

The New Deal

# FDR and the New Deal



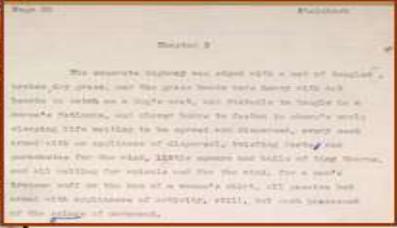


The United States during the 1930s.

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**Great Depression and New Deal: 1920-1940**

**Understanding Goal:**  
*Economic changes have social and political consequences.*



**Investigative Question:**  
*How did the federal government adjust to meet the changing needs of society?*

**Explore:** What individual and societal needs are represented in these images? What evidence of government intervention can you find?

**Connect:** What kinds of help do people in today's society need? What government programs exist to help? Is it the government's responsibility to provide this help?

## The Background – early 1930s

During President Hoover's government the Depression was in full swing. Unemployment was at 13 million, industries were closed, farms repossessed and the Dust Bowl was disastrous, banks shut down and the stock market had major difficulties.

People couldn't find work anywhere so the government had to act.



People searched the newspapers for job adverts.

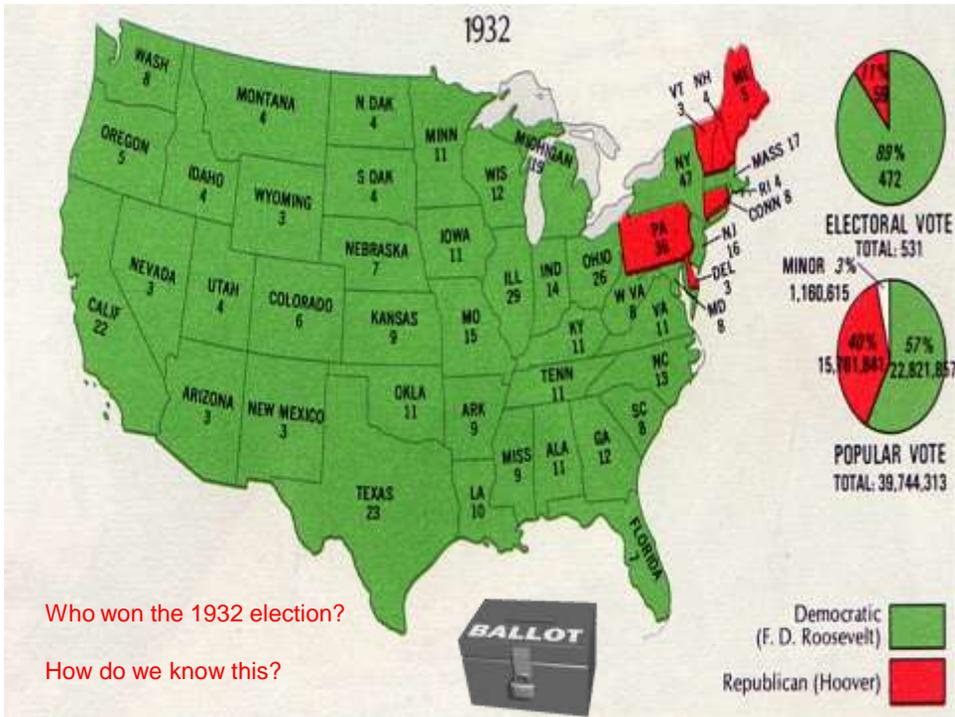
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## 1932 Election

- **Herbert Hoover(R)**
  - Decides to run for President again in 1932, despite his growing unpopularity since the Stock Market crash.
  - Hoover's "hands-off" approach to dealing with the Depression did not help the millions of unemployed and starving farmers.
- **Franklin D. Roosevelt(D)**
  - In his campaign, Roosevelt promised a new beginning and to take action!



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## ASSIGNMENT:

- Read the biography on Franklin D. Roosevelt and complete the multiple choice quiz.

## The Background



Roosevelt soon came to the conclusion that a massive change in the American way of life was needed to tackle the problems.

“The nation asks for action and action now.”

“Our greatest primary task is to put people to work.”

What was needed was a

**New Deal**

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Read the following excerpt from FDR's first inaugural address. Answer the question that follows in a complete sentence.

"This is a day of national consecration. This is the time to speak the truth, the whole truth, frankly and boldly. Nor need we shrink from honestly facing conditions in our country today. This great nation will endure as it has endured, will revive and will prosper. So, first of all, let me assert my firm belief that the only thing we have to fear is fear itself - nameless, unreasoning, unjustified terror which paralyzes needed efforts to convert retreat into advance. In every dark hour of our national life a leadership of frankness and vigor has met that understanding and support of the people themselves which is essential to victory. I am convinced that you will again give that support to leadership in these critical days."

Adapted from *Franklin D. Roosevelt: U.S. President*, Don Nardo

1. How would this speech encourage the people after having president Hoover in office?

2. Why did FDR make the statement, "the only thing we have to fear is fear itself"?

## FDR's Presidential Acceptance Speech

**Directions:**

Read Roosevelt's inaugural address and complete the questions.

