmaker shared a story about the message, Museum curators had the watch opened. What did they find?**

Have a smart phone? Scan this QR code to see the messages inside Lincoln’s watch!



**Lewis & Clark Compass** ▶ 3 Center, *The American Presidency*, “National Leader”

In 1804, after the United States bought the Louisiana Territory (doubling the size of the country), Meriwether Lewis and William Clark led a “Corps of Discovery” to explore it. They traveled from St. Louis, Missouri, northwest to the Pacific coast in today’s Oregon and back, using this compass to find their way. ▶ **Which U.S. president sent Lewis and Clark on their expedition?**

The compass is closed to protect its delicate dial from fading. You can see the inside of a replica compass in *The Price of Freedom* (3 East), at the end of “War of Independence.”

Congratulations! Just like Amy and Dan Cahill, you found the Lewis & Clark compass—and you deciphered clues in everyday objects from the past! As a reward, visit the Museum store (1 Center) to receive a custom *The 39 Clues* game card.

Love History. Use History. Make History.



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