The Great Depression and the New Deal (1929-1939)

Core Knowledge

OVERVIEW
A. Concept Objectives
1. Students will understand the causes of the Great Depression and how it affected American society.
2. Students will develop an awareness of how the New Deal alleviated the Great Depression and transformed American society.
3. Students will understand the importance of effective leadership in a democratic society.
4. Students will understand the impact of economic phenomena within the free enterprise system such as supply and demand, profit, government regulation, and international competition on the economy of the United States.

Secondary Student Objectives

STUDENT OBJECTIVES
- 1) Identify the causes and consequences of the Great Depression.
- 2) Compare and contrast the efforts made by President Hoover and President Roosevelt to end the Great Depression.
- 3) State the main goals of President Roosevelt's New Deal administration with examples
- 4) Explain the effects of the first and second New Deal on labor, conservation, cultural life, women, and minorities.
- 5) Describe the significance and legacy of the New Deal for the United States.
Question of the Day

- Describe what you see in this picture. What is happening here?
- What is unusual about the family in this picture?
- What reasons can you think of for why they are in this situation?

Activity 1: Think-Pair-Share

- Review:
  - What important themes did we cover in the decade called the “roaring twenties”.
  - Why do you think we call them the “roaring twenties”? Take one minute to write your answer.
  - When I tell you to, share what you wrote with the person next to you.
The Roaring 1920s—Swingin’!!!!!

- Business Booms
- First shopping mall built
- First fast food chain, A&W Root Beer
- Appliances all the rage—radios, washing machines, telephones, cars
- Companies spend $1.5 billion on advertising in 1927
- **Ford** built his automobile empire
- People began to buy things on credit

Activity 2: Think-Pair-Share
Contrast the women in these two drawings. Take two minutes to write down as many differences as you can. When I tell you, share what you have written with the person next to you.

- Victorian Woman
- Jazz Age Woman
Pre-Assessment

A. Fill in the blank with the appropriate term.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stock market</th>
<th>Populist</th>
<th>Communist</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Radical</td>
<td>Drought</td>
<td>Unemployment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tariff</td>
<td>Reform</td>
<td>Regulate</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. The ___________ is a market for stocks around the country.
2. A(n) ___________ is a prolonged period of dryness.
3. A(n) ___________ is one who is disposed to making extreme changes in existing views, habits, conditions, or institutions.
4. A(n) ___________ is a member of a political party claiming to represent the common people.
5. A(n) ___________ is a tax or schedule of taxes imposed by a government on imported goods.

B. Circle the letter of the correct response to each question.

1. What major even caused the Great Depression in the United States?
   a. The New Deal
   b.Bonus Army
   c. Stock market crash
   d. Mass unemployment

2. Which of the following statements is a quote from Franklin D. Roosevelt?
   a. “the only thing we have to eat is sandwiches”
   b. “the only thing we have to fear is the Great Depression”
   c. “the only thing we have to know is how to read”
   d. “the only thing we have to fear is fear itself”

3. Which of the following problems was not dealt with during the Great Depression?
   a. debt
   b. hunger
   c. wealth
   d. bankruptcy

4. Who was the wife of Franklin D. Roosevelt?
   a. Eleanor Roosevelt
   b. Ellen Roosevelt
   c. Emily Roosevelt
   d. Evelyn Roosevelt

5. The drought that settled in the southwestern United States became known as the
   a. Dust Barn
   b. Dirt Storm
   c. Dust Bowl
   d. Super Bowl
The Economy of the Late 1920s

Income Distribution, 1929

- “Everybody ought to be rich”
- 200 large companies controlled 49% of all American industry
- Too many goods, not enough demand
- Farm prices fell after WWI
- Farmers not able to repay their debts

The Answers!!!

Answer Key – Pre-Assessment

A. Fill in the blank
1. stock market
2. drought
3. radical
4. populist
5. tariff

B. Multiple Choice
1. c
2. d
3. c
4. a
5. c
The United States presidential election of 1928 pitted Republican Herbert Hoover against Democrat Al Smith.

The Republicans were identified with the booming economy of the 1920s, whereas Smith, a Roman Catholic, suffered politically from anti-Catholic prejudice, his anti-prohibitionist stance, and the legacy of corruption with which he was associated.

Hoover's was a landslide victory.
Let's analyze Hoover's famous 1928 campaign speech.