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## AMERICA IN THE 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY: THE GREAT DEPRESSION

### PRE-TEST

Directions: Read the following statements and circle whether they are true or false.

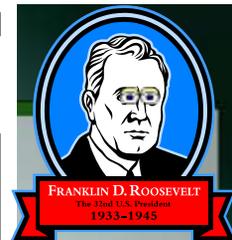
- |  |               |
|--|---------------|
| 1. The stock market crash marked the beginning of the Great Depression.                              | True    False |
| 2. Historians and economists agree on the main causes of the Great Depression.                       | True    False |
| 3. The United States was the only nation in the 1930s that had severe economic troubles.             | True    False |
| 4. President Hoover made many efforts to end the Great Depression.                                   | True    False |
| 5. Franklin D. Roosevelt inspired confidence in Americans with his proposal for the New Deal.        | True    False |
| 6. All U. S. citizens showed full support for the New Deal to end the Depression.                    | True    False |
| 7. First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt encouraged President Roosevelt to develop a second New Deal.         | True    False |
| 8. The New Deal had no effect on labor and employment in the United States.                          | True    False |
| 9. The New Deal plan included efforts to conserve and protect natural resources.                     | True    False |
| 10. The Great Depression caused a complete halt in the active cultural life of the Roaring Twenties. | True    False |

## AMERICA IN THE 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY: THE GREAT DEPRESSION

### PRESIDENTIAL TERMS

Directions: Complete the following chart with the administrative policies, programs, and outcomes of each presidential effort during the Depression. There may be more than one example in each section of the chart.

	President Hoover	President Roosevelt
Administrative Policies		
Programs Developed		
Outcome on the Great Depression		



Directions:

- Complete this graphic organizer.
- Refer to textbook pages or online for more info. Then, complete the following prompt: If you were president during the Depression would you make the same choices as FDR? Explain in 150 words.

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## Political Cartoon Analysis



- **Question:**
  - What does this political cartoon suggest is coming in the near future? What symbols in the cartoon are used to reveal the artist's message?
- **Note:** Get used to examining cartoons now because you will be drawing your own very soon! **Yey!**

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## FDR's Fireside Chats

FDR used **fireside chats**—weekly radio addresses—to encourage people, provide hope and discuss his important legislation



<https://streaming.museum.tv/realvideo/mbc/fdr.rm>  
Fireside Chats of Franklin D. Roosevelt



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## FDR's New Deal

- The **first one hundred days** of Franklin D. Roosevelt's first term is considered to be historic because of the numerous laws passed during that period—which became known as the **New Deal**.
- The New Deal is divided into three groups: **relief, recovery, and reform**
  - **Relief** was **immediate aid to the worst sufferers**
  - **Recovery** was meant to **get the economy going again**
  - **Reform** programs were to be **permanent**



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### AMERICA IN THE 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY: THE GREAT DEPRESSION

#### THE ABCs

Directions: Complete the following chart. Identify the acronym for each of President Roosevelt's New Deal programs. State whether the program was designed to provide relief for the needy, recovery for the economy, or reform of the financial system. Finally, explain the purpose of the program in your own words.

	Complete Name of Program	Relief, Recovery, or Reform	Explanation of the Program in your own words
FDIC			
AAA			
CCC			
PWA			
CWA			
NIRA			
TVA			
FHA			

### Alphabet Soup or the New Deal?

- **Complete this graphic organizer on the Alphabet Agencies!**



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### **Blackline Master #8: The ABCs**

- FDIC - Federal Deposit Insurance Company
- AAA - Agricultural Adjustment Act
- CCC - Civilian Conservation Corps
- PWA - Public Works Administration
- CWA - Civil Works Administration
- TVA - Tennessee Valley Authority
- NIRA - National Industrial Recovery Act
- FHA - Federal Housing Administration

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**Warm Up!—Choose an alphabet agency from your graphic organizer and draw your own representation of it on the board. Then, allow the students to guess ! 10 Min**




## Banking

Banking Acts 1933 and 1935

- Investors deposits insured
- No gambling in securities

Bank Holiday

- only secure banks allowed to re-open

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## Stock Market

• **Federal Securities Act (May 1933)**—Required private corporations that issues stock to register with the **Federal Trade Commission**.

- The Federal Trade Commission was later changed to be the **Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC)**
- This act also gave the Federal Reserve Board the power to **regulate the purchase of stock**
- This act was not pleasing to businesses



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## FDR's Plan for Helping the Needy

### Federal Emergency Relief Act (FERA)

Provided \$500 million to state governments to provide relief  
Given as DOLE payments



Problems

Successes

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## Problems

Many states penalised by dollar matching arrangements

People treated abominably by states who believed people should help themselves

Variations in relief provided – Georgia didn't provide direct relief.



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## Successes

Unique – a move away from laissez faire

Helped prevent starvation

Won political support for the Democrats from the poor

Lowered unemployment from 13 million to 6 million by 1941.



