

# OurStory

[www.americanhistory.si.edu/ourstory](http://www.americanhistory.si.edu/ourstory)

- Read Together • Take a Trip • Learn from Objects •
- Use Technology • Play and Create •



Fun family activities  
Themed activity guides for  
children K to 4th grade and  
their adult caregivers



Great book recommendations  
Search hundreds of nonfiction and  
historical fiction books for all ages

## Current themes:

- Abraham Lincoln
- Astronomy
- Civil Rights
- Civil War
- Dance and Performing Arts
- Lady Bird Johnson
- Maritime History
- Martin Luther King, Jr.
- Pueblo Pots
- Puerto Rican Carnival
- September 11, 2001
- Slavery
- The Star-Spangled Banner
- Trains
- Westward Expansion
- Women's History
- WWII Japanese-American Internment

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### What is *OurStory*?

A project of the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History, *OurStory* is designed to help children and adults enjoy exploring history together. The project is supported by a generous grant from the Verizon Foundation.

Each *OurStory* theme consists of a main webpage and 3–5 activities that involve reading a work of historical literature, exploring museum objects, field trips, and home projects. The materials are mainly designed for use by an adult caregiver and child(ren) in a home or after-care setting, but are equally effective in the classroom.

The primary purposes of these grade K–4 materials are to:

- ◆ engage younger students with historical topics.
- ◆ generate curiosity and interest in learning about American history.
- ◆ encourage adults and children to read and discuss historical literature together.
- ◆ encourage adults and children to explore museums, parks, and community resources in support of their learning.

### Where can I find more resources?

Smithsonian's History Explorer ([www.historyexplorer.si.edu](http://www.historyexplorer.si.edu)) is a searchable gateway to all of the Museum's resources for K-12 learners.

The Museum also has a strong partnership with Verizon Thinkfinity ([www.thinkfinity.org](http://www.thinkfinity.org)). Verizon Thinkfinity is a free educational website that provides resources including K-12 lesson plans, podcasts, videos, and other materials, along with teacher training and an online community. Thinkfinity showcases a wealth of discipline-specific standards-based resources from its network of trusted partners, including National Geographic Society, National Council of Teachers of English, John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, National Center for Family Literacy, and more.

### How can I get involved?

- ◆ **Send us feedback** on the resources you've used. How did you use them? What should we change about them?
- ◆ **Share the link** with colleagues at your school, library, parent organizations, or with your neighborhood afterschool programs.

### Who do I contact?

- ◆ Contact our team at the National Museum of American History! [thinkfinity@si.edu](mailto:thinkfinity@si.edu)
- ◆ Chat with us on the free Thinkfinity Community! [community.thinkfinity.org/groups/americanhistory](http://community.thinkfinity.org/groups/americanhistory)