1) What is "rugged individualism?"

2) Does this speech reflect the optimism of the 1920's? Use evidence to support your answer.

3) Based on your reading of this document, predict whether Hoover will succeed in dealing with the upcoming economic crisis.
Hoover’s Ironic Acceptance Speech

- "We in America today are nearer to the final triumph over poverty than ever before in the history of this land... We shall soon with the help of God be in sight of the day when poverty will be banished from this land."
- Herbert Hoover in his acceptance speech June, 1928
- **Question:** Why is this speech “ironic?”
Prosperity was Short-lived

- During the first few months of Hoover's administration, the economy continued to prosper.

  (left) The [New York Stock Exchange](#)—where stocks are bought and sold by brokers, or hired investors.

- In 1929

  Inside the New York Stock Exchange today.
The Dow Jones Industrial Average (DJIA) is one of several stock market indicators created by Charles Dow.

Dow compiled the index as a way to gauge the performance of America's stock market.

Today, the average consists of 30 of the largest and most widely held public companies in the US.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average consists of the following 30 companies:

- 3M Co. (MMM) (conglomerates)
- Alcoa Inc. (AA) (aluminum)
- Altria Group Inc. (MO) (tobacco, foods)
- American International Group Inc. (AIG) (property & casualty insurance)
- American/Illinois Co. (AXP) (credit services)
- AT&T Inc. (T) (telecom services)
- Boeing Co., The (BA) (aerospace/defense)
- Caterpillar Inc. (CAT) (farm & construction equipment)
- CitiGroup Inc. (C) (money center banks)
- Coca-Cola Co. (KO) (beverages)
- E.I. du Pont de Nemours & Co. (DD) (chemicals)
- Exxon Mobil Corp. (XOM) (major integrated oil & gas)
- General Electric Co. (GE) (conglomerates)
- General Motors Corp. (GM) (auto manufacturers)
- Hewlett-Packard Co. (HPQ) (diversified computer systems)
- Home Depot, Inc. (HD) (home improvement stores)
- Honeywell International Inc. (HON) (conglomerates)
- JPMorgan Chase & Co. (JPM) (money center banks)
- Johnson & Johnson (JNJ) (drug manufacturers)
- McDonald's Corp. (MCD) (restaurants)
- Merck & Co. Inc. (MRK) (drug manufacturers)
- Morgan Stanely (MSFT) (application software)
- Pfizer Inc. (PFE) (drug manufacturers)
- Procter & Gamble Co. (PG) (consumer goods)
- United Technologies Corp. (UTX) (conglomerates)
- Verizon Communications (VZ) (telecom services)
- Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. (WMT) (discount, variety stores)
- Walt Disney Co., The (DIS) (entertainment)
Objectives: Analyze the immediate effects of the Stock Market Crash of 1929.

Warm Up--10 minutes: In your groups, grab a laptop, go to http://finance.yahoo.com/, and record the opening price for your chosen stocks. On day 5, I will ask you to compute how much you gained or lost as well as answer the five questions below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stock</th>
<th>Stock</th>
<th>Stock</th>
<th>Stock</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Day 1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day 2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day 3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day 4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day 5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Which one of your stocks fluctuated the most during the week?
2. Which one of your stocks fluctuated the least during the week?
3. Which stock do you think would be the most stable to invest in?
4. What was the greatest amount of change in your stocks?
5. Do you think the stock market is a safe way to make money?

Black Tuesday Oct. 29, 1929—Stock Market Crashes!
The Great Depression

The Stock Market Crash of 1929

Bull Market vs. Bear Market
• It was a “bull market” on Wall Street – stock prices were rising.
• People began investing their life savings in the stock market.
• Stocks were soon traded “on margin”
  • Investors would pay for part of the stock as a down payment
  • They hoped to pay the rest back with money they made on the stock they bought.

Black Thursday, Oct. 24, 1929 – Black Tuesday, Oct. 29th, 1929
• Investors became weary of the market and sold their stocks.
• The dominoes fell as others pulled their money out of the market.
• 16 million shares were sold.
• $30 billion was lost.
• No one was buying stocks.

The Stock Market Crash

• Stocks hit all-time highs in September of 1929
• In October, stocks began to fall
  – Ex. General Electric stocks bought for $400 sold for $283
• Black Tuesday, Oct. 29, 1929—16.4 million shares sold, compared to average of 4 million
• This collapse of the stock market is known as the Great Crash
Discussion Points:

1) How did businesses try to keep demand high? Why did this fail?