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## Farming--First Agricultural Adjustment Act

Put up prices by creating artificial scarcity, ie killing livestock, ploughing up crops

This was considered by many to be unconstitutional and an extension of federal powers.

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## Farming--Second Agricultural Adjustment Act

Insurance Scheme introduced.

Parity price fixed for main crops

Black sharecroppers still suffered.



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The New Deal introduced major breaks with traditional practices in the workplace.

N.R.A.

Social Security Act

Wagner Act

Fair Labour Standards Act



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## Background: Unions and the Fight For Worker's rights!

- **John L. Lewis** was a spokesman of the working people for almost forty years.
  - Revitalized the U.S. labor movement in the 1930s
  - Formed the **Congress of Industrial Organizations (CIO)**
    - pressured the AFL to change its policies.
    - CIO desired organization of industrial workers
    - CIO had initial success with unions like the General Motors Corporation and U.S. Steel
- Other unions started up in hopes of overcoming the CIO



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## Other Union Activities

- **Philip Randolph** was the president of the **Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters (BSCP)**
- BSCP were members of the AFL, but Randolph took his union to the CIO because of racial discrimination in the AFL



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## The Memorial Day Massacre

- **The Memorial Day Massacre--**
- In 1937, several small steelmakers refused to follow U.S. Steel by signing a union contract.
- A **strike** was called by the **Steel Workers Organizing Committee (SWOC)** (a union within the CIO)
- Hundreds of SWOC supporters gathered at Chicago's Sam's Place on Memorial Day, 1937.
- The crowd then marched toward Republic Steel mill and was stopped by Chicago police. Some police pursued people as they fled, shooting them in the back.



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## Song Lyrics about Unions and the New Deal

- "I'd Rather Not Be on Relief"  
By Lester Hunter, Shafter, 1938  
(Note: The CIO is a labor union. The WPA is the Works Progress Administration, a United States government agency created in 1935 to provide paying jobs for unemployed workers.)  
  
We go around all dressed in rags  
While the rest of the world goes neat,  
And we have to be satisfied  
With half enough to eat.  
We have to live in lean-tos,  
Or else we live in a tent,  
For when we buy our bread and beans  
There's nothing left for rent.  
  
I'd rather not be on the rolls of relief,  
Or work on the W.P.A.,  
We'd rather work for the farmer  
If the farmer could raise the pay;  
Then the farmer could plant more cotton  
And he'd get more money for spuds,  
Instead of wearing patches,  
We'd dress up in new duds.
- From the east and west and north and south  
Like a swarm of bees we come;  
The migratory workers  
Are worse off than a bum.  
We go to Mr. Farmer  
And ask him what he'll pay;  
He says, "You gypsy workers  
Can live on a buck a day."  
  
We don't ask for luxuries  
Or even a feather bed.  
But we're bound to raise the dickens  
While our families are underfed.  
Now the winter is on us  
And the cotton picking is done,  
What are we going to live on  
While we're waiting for spuds to come?  
  
Now if you will excuse me  
I'll bring my song to an end.  
I've got to go and chuck a crack  
Where the howling wind comes in.  
The times are going to better  
And I guess you'd like to know  
I'll tell you all about it, I've joined the C. I. O.
- **Questions:** What is the purpose of this song? How do you know?

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## Roosevelt's response to Unions: the N.R.A.

### The National Recovery Administration (NRA) made:-

1. Industry less cut throat in its operation
2. Owners introduce a minimum wage
3. Rules on the maximum working hours

Employers reacted differently from their workers.



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## Industry – N.R.A. Views

Owners such as Henry Ford opposed it by arguing:-

1. There would be an increase in monopolies
2. It was unconstitutional

The workers were pleased because:-

1. It gave them greater security and bargaining power
2. Elevated the position of the worker for the first time



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## Industry – Fair Labor Standards Act

Set new standards so that:-

1. Set a minimum wage of 40 cents an hour
2. Set a maximum working week of 40 hours
3. Banned child labour



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## Industry – Wagner and Social Security Acts

The Wagner Act stated that workers could join a trade union

The Social Security Act established a tax system that provided old age pensions for workers, benefits for accident victims, unemployment insurance, and aid for mothers of handicapped children. It created the Social Security Administration.



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## Alphabet Agencies

Roosevelt created a number of major agencies known by their initials.



P.W.A.

C.C.C.

T.V.A.

New Deal

Some opponents called them Alphabet Soup.

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# Introduction to Political Cartoon Assignment: New Deal Agencies

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## *New Deal Cartoons*

Now that we have examined several political cartoons of FDR and the New Deal, it's your turn to be a political cartoonist. You know the components of a political cartoon, and have several you can refer to. Your job is to choose a New Deal agency and to research any **controversy** surrounding it. Use your textbook, New Deal worksheet, and any of the websites listed below to help you. Your cartoon should reflect what the agency did AND demonstrate the complexity of the issue.

