Historical Books for Kids

At-home storytime is an effective way to promote language and literacy skills and help encourage a lifelong love of reading and learning.

Below are recommended books for children about history. These books focus on significant moments in history and culture, such as the women’s suffrage movement, the Dust Bowl and Great Depression and Native American stories.

Elizabeth Leads the Way: Elizabeth Cady Stanton and the Right to Vote by Tanya Lee Stone
Year: 2010
Book Synopsis: Elizabeth Cady Stanton stood up and fought for what she believed in - including women's suffrage. From an early age, she knew that women were not given rights equal to men. But rather than accept her lesser status, Elizabeth went to college and later gathered other like-minded women to challenge the right to vote.

Rags: Hero Dog of WWI: A True Story by Margot Theis Raven
Year: 2014
Book Synopsis: During World War I, while stationed overseas in France with the United States Army, Private James Donovan literally stumbles upon a small dog cowering on the streets of Paris. Named Rags for his disheveled appearance, the little stray quickly finds a home with Donovan and a place in his heart. Although the Army did not have an official canine division, Rags accompanies Donovan to the battlefield, making himself a useful companion delivering messages and providing a much-appreciated morale boost to the soldiers.

Conestoga Wagons by Richard Ammon
Year: 2000
Book Synopsis: This illustrated book explains how Conestoga wagons were built and driven as well as their historical significance and importance to the early American economy.

Mammoths on the Move by Lisa Wheeler and Kurt Cyrus
Year: 2006
Book Synopsis: This storybook follows a pack of woolly mammoths as they trek south for the winter, braving fierce storms, deadly predators and raging rivers while making their slow journey across the gorgeous unspoiled lands of this continent until finally they reach their goal.

The Buffalo are Back by Jean Craighead George
Year: 2010
Book Synopsis: The buffalo, an American icon once nearly extinct, has made a comeback. This stirring picture book tells the dramatic story, following bison from the Plains American Indians to the cowboys, Teddy Roosevelt to the Dust Bowl and from the brink of extinction to the majestic herds that now roam our national parks.

A Little House Picture Book Treasury: Six Stories of Life on the Prairie based on the stories by Laura Ingalls Wilder
Year: 2017
Book Synopsis: This full-color collection includes six picture book stories adapted from the classic Little House books.
Goldie’s At Home Booklist

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Fry Bread: A Native American Family History by Kevin Noble Maillard and Juana Martinez-Neal
Year: 2019
Book Synopsis: Told in lively and powerful verse by debut author Kevin Noble Maillard, Fry Bread is an evocative depiction of a modern American Indian family.

The Great American Dust Bowl by Don Brown
Year: 2013
Book Synopsis: Don Brown brings the Dirty Thirties to life with kinetic, highly saturated and lively artwork in this graphic novel of one of America’s most catastrophic natural events: the Dust Bowl.
The early feminist, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, found an ally in Lucretia Mott, an ardent abolitionist, when the two met in 1840 at an anti-slavery conference in London. Once the conference began, it was apparent to the two women that female delegates were not welcome. Barred from speaking and appearing on the convention floor, Cady Stanton and Mott protested by leaving the convention hall, taking other female delegates with them. Single women who owned property were taxed without the right to vote for the lawmakers imposing the taxes -- one of the very reasons why the American colonies had broken away from Great Britain. Convention attendees passed the resolutions unanimously with the exception of the one for women's suffrage.