

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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A Literature Guide for use with popular fiction books for children

Unit 1 –Kaya – Nez Perce and the Pacific Northwest

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About Girls of American History

As a homeschool mom to five great kids, of various learning styles and abilities, I have come to discover the importance of multisensory learning. In everything we study, I try to follow the pattern of Read it, Hear it, See it, Write it, and Do it. Not every subject allows for each of these activities, and we don't do them in that particular order, but we do our best to cover each of those learning techniques. All children need to learn how to learn in different ways. Although one child may learn best by reading something, that child should practice learning through seeing, hearing, etc. For this reason, my children read things on their own pertaining to our lessons, I do a read aloud, when possible we go on a field trip or watch a show pertaining to the subject, they write about what they are learning, and we do a craft or make food related to the subject. These practices work best with history and science, but many of them can also be incorporated into language arts subjects with literature studies.

This multisensory learning really began as an experiment for our family, as I was trying to find a way to better engage some of my children into listening, understanding, and enjoying school. As a result, *Girls of American History* was created. Although this and the other study guides are meant to be used with the *American Girl* historical, fictional series, each book does have strong male characters that our boys would talk about and role play. Don't be deterred by the use of *American Girl* books; this truly is not a study just for girls, but for all children.

Each unit in *Girls of American History* is meant to last six weeks. Of course you can lengthen or shorten this based on what works for your family. For example, you may decide to spend more time on the Felicity & American Revolution Unit, as there is so much to learn and review for that particular time period. We did the eight historical girls in the series, which took us eleven months. You can certainly break the units up and do only some one year and some during other years. We chose to limit our schooling for two months to only these units, and do a regular school schedule with all the subjects for nine months.

Each unit will include a suggested weekly schedule, list of required and suggested books, craft resources, field trip ideas and suggestions, party and meal ideas, templates, and other resources. This unit is not meant to be an all inclusive curriculum—only because I, personally, don't do well with them. This guide is meant to add depth, interest, interaction, crafts, and a historical perspective into a particular time period. The characters in the required reading are fictional; however, it is strongly suggested to be a supplement to nonfictional history. You may use this guide in a variety of ways. For example, you may choose to only use it as a literature guide, utilizing some of the activities as a way to add depth to the reading; you may choose to use it as a fun supplement to a history curriculum you already have or plan to use; you may also choose to use it as a core curriculum, incorporating much of the history, geography, language arts, and other subjects listed. Should you choose to use this as more of a core curriculum, I suggest that you evaluate the language arts piece to see if it will work for your children. There are suggestions for biography reading, geography, character study and language arts, however these are for you to determine based on the abilities of your child and what works best for your family and formal instruction is not provided. You may want to supplement science, math, and grammar.

Resources are mentioned throughout the units. For your convenience, information on all of the crafts, activities, field trips and additional resources has been made available on the “Resources” page of the Girls of American History website. This information will be updated regularly to help you with your homeschooling experience.

About the American Girl Historical Series

The *American Girl* Historical Series, by Pleasant Company, includes eight different series currently, with six main books per series.

Each of the individual series highlights a fictional girl from the time period, with strong supporting male characters as well. The books reference real places, events, and activities related to the time and culture. Each set of six books takes the reader through an introduction to the girl, her family, the time period, school or homeschool events, Christmas in her time, a challenge or loss, act of bravery and discovery, and changes in circumstances or problems.

The six reader books for each girl are widely available and can be purchased online or at used book stores or found in your local library. Additional resources were made for some of the girls, but not all of them. For the ones that did have additional resources published by Pleasant Company, I have listed the information for you. However, many of these items are no longer in print. You will likely have good luck searching for them used online. Those resources may include a Teacher Guide, Cook Book, Craft Book, Paper Doll Kit and Theater Kit.

This literature guide is meant to be used with the fictional *American Girl* historical book series. These books are published by Pleasant Company, out of Chicago, Illinois. This guide works well along side existing American History curriculums to really bring the history to life in a way that reaches children.

The author of this guide is in no way affiliated with Pleasant Company. Additionally, Pleasant Company has not endorsed this guide to be used with any of their *American Girl* books.

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

Resource List

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

Required: Below is the list of readers required for this unit. These books were written by Janet Beeler Shaw and published by Pleasant Company. They are available in both paperback and hardcover.

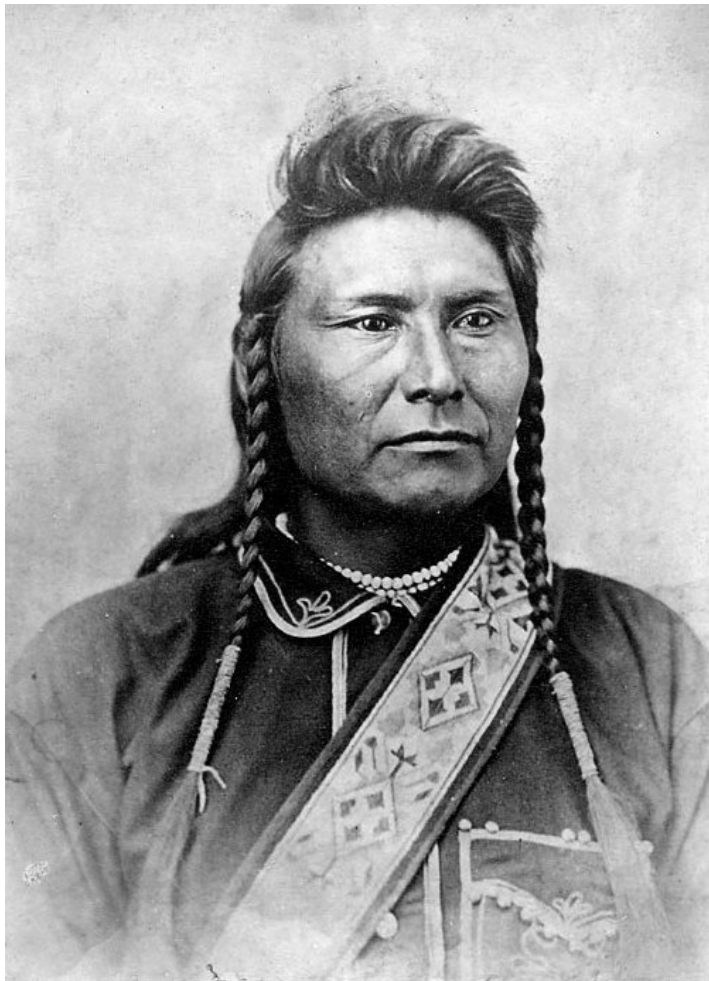
- * *Meet Kaya*
- * *Kaya's Escape*
- * *Kaya's Hero*
- * *Kaya and Lone Dog*
- * *Kaya Shows the Way*
- * *Changes for Kaya*