2) What could the government have done to prevent a crash from happening?
The Great Depression

Black Thursday

October 24, 1929

- **Morning**: Stock prices began to fall
  - People became desperate to sell their stocks
  - Brokers began to panic
- **Noon**: A meeting was held among the bankers
  - Richard Whitney was vice president of the Stock Exchange floor
  - Whitney began bidding high on U.S. Steel stocks
  - People regained confidence and the market recovered

A Nervous Recovery

October 25 – 28, 1929

- Trading was heavy, but prices remained steady
- Investors were still nervous about the stability of the market
- **Monday**: October 28 opened with a flood of selling
  - Organized support did not appear as it had on October 24
  - Altogether, the New York Stock Exchange value had dropped ten billion dollars in one day
    - Was the largest fall in the history of the exchange
Black Tuesday

October 29, 1929

- When the stock exchange opened at ten A.M., everyone began selling their stocks
  - Prices dropped rapidly
    - RCA shares had been worth $420 each were now selling for $26 each
  - Bankers were not looking to help the market, they were also selling their stocks

At 1:00 P.M., 10,000 people filled Wall Street. Rumors passed up and down the crowd. No one knew what to do or believe. All over the city, people watched the ticker tape unwind. (The ticker tape lists the changing stock prices.) People watched as their fortunes shrank rapidly. Complaining to others did no good, because they were also dealing with the same problem.

- As the trading grew to a close, prices slowly began to rally
- The volume of shares at closing was a record high, 16,410,030 shares
- Over fourteen billion dollars were wiped off the value of the stock market
- The market value began to drop
  - June 1930 saw another large drop
  - Continued until reaching an ultimate low in July 1932
- Black Tuesday marks the beginning of the Great Depression
The Great Depression
Why did the market crash?

Causes:

1) Many people bought stocks on margin—like a loan
2) Companies lied about their profits—remember Enron?
3) Economies like ours go through natural “boom” and “bust” cycles
4) Republican Presidents believed in *laissez faire*—no control on businesses
5) Stock market was not regulated by government
The Stock Market Crash
From Riches to Ruin

• Many wealthy families lost everything
• Some even committed suicide
• Millions of people who never owned a single stock lost their jobs, farms and homes
• The crash triggered a much wider, long term economic crisis known as the Great Depression, lasting from 1929 to 1941 when America entered WWII
• The Depression had a ripple effect that hurt the economies of other countries

Unemployment 1925-1933

Unemployed (in millions)

1925 1926 1927 1928 1929 1930 1931 1932

Question 3: How many people were unemployed in 1925? In 1929? In 1932?
Question 4: How much did a bushel of wheat cost in 1925? 1932?

Question 5: What was the average stock value in 1929? 1932?
Question 6: How many banks were suspended in 1925? In 1933?

**THE WALL ST. CRASH**

3. **How does a “Crash” lead to a “Depression”**?

Because speculators are bankrupt, some banks have to close. 400,000 lost savings when the Bank of New York crashed in 1930.

- The other banks only survive by calling in loans they made to businesses.
- Businesses have to scale down or even close down as a result.

Unemployment results: by 1933 14 million in the USA. Governments introduce / increase **tariffs** on foreign goods to make them more expensive. This encourages people to buy domestic goods and start a recovery. This policy is known as **Protectionism** because it is about “protecting” your home economy.

Foreign businesses suffer from the decrease in trade with the suffering country. Germany suffered when US loans from the Dawes Plan were called in. At this process the whole chain reaction of Crash and Depression starts again.

**POLITICAL CONSEQUENCES**

Democracies become inward looking and defensive at just the point that dictatorships become aggressive: a recipe for disaster!
Historical Fiction Letter writing on Great Depression

• **Introduction:** It is the day before Thanksgiving, 1929. You own a small shoe store. An investment broker convinced you to spend your life savings in the stock market. He told you that you could triple your money if you invest it with him. You even bought some stock on margin, thinking that you would be able to pay it off when your stock went up. To your absolute horror, the stock market crashed in October and completely wiped you out.

• **Complete:** Write a letter back to your husband or wife telling them what has happened. Make sure to use evidence for why this happened from your notes and the textbook. Also explain how you plan to cope.

