

## **Girls of American History Sample**

**This is a sample of the first unit – Kaya. This sample contains ten of the 38 pages that are included in the unit. Please feel free to email [Justine@makinghomeschoolfun.com](mailto:Justine@makinghomeschoolfun.com) with any questions.**

# Girls of American History

a multi-sensory curriculum

## Girls of American History Curriculum Unit 1 Nez Perce Indians and the Pacific Northwest

A Literature Guide and Unit Study for *Kaya*,  
An American Girl—Time Period 1764

A Literary guide, using the popular *American Girl*® book series



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## Unit One Overview of Content

### Social Studies/History:

- Nez Perce Indians

### Arts and Crafts:

- Basket weaving
- Drawing
- Lapbook
- Make a canoe
- Make a teepee
- Indian necklaces
- Indian vest and headband
- Cave painting
- Make items for an ancient Indian game

### Field Trips and Activities:

- *I Will Fight No More Forever* video (Discovery Channel version)
- Attend a Powwow
- Go on a family fishing trip
- Visit a fish hatchery
- Have a family Powwow complete with games, food, and children's presentations from the unit

### Optional Additional Study Points:

#### Biography Suggestions:

- Chief Joseph
- President Rutherford B. Hayes

#### Geography:

- Pacific Northwest

#### Character Studies:

- Obedience
- Perseverance
- Patience
- Selflessness
- Sharing

#### Language Arts:

- Vocabulary/Spelling—pull words from the reading that are best suited for your child
- Research essay

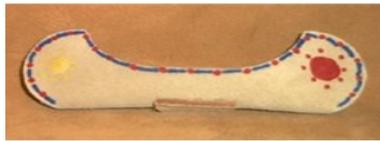
**Craft Resources:** Below is a list of crafts and resources for these crafts. This is not an exhaustive list. I encourage you to review the books above, including *Welcome to Kaya's World*, consider the ages and interests of your children, and search out other crafts or resources for yourself as well. While doing these crafts, keep in mind that you may want to display them at the party at the end of your unit to share with dads or anyone else you may invite. Also, this unit includes crafts that you might want to wear at the party. Please see the resources page of the website for information on these crafts and activities.

<http://girlsofamericanhistory.com/resources/>

- **Basket weaving:** This was a fantastic craft for our homeschool group. We had 2<sup>nd</sup>–6<sup>th</sup> graders, both boys and girls. Each basket was different—it all depended on how the child weaved the basket. This exercise does take some prep time, some assistance, and more than one session.



- **Canoe kit:**  
made from leather



or the one we did with construction paper and twine—a very affordable craft.

**Family Powwow Party:** Try to include the children in cooking whenever possible. Some suggestions for this event are grilled salmon, beef stew with vegetables, venison, corn bread, and mixed berries for dessert.

Set up a display for each child with their crafts and projects for the dads to see, and make it a show-and-tell night, allowing the children to talk in front of everyone who comes to the party.

Also, a great game to play is an old Indian shooting game. Take a Styrofoam ring (with 12–16 inch diameter) and wrap it in brown paper or strips from a paper bag. Attach arrow heads to the end of wooden dowels. The dowels should be  $\frac{3}{4}$  to 1 inch in diameter. This may take some time—consider having an older boy work with his dad on this project prior to the party. The arrowheads can be attached with hot glue and twine. Hang the ring from a tree and have a spear-throwing contest with the dowels that were put together. Young Indian children would actually stretch bark or hide across the diameter in a grid like pattern, leaving only a few inches of space throughout the ring. They would then roll the ring on the ground, similar to a tire or hula-hoop, and try to throw the spears through the small openings. Great training for hunting deer and small game!

Another great game is “Hot Seat.” My kids love this. Each child thinks of one character they want to act out and all the other people at the party take turns guessing who the child is portraying—a favorite at our house.



Public Domain image from <http://www.wpclipart.com/>

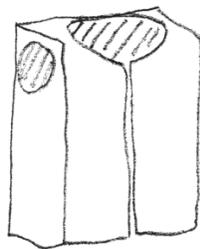
## Paper Bag Fringed Vest

Leather clothing was made from the skin of antelope, moose, elk, caribou, bison, or deer. Deerskin was the finest and most desired because it was soft and lightly colored. To make the skin soft, the hair was scraped off and the hide was soaked in water and animal brains. Then it was pounded, stretched, and smoked over a campfire.

Lewis, Clark and their men made their clothing out of leather hides after their cloth clothes wore out.

Try your hand at making your own fringed vest out of recycled paper grocery bags. Supplies you will need:

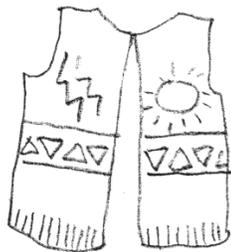
Large paper bag  
Yarn  
Scissors  
Stapler  
Colored markers  
Tape  
Single-hole punch



← Cut the front and neck opening. Cut out 2 circles at the sides for arm openings.



