

Create a Current Events News Journal

Name: _____

Teacher: _____

In Kit's day, people got most of their news from print sources, such as newspapers and magazines, or from the radio. You will be completing a Current Events News Journal to help you become better acquainted with newspapers and topics we are studying in class. You will need to use newspapers or magazines (from home, from the library, or from friends) to find an article for each of the categories below.

Rules:

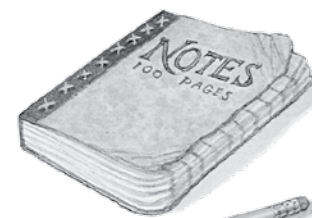
- You must cut out or photocopy the WHOLE article (it might be continued on another page).
- The article can't be more than three weeks old.
- You must cut it out neatly and attach it to the page. If it's too big, attach it and fold it so that it can still be read.
- You must choose an article that you understand. You need to know what that article is mainly about. If you don't understand it, pick another one.
- You must provide the source (name/date) of the newspaper or magazine you used for each article.

Categories: Find an article about each of the categories listed below. Mark each with an X after you have finished that category.

- a local business that is growing/doing well
- a local business that is struggling/doing poorly
- the stock market
- a letter to the editor about business/the economy
- a broadcast personality (radio/television)
- a government program to help poor families
- an ad for a job-training program
- an editorial cartoon about the economy
- a classified ad for a job in radio or television

Directions:

- Write your name and your teacher's name on the blank lines above.
- Create a journal by attaching this page to ten blank sheets of paper (lined or scrap paper).
- Label each page in your journal with categories A–I above.
- Look for articles that MATCH the categories and attach them to the correct page.
- For each article, write down the name and date of the source.
- Ask to see a SAMPLE if you are unsure.



AASL's Standards for the 21st-Century Learner: 11.6, 21.6, 2.31, 31.5, 4.32

@ your library

When *Kit Kittredge: An American Girl* debuts in theaters across the country on July 2, young people and their parents will have a front-row look at what it was like to grow up during the Great Depression of the 1930s. Everything in the movie—from the carefully researched costumes, props, and sets to the historically accurate music—is designed to immerse the viewer in the year 1934, when Kit was a ten-year-old girl growing up in Cincinnati, Ohio, in the midst of the Great Depression.

Why the Great Depression?



The Great Depression is more relevant than ever to Americans today, as our economy shifts and many Americans face hard times. After the boom years of the 1920s, when businesses expanded, the stock market soared, and more Americans started living on credit, the 1930s brought sobering changes when the economy went into a stall. Wages dropped dramatically, and unemployment was at 25%. Many Americans lost their jobs and their life's savings—and some people even lost their homes.

Like so many families during the 1930s, Kit's family is at risk of losing their home to foreclosure when Kit's dad loses his business. Turning their home into a boarding house seems to be the only way to save it. But it requires a lot of work—and Kit's life changes almost overnight as her days are filled with boarding-house chores instead of Tree House Club meetings with her friends. Like millions of Americans in the 1930s, Kit and her family learn to pitch in and make do with what they have—or do without.

As the hard times stretched on, people like the Kittredges learned to appreciate what they still had—and they reached out to those who were worse off. These were important lessons that people who grew up during the Depression never forgot.

One of the strengths of Kit's story is that the Depression really *could* happen to a ten-year-old girl. Its effects were immediate and personal in a way that World War II or even the American Revolution were not. What happens to Kit and her family not only *parallels* what was going on in American history at the time—it is exactly what was happening to them at the time. Kit's girl-sized hopes and fears are Depression America's hopes and fears.



Learning About the Great Depression

Kit's movie is the culmination of years of research into the Great Depression. Kit was created as the central character in a series of books of historical fiction about growing up in the 1930s. A Kit doll, with historically accurate clothing and accessories, was also created to bring her stories and the Depression to life through a representation of the material culture of the time. For example, Kit's toy typewriter is based on actual typewriters from the 1930s.



Every step in the creation of Kit's story—first in her books and now in the movie—was grounded in thousands of hours of research done in libraries, on the Internet, at museums, historical societies, and costume collections; and through first-person interviews. America's libraries yielded everything from academic treatises on the economic causes of the Great Depression to works of fiction and nonfiction about the Depression for young readers. In addition to materials *about* the 1930s,

archives of actual materials *from* the 1930s—books, newspapers, magazines, catalogues, music, radio shows, and movies—provided inspiration in bringing Kit's times to life for readers and viewers today.

Depression-era photographs were especially helpful in shaping the look of the movie. Costume designers, set designers, props sourcers, and hair and makeup artists pored over books of 1930s photographs and searched Library of Congress and many other Web sites for photo references of clothing and hairstyles, housewares and consumer goods, trolleys and cars, bread lines, soup kitchens, and hobo jungles—and so much more. Without the resources available in or through libraries, recreating the past in books and movies would be almost impossible.