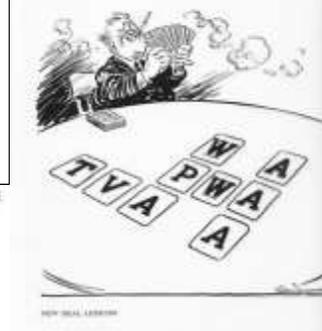
First, make notes that answer these questions:

- ✓ What agency will my cartoon be about?
- ✓ What controversies surround the creation of this agency?
- ✓ Who are the real people involved in this issue?
- ✓ What groups of people do I need to symbolize? What labels will I need to use?
- ✓ On which side of the issue am I on?
- ✓ What should the caption say so that people understand the message?

The cartoon should be **original and hand-drawn**. Use pencil first, and then go over with **black pen or marker**. Staple this sheet to the back.

### GRADING:

New Deal Agency is clearly understood by artist	1	2	3	4	5
Controversy surrounding the agency is accurately depicted	1	2	3	4	5
The meaning/portion of the cartoon is easily discernable (Labels for symbols, people, events are clear, good captions)	1	2	3	4	5
Cartoon is clearly drawn, reflects thought and creativity	1	2	3	4	5



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## Tennessee Valley Authority T.V.A.

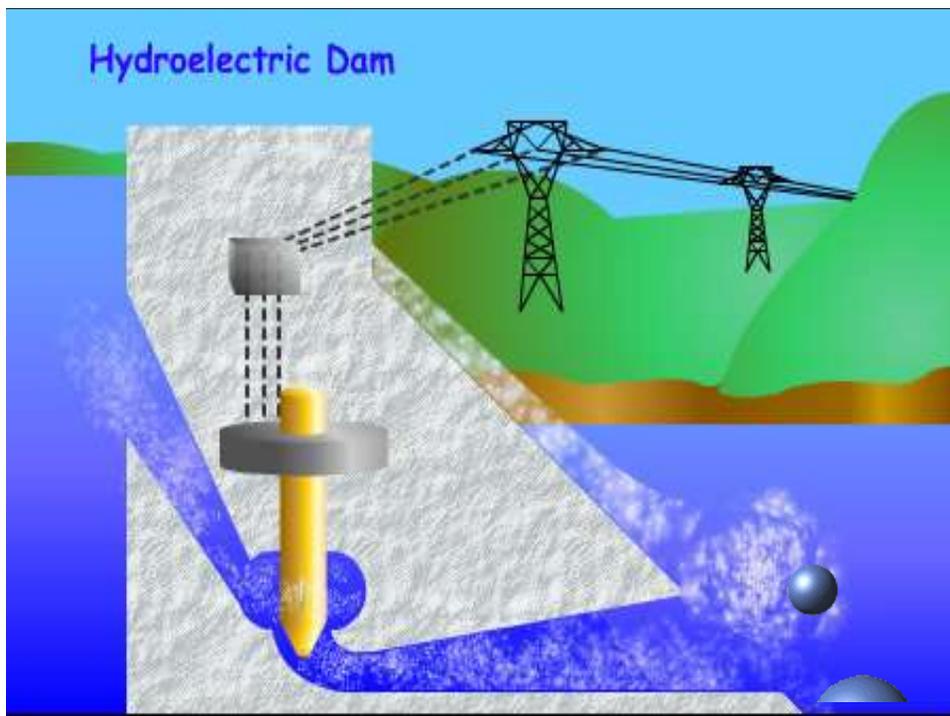
The river Tennessee was transformed by

1. Overturning years of deforestation and soil erosion by replanting and soil conservation.
2. The building of a series of dams and canals.
3. Flood prevention.
4. Hydro electric power for homes and business.



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## Civilian Conservation Corps (C.C.C.)

The first New Deal project introduced in March 1933.

1. Created work for 2.5 million unemployed workers
2. Led to tree planting and soil conservation
3. Bridges, dams, nature trails and picnic areas were built
4. Blacks were segregated and women excluded



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## Public Works Administration P.W.A.

Laws passed in Congress.

1. It was slow to get underway.
2. Capital intensive rather than labor intensive – money to T.V.A. and other organisations.
3. Built hospitals and roads and was involved in slum clearance.



PWA Project - Bonneville Power and Navigation Dam on the Columbia River, Oregon, 1936

Franklin D. Roosevelt Library



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## Vocabulary Review

<b>Hooverville</b>	shanty towns built by homeless people during the Great Depression.
<b>Black Tuesday</b>	October 29, 1929 when the Wall Street stock market collapsed.
<b>Dust Bowl</b>	The years of drought which turned the soil of Mid West farms to dust.

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### Study Aid: Alphabet Agencies Vocabulary Sheet

- **FDIC**  
Inspect banks and insure depositor's accounts.  
Roosevelt now said it was safer to keep your money in a reopened bank than under the mattress.
- **AAA**  
A law that paid farmers to grow less by farming fewer acres created it. This would increase farm prices.
- **FCA**  
Provided low cost farm loans.
- **HOLC**  
Provided homeowners with low cost loans.
- **NRA**  
Helped businesses earn reasonable profits while workers earned decent wages.  
The agency encouraged businesses to draw up rules of fair competition. These rules set prices, production quotas wages, and working conditions.

