



The Great Depression and Dust Bowl Inventory List

Books:

- **Dorothea's Eyes**
- **Potato: A Tale from the Great Depression**
- **The Dust Bowl Through the Lens**
- **Dorothea Lange: The Photographer Who Found the Faces of the Depression**
- **Children of the Great Depression**
- **The Great Depression for Kids**
- **Bud Not Buddy** (In blue file folder.)
- **Meet Kit** (In black file folder.)

DVD:

- **Kit Kittredge, An American Girl** (In black file folder.)

Lesson Plans and Resource:

- **Lesson Plans/Materials for Great Depression and Dust Bowl** (Turquoise file folder and 6 “family folders”)
- **Lesson Plans/Materials for Bud Not Buddy** (Blue file folder)
- **Lesson Plans for Kit Kittredge** (Black file folder)
- **5 Michigan State Maps** (You may want to use them with Bud Not Buddy.)

Artifacts:

- **Vintage Kodak Pocket Camera and Leather Case** (Similar to the type of camera used by Dorothea Lange and other photographers to capture life during the Great Depression.) **You may open the camera to show it to students. It is a little stiff, but you may open it with these steps:**
 1. Press latch about “Kodak” label and door will pop open.
 2. Pull door open until you hear click.

3. Gently pull the lens toward you.

To close:

1. Gently push the lens back into the case.
2. Lay the case flat on its back
3. Push the tops of the arms down until you hear a click.
4. Push the door closed. You do have to push slowly but firmly to close it.

It is interesting to think about how this type of camera was used. Photographers loaded it with film and looked through the lens on the top to see what they were photographing. They snapped the picture by pressing on the lever near the lens on the front.

- **Enamel Coffee Pot** – This was a standard coffee pot for migrating families, as it could be used over a campfire.
- **Enamel Drinking Cup**
- **Coffee Bean Grinder** – Coffee beans were often ground in a grinder like this. Unfortunately, as the Great Depression continued, real coffee became less affordable, and nuts or roots were ground to make coffee. Chicory coffee, made by grinder chicory roots became common.
- **Tin Corn Flakes Cereal Box** – These containers have been around since the early 1800's, but this type of storage was helpful to families to store food and could be reused.
- **Floral Print Flour Sack** – These became popular during the Great Depression, as flour mills realized that mothers were making clothing for their children from the used sacks. These mills added prints to their flour sacks as a way to help families create attractive clothing. Companies competed to create the most attractive prints to encourage the purchase of their flour. This practice continued through WWII and became quite popular. National sewing contests were held to showcase creativity. These sacks were used to create everything from dresses, shirts, shorts, and even underwear, as a way to get through difficult financial times.
- **Washboard** – Often women had to resort to using a washboard to keep their families clothes clean. Lye soap, that could be made inexpensively, was often used instead of laundry detergent. It had a harsh smell and was even harsher on the skin. Luxuries such as washing machines became less common, and families had to turn back to practices that were used by previous generations.
- **Vintage Steam Iron** – Many women and often children, used irons similar to this. Hot water would be added to the tank in order to iron clothes. It was hard, hot work.

- **Hand-Pieced Quilt** – Quilts were often made from scraps of fabric left over from other project, worn out clothing, or flour sacks. They were often passed down through the generations and were treasured possessions.
- **Tin Can Telephone Game** – Children would make a “telephone” from a couple of old tin cans and some string. Try it. Talk to a friend using this tin can telephone.
- **Jack Game** – This was another popular game with children in the 1930s. If you don’t know how to play this game, here is a link that explains how to play.
<https://www.wikihow.com/Play-Jacks>
- **Burlap Tow Sack** – Livestock feed or seeds for planting often came in these sacks. After they were emptied, they were then used for many purposes such as bags to carry or store belongings.
- **Child’s Crop Picking Sack** – Many children were sent into the fields to work along with their parents. They were given sacks like these and were to fill them several times a day. See the book in the trunk, [The Dust Bowl Through the Lens](#). The little girl on the cover, and also the information on page 58 explains what this life was like for these children.