

# EXPLORE THE PAST...WITH PEOPLE!

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All good journalists interview people. It is a great way to collect information for a story. Before you interview someone, however, you should prepare. Read below for tips for a successful interview.

## Helpful Hints for Interviews:

1. Research the topic that you'll be discussing and make a list of your questions beforehand.
2. After you ask your questions, listen carefully to the answers. Ask follow-up questions if you would like more information.
3. Record the conversation or take notes on the answers.
4. Be polite and professional and thank the person for his or her time.

**PART 1:** Try out your new interview skills. Pair up with a classmate and interview each other about what you did last night. First, spend five minutes writing questions on your own. Then spend time asking each other the questions, making sure to take notes. When you are finished, spend five minutes summarizing your answers in a short report.



Abigail Breslin and Wallace Shawn in  
**KIT KITTREDGE: An American Girl**

**PART 2:** Interview an older relative or member of the community about life during the Great Depression. If the person you interview did not live during the Great Depression, it is possible his or her parents or friends did. Use what you have learned about the Great Depression to make a list of questions about what it was like to live back then. You might also ask about how the lives of children differed from today. Conduct the interview using the tips above. Write a short summary of your interview to share with the class.



Waiting in line at a soup kitchen