- **PWA**

Provided funds for construction projects such as roads, dams, bridges, and warships. It helped businesses put people to work so that they had money to spend.

- **CCC**

Employed thousands of young men in camps across the country improving public lands by planting trees, clearing trails, and fighting forest fires.

**TVA**

It improved the economy of the deep south by building dams and improving existing ones so that electricity could be brought to the region. It provided flood control and a reliable supply of water for irrigation, drinking and recreation.

- **NYA**

Provided jobs for young people.

**WPA**

Millions were put to work in construction projects such as schools, libraries, hospitals, roads, sewer systems, and airports. Musicians were hired to give lessons, writers and artists and actors were hired.

**NLRB**

Set up by the Wagner Act, this agency strengthened the power of labor unions by outlawing unfair labor practices. Employers had to bargain with unions or keep workers from joining unions. The board watched over business to ensure collective bargaining.

**SSA**

It set up a form of insurance where employers and workers would pay the tax to cover unemployment benefits, old age pensions, programs for the blind, and for children of workers who had died. Domestic and farm workers had been left out of the bill that created the agency.

## Political Cartoon Analysis

### Questions:

- Was everyone happy about the New Deal Programs? Why or why not?



**“Ring around a Roosevelt, pockets full of dough”: a 1938 cartoon.**

## Criticisms of Roosevelt and the New Deal:

- A. What were some of the reasons the New Deal was challenged?
  - 1. Created a very powerful president that led Congress, this was a violation of checks and balances.
  - 2. It was a radical departure from Laissez Faire ideals. Created "big government" .
  - 3. Some acts appeared interfering and at worst unconstitutional. Ex. "Court Packing" incident
  - 4. Heavy debt burden - the United States was engaged in deficit spending and this was unhealthy for the economy in the long run.

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## Court Packing Bill



FDR was accused of "court packing"

- a. The Constitution does not say how many justices the Supreme Court must have
- b. FDR proposed that he have the ability to appoint one new justice for every one who turned seventy years old and did not retire.
- c. He said that there would never be more than **fifteen** justices.
- d. People became outraged and accused FDR of **court packing** —appointed justices who would support Roosevelt.
- e. Roosevelt fought hard for it, but eventually came to accept that it would not pass.

[http://www.hpol.org/fdr/chat/chat\\_ram](http://www.hpol.org/fdr/chat/chat_ram)

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## Senator Huey Long: Opponent of FDR



[http://www.authentichistory.com/audio/1930s/history/19341211\\_Huey\\_Long-Share\\_The\\_Wealth.mp3](http://www.authentichistory.com/audio/1930s/history/19341211_Huey_Long-Share_The_Wealth.mp3)

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## Senator Huey Long

- **Huey Long** was Louisiana senator a “determined enemy” of Wall Street and the Roosevelt administration.
  - Long wanted the government to confiscate the wealth of the nation’s rich and privileged.
  - Criticized New Deal for not doing enough to help American people
  - President Roosevelt considered Long to be “one of the most dangerous men in America.”
  - Long was assassinated before he could seriously challenge Roosevelt’s presidency



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## Father Charles Coughlin

- **Father Charles Coughlin** - Catholic priest in Michigan and outspoken New Deal critic; blamed Crash of 1929 on wealthy financiers and Jews; wanted federal government to take over entire banking system



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**Francis Townsend** —  
**Pressured Congress to pass legislation for the elderly > Social Security**



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## Success or Failure? Page 673

1. Reduced unemployment by 7 million
2. Soil conservation schemes.
3. The Stock Market and banks recovered.
4. Transformed the Tennessee valley.
5. Roosevelt was re-elected.

1. Still 6 million out of work in 1941.
2. The numbers fell due to enlistment and rearmament in WW2.
3. Black people were segregated from white.
4. Women were excluded from the New Deal.
5. Tennessee benefited but many areas were still suffering.

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Lesson Eight: Handout #1

### Ballad of Roosevelt, 1934

By Langston Hughes

Langston Hughes was a leading figure of the Harlem Renaissance. In "Ballad of Roosevelt," Hughes criticized the unfulfilled promises that FDR had made to the poor.

The pot was empty,  
The cupboard was bare.  
I said, Papa,  
What's the matter here?  
I'm waitin' on Roosevelt, son,  
Roosevelt, Roosevelt,  
Waitin' on Roosevelt, son.

The rent was due,  
And the lights was out.  
I said, Tell me, Mama,  
What's it all about?  
We're waitin' on Roosevelt, son,  
Roosevelt, Roosevelt,  
Just waitin' on Roosevelt.

Sister got sick  
And the doctor wouldn't come  
Cause we couldn't pay him  
The proper sum--  
A-waitin' on Roosevelt,  
Roosevelt, Roosevelt,  
A-waitin' on Roosevelt.

Then one day  
They put us out o' the house.  
Ma and Pa was  
Meek as a mouse  
Still waitin' on Roosevelt,  
Roosevelt, Roosevelt. But when they  
felt those

Cold winds blow  
And didn't have no  
Place to go  
Pa said, "I'm tired  
O' waitin' on Roosevelt,  
Roosevelt, Roosevelt.  
Damn tired o'  
waitin' on Roosevelt.

