

Discover!

AGES 8-13

National Museum of American History

Explore the worlds of these American Girls —
find objects and photos of their eras
throughout the Museum.



Meet Kit Kittredge: 1934, Cincinnati, Ohio

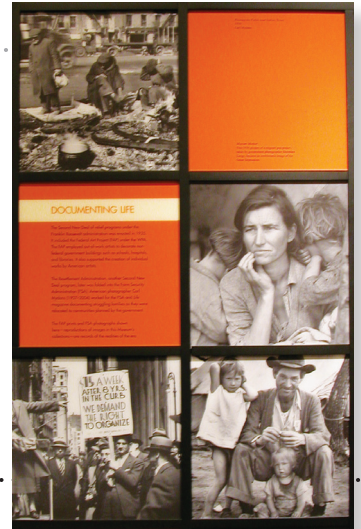
Kit is growing up during the Great Depression, a terrible crisis that causes many people to lose their jobs. These times are hard on families because it is difficult to earn a living. When Kit's father loses his business, the family takes in boarders to pay its bills.

Depression Era Photographs ▶ 3rd Floor West, 1939, "Documenting Life" section

Kit wants to be a reporter and tell stories by making photographs.

Look at these pictures of people living during the Great Depression.

▶ **What do these pictures tell you about their lives in 1939? Since the 1840s, photographs have been a useful way to record events throughout history. How do photographs record your history?**



Meet Julie Albright: 1974, San Francisco

Julie is a creative girl who faces big changes. After her parents divorce, Julie moves to a new school. Even though this is difficult, she begins to realize that good things can come from change. Meanwhile, Julie notices that some people are organizing protests to make changes on a wide range of issues.

Protest Pins ▶ 3rd Floor East, American Presidency, "Public Opinion: The Right to Assemble" section

In the 1970s many protests take place to save the environment. Julie takes action by helping save bald eagles, and other people take action by wearing protest pins. These pins help raise awareness about things that need to be improved. ▶ **What do you think the marchers were trying to accomplish? If you made a protest pin, what would it say?**





Meet Josefina Montoya: 1824, New Mexico

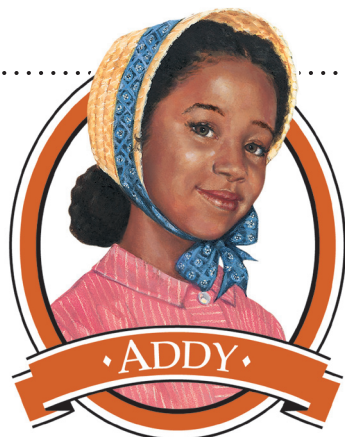
Josefina lives on a rancho (*RAHN-cho*) where her family grows crops and raises animals. When a dangerous flood washes away her father's sheep, Josefina's family uses the wool they have stored to weave blankets to sell. Josefina learns to weave and helps her sisters and her aunt make lots of blankets.

Mexican Sarape

► **3rd Floor East**, *Price of Freedom*, "Manifest Destiny in Action" section

This is a sarape (*sah-RAH-peh*). It is a warm blanket that is wrapped around the shoulders or worn as a poncho. Josefina would have helped weave blankets that were similar to this sarape. Usually men wear sarapes, so Josefina's father could have worn one like this.

► **When do you think Josefina's father would wear his sarape?**



Meet Addy Walker: 1864, Philadelphia

Addy is a courageous girl who was born into slavery in North Carolina. During the Civil War, Addy and her mother escape north to Philadelphia to be free. Addy's brother, Sam, serves as a soldier in the United States Colored Troops, and is eventually reunited with Addy and his family.

United States Colored Troops Medal

► **2nd Floor East**, *American Stories*,

"Expansion and Reform, 1801–1870" section

During the Civil War, African Americans were not allowed to serve in the same units as white soldiers. Medals like this one show that the heroic actions of African American soldiers were recognized.

► **Why was a separate medal made for Colored Troops? Do you think this is fair?**





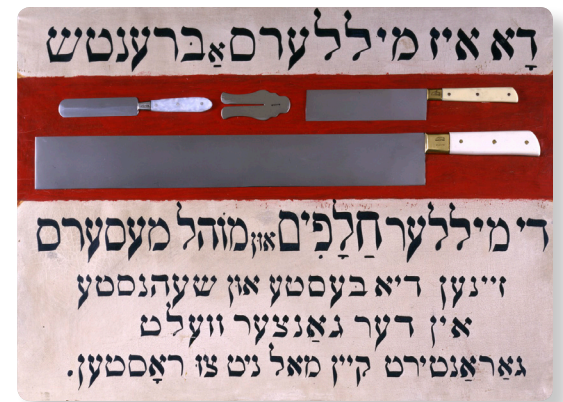
Meet Rebecca Rubin: 1914, New York City

When Rebecca's parents immigrated to New York City from Russia, they brought with them many traditions from their home country and their Jewish faith. Rebecca wants to become a movie actress, but her parents aren't sure that acting is a respectable career. Rebecca finds ways to blend her family's traditions with her own dreams.

New York City Yiddish Language Store Sign

► **2nd Floor Center, Artifact Wall**, near the Welcome Center

At school Rebecca speaks English. At home Rebecca's family sometimes speaks Yiddish, a language once spoken by Jewish people around the world. ► **Look carefully at this Yiddish sign. What do you think this sign is for? Why is this sign written in Yiddish and not English?**



Meet Molly McIntire: 1944, Illinois

Molly's father is away, an army doctor serving in World War II.

Like other Americans, Molly's family members do their best to help the war effort on the home front. For example, they collect scrap metal for recycling into weapons and plant a Victory garden.

How to Bake by the Ration Book ► **2nd Floor West,**

Within These Walls, "A House on the Home Front" section (Scott Family)

In World War II, supplies were scarce. The government rationed many everyday food supplies like sugar, butter, and meat, so people could only buy small amounts. Books like *How to Bake by the Ration Book* helped families bake using less sugar and butter. ► **Why would sugar and butter be rationed? Look around. In what other ways could a young girl like Molly help the home front war effort?**





Meet **Marie-Grace Gardner** and **Cécile Rey**: 1853, New Orleans, Louisiana

Even though Marie-Grace and Cécile come from very different backgrounds, they discover many shared interests and become best friends. In 1853 a yellow fever epidemic hits New Orleans, and people that Marie-Grace and Cécile care about become sick.

Medicine Chest ▶ 1st Floor East,

On the Water, "Injury and Sickness at Sea" section

Marie-Grace's father is a doctor. During the epidemic he treats many people who are infected with yellow fever. Doctors in 1853 may well have used a medicine chest like this. ▶ **In 1853 most medicine did not come prepackaged in a pill or tablet like many do today. Instead, doctors would use a recipe to mix ingredients, which could be taken in a drink, like water, or rolled into a pill. Can you spot a tool used to make medicine?**



One Last Stop ▶ Museum Store, 1st Floor Center

Congratulations, you are all done! We hope you enjoyed learning a bit more about the historical time periods of these different American Girls. ▶ **Go to the Museum store in 1st Floor Center, show them this guide, and receive a gift!**

To learn more about American Girl's historical characters, please visit:

www.americangirl.com.

Find more family fun activities at

www.americanhistory.si.edu/ourstory/.



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