

## First American Girl Shows Strength Of Nez Perce

(NAPSA)—Thanks to an adventurous nine-year-old girl named Kaya™, girls today can learn about a way of life very different from their own—that of the Nimípuu (nee-MEE-poo), known today as the Nez Perce Indians.

Growing up in 1764, Kaya is the newest fictional character to join The American Girls Collection® of historical books, dolls, and accessories from Pleasant Company.

Introduced in 1986, The American Girls Collection is designed to foster pride in the traditions of growing up a girl in America and provide a “girl-sized” view of significant historical events that helped shape America.

American Girl and author Janet Shaw created Kaya, a character whose life experiences parallel those of the entire Nez Perce Tribe. Kaya’s courage, strength of spirit, and perseverance teaches today’s girls about a people who have used these same strengths for thousands of years to survive conflict and tragedy, and prepare for whatever lies ahead.

According to Ann McCormack, cultural arts coordinator for the Nez Perce Tribe and member of Kaya’s eight-person advisory board, “Our young and old alike will be proud that Kaya is Nez Perce. For others, we hope her stories will provide a window to another world—one that may be clouded by stereotypes and bias but will perhaps shine clearer with their newfound knowledge of a little Nez Perce girl and a world gone by.”

Kaya’s stories are set in the original homeland of the Nez Perce Tribe or what is today Idaho, Oregon, and Washington—areas where many Nez Perce still reside. Like the other American Girls characters, Kaya’s world unfolds in six new books of historical fiction—*Meet Kaya*, *Kaya’s Escape*, *Kaya’s Hero*, *Kaya and Lone Dog*, *Kaya Shows the Way*, and *Changes for Kaya*.



**Kaya, the new American Girls character, captures the spirit of the Nez Perce Tribe.**

The stories are brought to life with an 18-inch Kaya doll and an array of historically accurate and culturally authentic clothes and accessories that will help girls understand the material culture of the Nez Perce in the early 1760s. A modern-day jingle dress is also available to show girls what a Nez Perce girl might wear to a pow-wow today.

“We hope Kaya’s stories will expand girls’ cultural awareness and show them that our country’s history did not begin with the American Revolution,” says Julia Prohaska, brand director for American Girl.

Before Kaya was developed, American Girl requested permission from the Nez Perce Tribe to tell these stories and create these products. With the support of the Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee, an eight-member advisory board was selected to review all of the book manuscripts and products in Kaya’s collection.

The Kaya books, dolls, and accessories are available through the American Girl catalogue, at American Girl Place® in Chicago, and online at [americangirl.com](http://americangirl.com). The Kaya books will also be available at bookstores nationwide. For a free catalogue, call 1-800-845-0005.