↖ Staple at the shoulders for reinforcement. You could also pull up the shoulders and staple them securely for a better fit. You may need to trim off some of the bottom of the bag if it is too long.



↖ You may want to turn the bag inside out so that the store logos are on the inside. Decorate the bag with markers in geometric or floral designs.

↖ You may cut strips at the bottom edge to make fringe.



↖ To add a tie at the neck, reinforce both of the front neck edges with tape, then punch 2 holes. Thread a piece of yarn through.

## Kaya Book 1 Spelling and Vocab List

Wallowa – Wallowa Valley in present day Oregon

Oregon – State in the Pacific Northwest, 33<sup>rd</sup> state admitted into the Union, Admitted on February 14, 1859. One of two states admitted on Valentine's Day, the other is Arizona in 1912.

Abalone - a mollusk with a flattened slightly spiral shell that has holes along the edge and is lined with mother-of-pearl

Buckskin – a strong , soft, yellowish or grayish leather, originally prepared from deerskins, now usually from sheepskins

Buffalo - a large shaggy-maned North American mammal with short horns and heavy forequarters with a large muscular hump

Salmon - any of various large food and game fishes that are related to the trouts, have reddish or pinkish flesh, live in oceans or large lakes, and swim up rivers or streams to deposit or fertilize eggs

Travois - an animal-drawn vehicle made of two crossed trailing poles used by Plains Indians to transport a load

Tule mats – a mat made of a grass-like marsh plant

Magpie - any of various noisy birds related to the jays but having a long tail and black-and-white feathers; a person who chatters continuously

Finger Cake – a small dried cake made from kouse roots and shaped like a finger

Moccasin - a soft leather shoe without a heel and with the sole and sides made of one piece

Parfleche – a case or pouch made from rawhide that has been placed in a solution to remove the hair, it is usually decorated

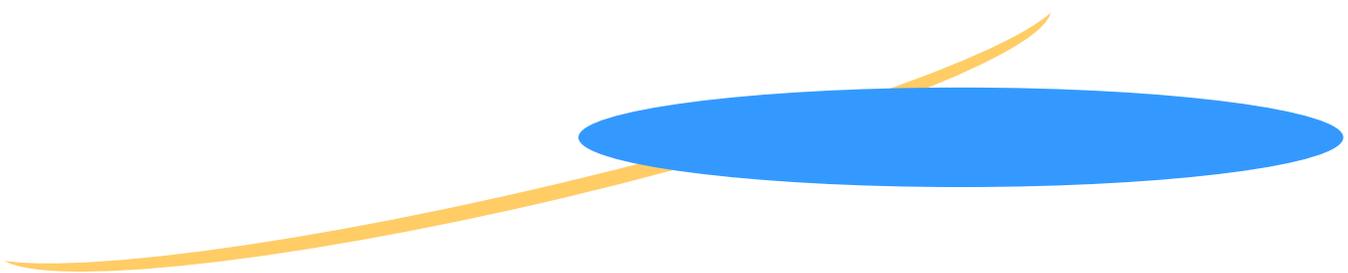
Elderberry - the edible black or red fruit of any of a genus of shrubs or trees of the same family as the honeysuckles that produce flat clusters of small white or pink flowers

Nez Perce - a member of an American Indian people of central Idaho and neighboring parts of Washington and Oregon

Coyote - a tannish gray to reddish gray North American mammal related to but smaller than the wolf

## Color and Label the States Discussed





# Digging Deeper: Projects

There are three main projects for any of these units. Some will depend on the age of your child. However, with appropriate expectations, all three projects can be done with 1st-12th grade.