VIDEO INTRODUCTION “AMERICA’S ECONOMY: SORROW AND HOPE” (55 MINUTES)

• PAY ATTENTION! YOUR ASSIGNMENT Follows!
Assignment: Compare/Contrast Essay—Then and Now.

- **Directions:** You will write a 5-paragraph compare/contrast essay, in which you analyze the Crash of 1929 and the second “Crash of 2008.” Structure: 1st paragraph—Intro. and thesis. 2nd paragraph—Crash of 1929 and Great Depression. 3rd Paragraph—The current economic crisis. 4th—Compare/contrast the two crises. 5th paragraph—Conclusion and your predictions for the future. Will we get out of the current crisis soon, and if so, how so? Or, will we suffer through another Depression? You will need to use at least five reliable resources and cite them in a bibliography. Start with these:
  - 1) [http://finance.yahoo.com/](http://finance.yahoo.com/). Info on today’s market and financial meltdown and the President’s attempts to rescue the economy.
  - 2) [http://www.history.com/genericContent.do?id=61014](http://www.history.com/genericContent.do?id=61014). A great timeline of events during the Crash and Depression.
  - **Other Requirements:** Typed, 12-point font, Times New Roman, double spaced, bibliography.

Hoover Struggles with the Stock Market Crash & the Depression

**Hoover’s solution:**

Do nothing!

*Laissez-faire*—Government should not interfere in the economy.

Hoover believed that the economy would eventually correct itself and the Depression would go away.

Make a prediction: Will Hoover’s plan succeed?
The Results of Hoover’s Strategy

The Bonus Army
- **“Bonus army”**—In 1932 thousands of veterans of World War I marched into Washington D.C. They wanted their wartime “bonus” they were to receive in 1945. Their numbers rose to 25,000 within two months

Hoovervilles
- The Bonus Army set up Hoovervilles—shantytowns where the unemployed and homeless lived.
  - These consisted of shacks made of wooden crates, tar paper, and other pieces. They were set up on the outskirts of cities.

They were nicknamed “Hoovervilles” because people blamed President Hoover for his lack of action to solve this situation. President Hoover believed that “nonintervention” was best. As he did nothing, things grew worse.
Let’s look at some photos of the early depression! Can you imagine what it was like to live during this time?

Picture Analysis of the Great Depression

Directions:
• 1) Number a sheet of loose leaf paper 1-6
• 2) You will analyze six photos from the Great Depression
• 3) For each photo, you must answer the questions in complete sentences.
• 4) You will have three minutes to answer the questions before we move on to the next photo, so please keep up with the pace of the class.
Picturing the Great Depression

2
Directions:
• Analyze the photo and answer the question.

Answer the following question with a complete sentence.

What can you learn from the expression on the boy’s face?

3
Directions:
• Analyze the photo and answer the question.

Answer the following question with complete sentences.

What is interesting or surprising about the situation captured in this picture?
Picturing the Great Depression

Directions:
• Analyze the photo and answer the question.

Answer the following question with complete sentences.
What problems or frustrations are suggested by this picture?

Picturing the Great Depression

Directions:
• Analyze the photo and answer the question.

Answer the following question with a complete sentence.
What help seems to be needed here?
Directions:
• Analyze the photo and answer the question.

Answer the following question with complete sentences.

What is unique about this image that the photographer wanted to capture?

---

AMERICA IN THE 20TH CENTURY: THE GREAT DEPRESSION

HARD TIMES

Directions: Explore the photographs of the Great Depression on the website listed below. Select one of the photographs and write a news article that would have been in the newspaper during the 1930s that corresponds to the photo. Remember to include the title of the article and the six main components of an article: who, what, when, where, why, and how.

Website: http://newdeal.fdr.org/library/index.htm

Title of selected photograph: ____________________________

TITLE OF ARTICLE: __________________________________

_____________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________

In upcoming slides, you will view many photos of the Depression. Choose one to complete this assignment!
Q. What does this picture show?

Q. What's going on here?
Life in the Cities: Breadlines

Q. And here? Does this photo surprise you?
Soup Kitchens

Q. What's unusual about this?
Lesson Eight: Hardships

Audio:
www.mp3.com/2a/9146_em80212

Brother, Can You Spare a Dime?

They used to tell me I was building a dream
And so I followed the mob
When there was earth to plow or guns to bear
I was always there, right on the job

They used to tell me I was building a dream
With peace and glory ahead
Why should I be standing in line
Just waiting for her aid?

