Goldie’s Kids Club Activities

Check out the list of Goldie’s Kids Club activities related to Iowa’s people and places recommended by staff from the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs.

At-Home Expeditions
Explore the state through exclusive online activities to bring history alive from the comfort of your own home!

American Gothic House

The American Gothic House in Eldon, Iowa, is famous as the backdrop of Grant Wood’s 1930 painting, “American Gothic.” Since its completion, the painting has become an American icon and has been both the backdrop and the model for countless parodies. Built in the 1880s, this house was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1974 and was donated to the State Historical Society of Iowa in 1991.

Highlights from At-Home Expedition: American Gothic House
- Coloring Sheets
- “Think Like an Artist” Cards
- Goldie at Home Activity: American Gothic and Architecture
- Video: “Grant Wood & The American Gothic House”

Carrie Lane Chapman Catt Girlhood Home and Museum

Iowa-raised Carrie Lane Chapman Catt led a national women’s suffrage association that organized support in every state and at the national level.

The Carrie Lane Chapman Catt Girlhood Home and Museum, located near Charles City in northeast Iowa, is the historic site where Catt lived with her family from the age of seven to 18. Even though she graduated from Charles City High School in 1877 and enrolled at the state’s agricultural and science college in Ames, Catt’s ties to the home remained strong as she continued to visit her family. The house remains at its original location today.

Highlights from At-Home Expedition: Carrie Lane Chapman Catt Girlhood Home and Museum
- Goldie at Home Activity from the Carrie Lane Chapman Catt Girlhood Home and Museum
- Interactive Timeline of Carrie Lane Chapman Catt
- Iowa Women’s Suffrage Collection (Photo Gallery)
Goldie’s Kids Club Activities

Goldie at Home
Explore the Goldie at Home activities below for interactive fun that introduces young historians to Iowa history.

Snapshots of Montauk
You can read a book, but did you know you can read a photo as well? Photographs are a great way to see a snapshot of the past. This Goldie at Home activity addresses how to look beyond the surface of an image and become detectives searching for clues to better understand a historic photo. The State Historical Society of Iowa not only cares for thousands of historic objects, but also is home to many photographs from Iowa’s past.

Neighborhood Maps
Have you ever wondered what your neighborhood looked like 100 years ago? With this Goldie at Home activity, you can examine and explore the evolution of a Des Moines neighborhood between 1884 and 1920 using Sanborn Insurance Maps. By comparing and contrasting the historic maps, you will learn about the different businesses and jobs that were important to Iowans in the past. You also will see the evolution and change over the course of 40 years and how technology influenced the area.

Innovative Iowans
Explore the Innovative Iowans program that includes interactive activities that connect history with STEAM education – science, technology, engineering, art and math. The easy-to-follow instructions require few materials and can provide children with a fun, hands-on approach to Iowa history.

Oral History Interviews
The State Historical Society of Iowa is home to numerous oral history interviews with Iowans. Collecting oral history is a way to record memories and first-hand accounts from an individual with personal knowledge of a historical event. It allows history to be combined with storytelling, which is giving a human's perspective on history. This Goldie at Home: Innovative Iowans activity asks you to become a historian and record the past through a recorded oral history interview.