I can't git a job  
And I can't git no grub  
Backbone and navel's  
Doin' the belly-rub--  
A-waitin' on Roosevelt,  
Roosevelt, Roosevelt.

And a lot o' other folks  
What's hungry and cold  
Done stopped believin'  
What they been told  
By Roosevelt  
Roosevelt, Roosevelt--

Cause the pot's still empty,  
And the cupboard's still bare  
And you can't build a bungalow  
Out o' air--  
Mr. Roosevelt, listen!  
What's the matter here?

#### Questions:

1. What phrases repeat in this poem and why? Explain their significance.
2. What does the narrator of the poem think about Roosevelt's promises his community?
3. What is the main message that Hughes is conveying in his poem?



## The critic poet?

### Directions:

- Read the Poem and answer the questions

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Lesson Eight: Handout #7

**Gonna Miss President Roosevelt:  
The Blues for FDR, 1945**  
By Langston Hughes



Well you know that President Roosevelt he was awful fine,  
He helped the crippled boys and he almost healed the blind,  
Oh yes, gonna miss President Roosevelt.

Well he's gone, he's gone, but his spirit always'll on.  
He traveled out East, he traveled to the West,  
But of all the Presidents, President Roosevelt was the best,  
Oh yes, gonna miss

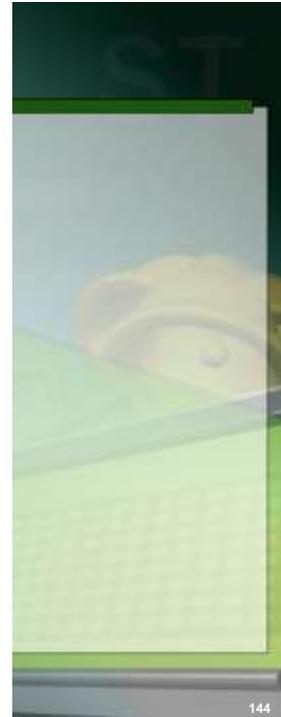
Well now he traveled by land and he traveled by sea,  
He helped the United States boys, and he also helped Chinese,  
Oh yes, gonna miss

President Roosevelt went to Georgia boy, and he ride around and round,  
I guess he imagined he seen that Pale Horse when they was trailin' him down.  
Oh yes, gonna miss

Well now the rooster told the hen "I want to crow,  
You know President Roosevelt has gone, can't live in this shack no more,"  
Oh yes, we're gonna miss President Roosevelt,  
Well he's gone, he's gone, but his spirit always'll live on.

**Questions:**

1. This poem was written over ten years after the first one. How did the poet's attitude change toward Roosevelt?
2. What accomplishment does Hughes attribute to Roosevelt?
3. FDR's record on civil rights is controversy. He needed the support of Southern Democrats for his New Deal, and taking an active position on civil rights could have threatened his ability to pass programs. If Langston Hughes had the chance to speak with FDR privately, what might he have said to him?



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## The Second New Deal Takes Hold



- **The Second New Deal**—the legislation that FDR and Congress passed between 1935 and 1938—was different from the First New Deal.
- Relied more heavily on deficit spending.
- FDR altered his policy making because of complaints from critics and because, by 1935, it was clear that more Americans still needed federal relief assistance.
- **Roosevelt aimed half the Second New Deal programs and policies at long-term reform.**

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## New Deal vs 2<sup>nd</sup> New Deal

- Restore nation's hope
- Help banks and stock market
- Provide jobs and relief for poor
- Plan and regulate the economy
- Pass new labor laws
- Create and expand New Deal agencies
- Establishes Social Security for older people and unemployed

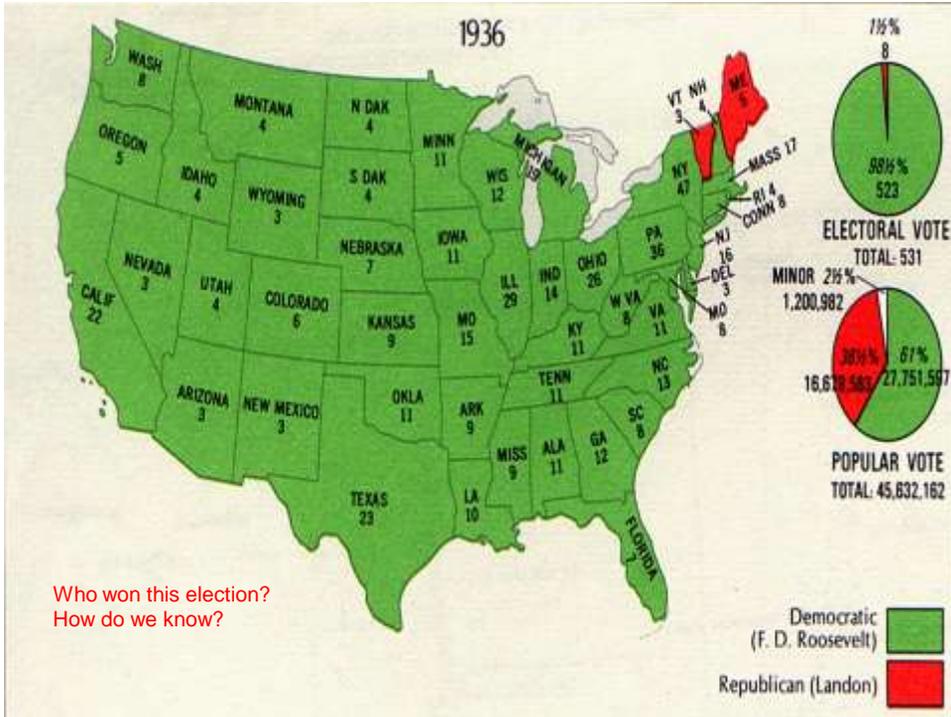
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## 1936 Election