These activities and reproducibles related to the new Kit movie will help teachers and students interested in studying the Great Depression use their school library media centers to explore many of the same resources used in the development of *Kit Kittredge: An American Girl*.

Where appropriate, AASL's Standards for the 21st-Century Learner are noted.

Comparing the Great Depression to Today

Cost of Items

	Then	Now
Winter coat		
Shirt		
Sweater		
Sled		
Doll		
Table lamp		
Washing machine		
Sewing machine		

Salaries

	Then	Now
Manufacturing worker		
Cook		
Family-practice doctor		
Accountant		

For Depression-era prices: http://www.michigan.gov/hal/0,16077-160-15481_19268_20778-52530--00.html or <http://www.heni.us/madeda/prices.htm>

For today's prices: Use ads from the newspaper or check online store Web sites.

- Imagine yourself in each of the four jobs mentioned above. What items would you buy? What items would you choose not to buy? Why? What items could you not afford? Why?
- Design an ad that Kit could include in her newspaper. How would you advertise these items to convince people to spend the little money they had on them. Would it work? Why or why not?

AASL's Standards for the 21st-Century Learner: 11.4, 11.6, 11.8, 21.3

Web Site Resources



America in the 1930s: <http://xroads.virginia.edu/~1930s/front.html>

The Authentic History Center—Archives of the 1930s (audio, music, broadcasts): <http://www.authentichistory.com/1930s.html>

Brother, Can You Spare a Dime? A Webquest on the Great Depression: <http://www.hazelwood.k12.mo.us/~cdavis01/webquests/kmw/>

The Commons: The Library of Congress Pilot Project photo collection (on Flickr): <http://flickr.com/commons>

Digital History Resource Guide: The Great Depression: http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/resource_guides/content.cfm?tpc=24

Education World: Twelve Great Lessons for Teaching the Great Depression: http://www.educationworld.com/a_lesson/lesson/lesson147.shtml

FDR Cartoons: <http://www.nisk.k12.ny.us/fdr/FDRcartoons.html>

The Great Depression and the Arts: Unit of Study for Grades 8–12: <http://newdeal.feri.org/nchs/lesson04.htm>

Great Depression Recipes: <http://www.geocities.com/NapaValley/1918/great.html>

Herbert Hoover Presidential Library and Museum: Gallery Six: The Great Depression: <http://hoover.nara.gov/exhibits/Hooverstory/gallery06/gallery06.html>

History, Arts and Libraries: Links to Great Depression Resources: www.michigan.gov/hal/0,16077-160-17451_18670_18793-53568--00.html

National Endowment for the Humanities Edsitement: U.S. History—The Great Depression: Lesson Plans: http://edsitement.neh.gov/tab_lesson.asp?subjectArea=3&subcategory=23

New Deal Network: <http://newdeal.feri.org/>

Riding the Rails: Teenagers on the Move During the Great Depression: <http://www.errolyou.com/RidingtheRails.htm> and <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/rails/index.html>

Resources for the Great Depression Curriculum Unit: <http://stlouisfed.org/greatdepression/links.html>

Taking Stock in the Past for the Future—Examining the Causes and Effects of the 1929 Stock Market Crash through News Coverage in The New York Times: http://www.nytimes.com/learning/teachers/lessons/19991018monday.html?searchpv=learning_lessons

Using Primary Sources to Learn About the Great Depression



Primary sources can provide unique and interesting ways to teach students about history and culture. The Learning Page (<http://international.loc.gov/learn/index.html>) at the Library of Congress and The National Archives (<http://archives.gov/education/index.html>) both provide great places to begin to learn about using primary sources in teaching.