Suggested: Below is a list of materials that really add depth to this unit. The video may be best used over two sessions with a discussion. It might not be entertaining enough for a younger crowd; I would suggest a more mature 3rd grader up to high school age.

- *Welcome to Kaya's World, 1764—Growing Up in a Native American Homeland*, by Dottie Raymer. An excellent hardcover book published by Pleasant Company and full of vivid photos and illustrations. This is a wealth of interesting, educational information that is captivating for children.
- *I Will Fight No More Forever* – Discovery Channel version. 1975 Story of Chief Joseph and the Nez Perce Indians. This is a VHS—you may be able to find this or a similar item on DVD. It was made in 1975, but is about the journey the Nez Perce made in the 1800's. This is an excellent video, not a Hollywood version. I highly encourage this or another documentary type video to go along with this unit. The video mentions and shows footage of places mentioned in the Kaya books.
- *Draw Write Now*, Books 3 and 8, by Marie Hablitzel and Kim Stitzer. Excellent books to go along with this unit. Book three includes drawing exercises for many Native American pictures (Indian in a canoe, longhouse, Indian with a bow and arrow, cradleboard, teepee, buffalo, hieroglyphics, Indian women with baskets, and much more). Book three also has wildlife pictures including deer and eagles. Book eight has pictures of a horse and coyote. I chose these books because they have drawing projects that relate directly to the Kaya books. You do NOT need to be an artist to do these books with your children. They are fun, easy, and meant for K–3rd, however we did have 6th graders in our group doing this with us. It is so great to see your kids have a sense of accomplishment when they see that they can draw such wonderful pictures.
- *History Pockets Grade 1–3 Native Americans*. Pocket #4 is about the Nez Perce Indians.
- *American Girl Lapbook Templates*: This is a free resource. My kids really enjoy making these lapbooks and I find that it really helps them with reading comprehension. If you are unfamiliar with lapbooking, there are many resources on the web. Links are provided on the resources page of the website.

Extra Reading: Below is a list of extra reading books and subjects to deepen this study. This is great if you have a child who really loves to read or if you just want to expand on this study.

- *Kaya's Short Story Collection* and *Kaya and the River Girl* by Janet Beeler Shaw. These are short story books that go along with Kaya. They do add to the Kaya story but are not necessary for the study. Some 2nd and 3rd graders could read these.
- *The Silent Stranger, A Kaya Mystery* by Janet Beeler Shaw. Another fun-to-read book, part of the Kaya series, but not a necessary book for the unit. This book would be for 4th grade and older.
- A good link for additional Native American readers is provided on the resources page of the website. Not all of these are Nez Perce. I recommend searching your local library for age appropriate books on the Nez Perce Indians, Chief Joseph, and President Rutherford B. Hayes. Although not a focus of this study, Chief Joseph did meet Lewis and Clark on their expedition and might be of interest to you to introduce. I have more information on Lewis and Clark in another unit.
- Information about Chief Joseph is also provided on the resources page of the website.



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Weekly Plans and Schedule

Most of the readers have four chapters, some may have five chapters. The idea is that this would be a six week curriculum with one book being read each week. You may do this as a read aloud or have the children read on their own. Below is a suggested schedule for you to follow—this can easily change to fit your own family and needs.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week 1 <i>Meet Kaya</i>	Chapter 1	Chapter 2 Lapbook	Chapter 3 Drawing	Chapter 4	Looking Back: reading, discussion, and craft with group
Week 2 <i>Kaya's Escape!</i>	Chapter 1	Chapter 2 Lapbook, free reading with extra books	Chapter 3 Drawing	Chapter 4	Looking Back: reading, discussion, and craft with group
Week 3 <i>Kaya's Hero</i>	Chapter 1	Chapter 2 Lapbook	Chapter 3 Drawing, free reading with extra books	Chapter 4	Looking Back: reading, discussion, and craft with group
Week 4 <i>Kaya and Lone Dog</i>	Chapter 1	Chapter 2 Lapbook	Chapter 3 Drawing	Chapter 4–5	Looking Back: reading, discussion, and craft with group
Week 5 <i>Kaya Shows the Way</i>	Chapter 1	Chapter 2 Lapbook	Chapter 3 Drawing, free reading with extra books	Chapter 4	Looking Back: reading, discussion, and craft with group, watch Nez Perce Video
Week 6 <i>Changes for Kaya</i>	Chapter 1	Chapter 2 Lapbook	Chapter 3 Drawing	Chapter 4	Looking Back: reading, discussion, and craft with group, Party Day