- FDR(D)-Incumbent
- Al Landon(R)



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## Eleanor Roosevelt—First Lady



- **Anna Eleanor Roosevelt** (1884 –1962) was an American political leader who used her influence as First Lady from 1933 to 1945 to promote the New Deal policies of her husband, FDR, as well as advocate for civil rights.
- After her husband's death in 1945, she continued to be an internationally prominent author and speaker for the New Deal coalition. She was a delegate to the UN General Assembly in 1945 and chaired the committee that drafted and approved the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

## Video Clip: Eleanor Roosevelt (5 min)



**Questions:**  
What was unique about This First Lady? How did she revolutionize the role?

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### Thought Provokers

Use the letters to Mrs. Roosevelt to answer the following questions.

1. Identify specific ways that the children tried to convince Mrs. Roosevelt that they were uniquely worthy of her help.
2. What does this reveal about the children's values?
3. Do children today hold similar values to the children in the letters?
4. What about these letters stood out to you?
5. Did you strongly identify with one child's letter? Why or why not?

**Share your responses!**

### Analyzing Primary Sources

#### Directions:

In five small groups, you will read letters written to Eleanor Roosevelt, the First Lady. Use these letters to answer the questions. A spokesperson for your group will present the answers to the class.

Note to teacher: More copies of letters are located at the end of this presentation. 151

## Letters to Mrs. Roosevelt

Poet Morris N.J.  
March 20, 1934

My Dear Mrs. Roosevelt,

Do you realize that "Easter" is at hand? Do you realize how many hearts are broken on this account? Do you realize how hard its going to be for most people? Like me, for instance, I am a young girl of fifteen and I need a coat, so bad I have no money, nor any means of getting any. My father has been out of work for two years.

My brother works on the C.W.A. but he is, or rather has been, insane in an asylum and has taken most of our money. My mother gets 'fits' when I ask her to buy me something new. Poor mother, I sympathize with her because it has been very hard on her, this depression, and having no money at all but debts piling up on us. I want to tell you something. We were once the richest people in our town but now, we are the lowest, considered, the worst people of Port Morris.

For Easter some friends of mine are thinking of getting new out-fits and I just have to listen to them. How I wish I could have a least a coat. That would cost about \$5.00 at least. I need a dress. I want one and it only cost \$.79 cents. Dear Eleanor how I wish I had this coat and dress for Easter I would be the happiest girl. I love you so much.

Please send me about \$5.00  
I thank you so much.

A. C.  
Port Morris

March 24, 1934

My dear Miss C.:

Mrs. Roosevelt asks me to acknowledge your letter and to express her regret that because of the great number of similar requests she receives, she has found it impossible to comply with them, much as she would like to assist all those who appeal to her. Assuring you of Mrs. Roosevelt's sympathy, I am

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary to  
Mrs. Roosevelt

- What is surprising about this letter?
- What does it reveal about life during the Depression?

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## Rubric – Letter to Mrs. Roosevelt

CATEGORY	5	4	3	2
<b>Salutation and Closing</b>	Salutation and closing have no errors in capitalization and punctuation.	Salutation and closing have one-to two errors in capitalization and punctuation.	Salutation and closing have three or more errors in capitalization and punctuation.	Salutation and/or closing are missing.
<b>Sentences and Paragraphs</b>	Sentences and paragraphs are complete, well constructed and of varied structure.	All sentences are complete and well constructed (no fragments, no run-ons). Paragraphing is generally done well.	Most sentences are complete and well constructed. Paragraphing needs some work.	Many sentence fragments or run-on sentences OR paragraphing needs lots of work.
<b>Ideas</b>	Ideas were expressed in a clear and organized fashion. It was easy to figure out what the letter was about.	Ideas were expressed in a pretty clear manner, but the organization could have been better.	Ideas were somewhat organized, but were not very clear. It took more than one reading to figure out what the letter was about.	The letter seemed to be a collection of unrelated sentences. It was very difficult to figure out what the letter was about.
<b>Grammar and spelling (conventions)</b>	Writer makes no errors in grammar or spelling.	Writer makes one-to two errors in grammar and/or spelling.	Writer makes three-to four errors in grammar and/or spelling.	Writer makes more than four errors in grammar and/or spelling.
<b>Capitalization and Punctuation</b>	Writer makes no errors in capitalization and punctuation.	Writer makes one-to two errors in capitalization and punctuation.	Writer makes three-to four errors in capitalization and punctuation.	Writer makes more than four errors in capitalization and punctuation.
<b>Neatness</b>	Letter is typed, clean, not wrinkled, and is easy to read with no distracting error corrections. It was done with pride.	Letter is neatly hand-written, clean, not wrinkled, and is easy to read with no distracting error corrections. It was done with care.	Letter is typed and is crumpled or slightly stained. It may have one-to two distracting error corrections. It was done with some care.	Letter is typed and looks like it had been shoved in a pocket or locker. It may have several distracting error corrections. It looks like it was done in a hurry or stored improperly.