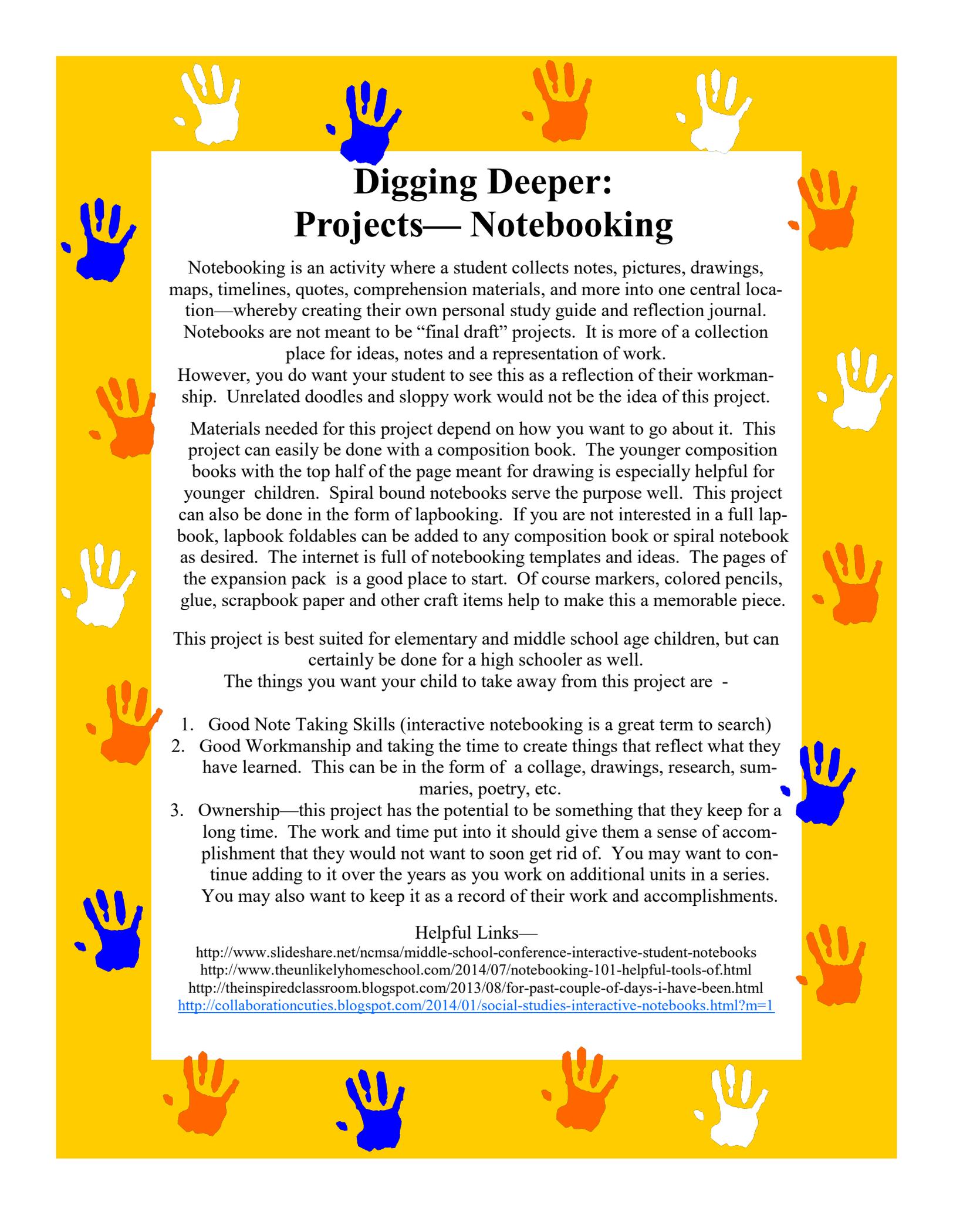
Project 1: Notebooking

Project 2: Portfolio

Project 3: Diorama

Each of the projects serve both similar and different purposes. All of them allow for multisensory learning, creativity and retention.





## Digging Deeper: Projects— Notebooking

Notebooking is an activity where a student collects notes, pictures, drawings, maps, timelines, quotes, comprehension materials, and more into one central location—whereby creating their own personal study guide and reflection journal. Notebooks are not meant to be “final draft” projects. It is more of a collection place for ideas, notes and a representation of work.

However, you do want your student to see this as a reflection of their workmanship. Unrelated doodles and sloppy work would not be the idea of this project.

Materials needed for this project depend on how you want to go about it. This project can easily be done with a composition book. The younger composition books with the top half of the page meant for drawing is especially helpful for younger children. Spiral bound notebooks serve the purpose well. This project can also be done in the form of lapbooking. If you are not interested in a full lapbook, lapbook foldables can be added to any composition book or spiral notebook as desired. The internet is full of notebooking templates and ideas. The pages of the expansion pack is a good place to start. Of course markers, colored pencils, glue, scrapbook paper and other craft items help to make this a memorable piece.

This project is best suited for elementary and middle school age children, but can certainly be done for a high schooler as well.

The things you want your child to take away from this project are -

1. Good Note Taking Skills (interactive notebooking is a great term to search)
2. Good Workmanship and taking the time to create things that reflect what they have learned. This can be in the form of a collage, drawings, research, summaries, poetry, etc.
3. Ownership—this project has the potential to be something that they keep for a long time. The work and time put into it should give them a sense of accomplishment that they would not want to soon get rid of. You may want to continue adding to it over the years as you work on additional units in a series. You may also want to keep it as a record of their work and accomplishments.

### Helpful Links—

<http://www.slideshare.net/ncmsa/middle-school-conference-interactive-student-notebooks>  
<http://www.theunlikelyhomeschool.com/2014/07/notebooking-101-helpful-tools-of.html>  
<http://theinspiredclassroom.blogspot.com/2013/08/for-past-couple-of-days-i-have-been.html>  
<http://collaborationcuties.blogspot.com/2014/01/social-studies-interactive-notebooks.html?m=1>