Documents	Photographs
Dear Mrs. Roosevelt (letters): http://newdeal.feri.org/eleanor/index.htm FDR's First Inaugural Address: Declaring "War" on the Great Depression: http://archives.gov/education/lessons/fdr-inaugural/ FDR's Fireside Chat on the Purposes and Foundations of the Recovery Program (and NRA posters): http://archives.gov/education/lessons/fdr-fireside/#documents Letters: "Down and Out in the Great Depression": http://us.history.wisc.edu/hist102/pdocs/depression_letters.pdf	The Learning Page: Primary Source Set: Dust Bowl Migration: http://international.loc.gov/learn/community/cc_greatdepression_kit.php Every Picture Tells a Story: Documentary Photography and the Great Depression: http://chnm.gmu.edu/fsa/ Images of the Depression Era: http://newdeal.feri.org/classm/part1.htm Documentary Photography and the Photographic Essay: http://newdeal.feri.org/classm/part2.htm Photos of the Great Depression and the New Deal: http://www.fdrlibrary.marist.edu/gdphotos.html
Audio Recordings	Lesson Plans
American Memory collection: Voices from the Dust Bowl: http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/afctsthtml/tshome.html Songs of the Great Depression: http://www.library.csi.cuny.edu/dept/history/lavender/cherries.html Surviving the Dust Bowl (audio interviews): http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/dustbowl/filmmore/reference/interview/index.html Speeches of Franklin D. Roosevelt and Eleanor Roosevelt: http://www.fdrlibrary.marist.edu/avcoll8.html The American Presidency Project—Audio of Franklin D. Roosevelt's Fireside Chats: http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/medialist.php?presid=32	The Learning Page lesson plan: Visions in the Dust: A Child's Perspective of the Dust Bowl: http://memory.loc.gov/learn/lessons/99/dust/intro.html The Learning Page: Using Oral History: http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/ndlpedu/lessons/oralhist/ohhome.html The Learning Page lesson plan: Figuring Somepin 'bout the Great Depression: http://memory.loc.gov/learn/lessons/99/migrant/intro.html Lesson Plans for Dear Mrs. Roosevelt (letters): http://newdeal.feri.org/classm/classdmr.htm The Learning Page lesson plan: "Brother, Can You Spare a Dime"—The Effects of The New Deal on the Great Depression: http://memory.loc.gov/learn/lessons/98/dime/intro.html

Analyzing Primary Sources

Be a History Detective

Step 1. Observation. Observe the source by studying it for two minutes. What type of source is it?



Step 2. Describe the scene. Make a list of things you noticed, such as details and any physical characteristics.

Step 3. Gather clues. Ask questions—Who created this source? When and why was this created? Who was the audience?



Step 4. Apply knowledge. What do you already know about this time period?



Step 5. Interpret meaning. Draw conclusions based on information you collect plus background knowledge.

AASL's Standards for the 21st-Century Learner: 11.1, 11.2, 11.3, 11.4, 11.5, 11.6, 11.7, 12.1, 12.2, 12.3, 12.4, 12.5, 21.1, 21.3, 2.21, 2.23

Additional Resources—Fiction & Nonfiction



Adler, David A. *The Babe & I*. San Diego, CA: Harcourt Brace, 1999.
Allen, Margaret. *American History Reader's Theater*. Huntington Beach, CA: Creative Teaching Press, 2004.
Brown, Harriet. *Welcome to Kit's World, 1934: Growing Up During America's Great Depression*. Middleton, WI: Pleasant Company Publications, 2002.
Cohen, Robert, ed. *Dear Mrs. Roosevelt: Letters from Children of the Great Depression*. Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press, 2002.
Cooper, Michael L. *Dust to Eat: Drought and Depression in the 1930s*. New York: Clarion, 2004.

Curtis, Christopher P. *Bud, Not Buddy*. New York: Delacorte Press, 1999.

De Young, C. C. *A Letter to Mrs. Roosevelt*. New York: Delacorte Press, 1999.

Freedman, Russell. *Children of the Great Depression*. New York: Clarion Books, 2005.

Harper, Jo. *Finding Daddy: A Story of the Great Depression*. New York: Turtle Books, 2005.

Hesse, Karen. *Out of the Dust*. New York: Scholastic Press, 1997.

Hopkinson, Deborah. *Saving Strawberry Farm*. New York: Greenwillow Books, 2005.

Koller, Jackie French. *Nothing to Fear*. Orlando, FL: Harcourt Brace & Company, 1991.

Lied, Kate. *Potato: A Tale from the Great Depression*. Washington, DC: National Geographic Society, 1997.

Moss, Marissa. *Rose's Journal: The Story of a Girl in the Great Depression*. Orlando, FL: Harcourt Brace & Company, 2001.

Peck, Richard. *A Long Way from Chicago: A Novel in Stories*. New York: Dial Books for Young Readers, 1998.

Skolksy, Mindy W. *Love from Your Friend, Hannah: A Novel*. New York: Scholastic, 2000.

Stanley, Jerry. *Children of the Dust Bowl: The True Story of the School at Weedpatch Camp*. New York: Random House, 1992.

Stewart, Sarah. *The Gardener*. New York: Farrar Straus, 1997.

Swain, Gwenyth. *Chig and the Second Spread*. New York: Delacorte Press, 2003.

Tripp, Valerie. *Meet Kit* (six-book fiction series). Middleton, WI: American Girl, 2000 & 2001.

Turner, Ann. *Dust for Dinner*. New York: HarperCollins, 1995.