## Assignment: Fictional Letter Writing

### Directions:

- 1) Imagine that you are one of the children of the letters, but now you have grown up.
- **Remember:** You now must imagine it's about 8 years later—early 1940's—and America is at war with Germany and Japan during World War II.
- 2) Write a follow-up letter to Mrs. Roosevelt explaining how your life unfolded since the first letter.
- 3) **I will collect the letters in 20 minutes** or assign as a home assignment to be due at a later date.

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## AMERICA IN THE 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY: THE GREAT DEPRESSION

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Review!

1. What was the cause of the 1929 stock market crash?
2. Discuss the causes and consequences of the Great Depression.
3. Describe the attempts made to deal with the crisis.
4. What were Hoover's efforts to resolve the Depression?
5. Explain the purpose of FDR's New Deal and its accomplishments.
6. List some of the work provided for the unemployed and other methods of direct assistance.
7. Compare and contrast the views of those who opposed and those who supported the New Deal.
8. Describe the cause for the second New Deal and its outcome.
9. Discuss the effect the New Deal had on women and minorities.
10. What were some of the effects the New Deal had on American culture?

## Discussion Question Answers

### Blackline Master #4: Discussion Questions

Answers will vary. Possible answers follow.

1. Businesses began slowing down, economic boom of 1920s ending, stock prices falling, stockbrokers demanded that people repay loans for stocks bought on margin, and on October 29, 1929, "Black Tuesday" saw the collapse of the stock market and stocks sold for almost nothing.

2. Key industries were in trouble, the gap between the rich and the rest of the nation, people living beyond their means with credit, overproduction of products, banking system in trouble when investments in stocks were lost, and not enough money to pay depositors. World War I caused economic slump worldwide, and many businesses failed and millions lost their jobs.

3. Soup kitchens and bread lines were set up for the unemployed, unemployed "rode the rails" looking for jobs, people lost their homes and lived in shantytowns, and many children suffered from malnutrition and stopped attending school to work.

4. Reassured the nation its economy was sound, advocated the "do-nothing" approach for the economy to recover naturally, took cautious approach and spent federal money on public works construction, provided emergency financing for big businesses hoping for trickle-down theory, and asked private charities to help the less fortunate.

5. The New Deal's purpose was to provide relief for the needy, recovery for the economy, and reform for the financial system. Accomplishments included restoring confidence in financial system with the "bank holiday" and FDIC; helping farmers with AAA; provided work for the unemployed with CCC, PWA, CWA, TVA; and gave direct assistance for the needy with Federal Emergency Relief Administration, National Industrial Recovery Act, Federal Housing Administration, and Home Owners Loan Corporation.

6. Unemployed were hired to build community buildings, repair roads, flood control, and other conservation projects, and jobs also included creating a system of dams to provide hydroelectric power. The needy were given food, clothing, loans for home mortgages, and low interest rates for mortgage payments.

7. Critics on the left said the New Deal did not go far enough to help poor or reform the economy, whereas critics on the right said it gave the government too much control over the economy and FDR was establishing dictatorship. The Supreme Court declared NIRA and AAA unconstitutional and FDR's "court

## Discussion Question Answers continued...

packing" aroused public protest. Father Charles Coughlin, Dr. Francis Townsend, Upton Sinclair, and Senator Huey Long all opposed FDR's New Deal.

8. Minimal improvement in the economy and Eleanor Roosevelt's visits around the country influenced FDR to urge Congress to pass additional measures to help the economy and the needy. The second New Deal included, AAA, FSA, WPA, Wagner Act, Fair Labor Standards Act, Social Security Act, and Rural Electrification Administration.

9. Many women and African-Americans were appointed to important positions, such as Mary McLeod Bethune, Robert C. Weaver, William H. Hastie, Marian Anderson, Mary Dewson, and Frances Perkins. African-Americans abandoned the Republican Party, many Mexican-Americans deported to Mexico, and Native Americans received full citizenship and the Indian Reorganization Act passed in 1934.

10. People went to the movies to forget their troubles. Almost every home had a radio, which played soap operas, comedies, children's shows, and FDR's Fireside Chats. Many New Deal programs supported artists and writers.