Once I built a railroad, made it run
Made it race against time
Once I built a railroad, now it's done
Brother can you spare a dime?

Once I built a tower to the sun
Brick and cement and lime
Once I built a tower, now it's done
Brother can you spare a dime?

Once in khaki suits, gee we looked swell
Full of that shadow doodle dam
Half a million boots were shuffling through hell
And I was the kid with a dream

Say, don't you remember they called me All?
It was All all the time
Say, don't you remember, To your pal
Buddy can you spare a dime?

Let's analyze this!
What does it say about life during this time?

Was there any hope for these families?
Hopping on a moving freight train was a dangerous act, but in the 30s hundreds of thousands of men and women did it. Used by permission: Saskatchewan Interactive. Click for Web site.

**AMERICA IN THE 20TH CENTURY: THE GREAT DEPRESSION**

**RIDING THE RAILS**

Directions: Explore the website listed below. Read the "Tales from the Rails," the true stories of teenagers who rode the rails during the Great Depression. After reviewing the stories, write your own journal entry of a day as a teenager riding the rails during the Depression.

Website: [http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/rails/sfeature/tales.html](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/rails/sfeature/tales.html)

Your class work/homework, due tomorrow!
**Conclusion: Looking Ahead...**

- Over the next couple of days, we will take this a step further, so that you can really experience what it was like to live during the early days of the Great Depression! We will begin to research the type of clothing and food people could afford. By Friday, I want you to come dressed in old clothes and rags! (No, I’m not joking!)

---

**Warm UP/Do Now: What do these recipes tell you about life during the Depression?**

**“Taste the Great Depression” Recipes**

- **Bean Sandwiches**
  - **Version 1:**
    - Serve two or more
    - Get a loaf of unlined bread in half the sheet way.
    - Hollow one part of each half.
    - Dump a can of beans into a Crock Pot or into a pan.
    - Heat the beans in the Crock Pot or on a stove. Use medium heat.
    - Fill each hollow bread half with warm beans.

- **Version 2:**
  - Cook beans of your choice.
  - Mash up the beans into a spreadable paste.
  - Spread on slice of bread.
  - Eat.

- **Hobo Stew**
  - Choose a vegetable, cooked meat, salt and pepper, or some herbs.
  - Put the ingredients in a large pot.
  - Add 1 – 3 cups of water, as enough to cover.
  - Simmer covered for about one hour on low to medium heat.
  - Stir occasionally.
  - Add more water if more servings are needed.

- **“Taste the Great Depression” Recipes**
  - **Chicken Soup Without Chicken**
    - Boil a pork shank and vegetable of equal size in enough water to cover.
    - Salt when nearly done.
    - When the meat slips off the bone easily, separate the meat from the fat and chop.
    - Let the liquid cool, and remove all fat from the top.
    - Add the meat, pepper, and celery to flavor.
    - **Coked Cabbage**
      - Cut cabbage up finely and boil until done in salted water.
      - Drain through a colander until the water is all out.
      - To each quart of cooked cabbage add ½ cup of cream sauce, 1 tablespoon of butter and pepper to taste.
      - Place over fire and stir about five minutes.
      - Serve.
    - **A Good Cream Pie (also known as Milk Pie)**
      - Mix together 1 tablespoon of flour and seven tablespoons of sugar.
      - In a separate bowl, mix two cups of cream milk and two cups of separate cream (heavy cream).
      - Stir in sugar and cream gradually to avoid lumps.
      - Pour into pie dish.
      - Stir in the cream whites of two eggs just before putting the cream into pie.
      - Use crumbled pie shells.
      - This will make three pies.
Activity: Everybody Has To Eat: The Cost of the Depression

It’s the Great Depression! You have sold some of your furniture to make ends meet. No more desks, so have a seat on the floor. Get pen and paper ready!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>½ bu. Meal</td>
<td>.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 boxes oatmeal</td>
<td>.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 cans milk</td>
<td>.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 lbs. sweet potatoes</td>
<td>.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 lbs. dried beans</td>
<td>.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 oz. can tomatoes</td>
<td>.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 lbs. cabbage</td>
<td>.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 lbs. dried fruit</td>
<td>.58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 lbs. onions</td>
<td>.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loaf of bread</td>
<td>.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 lb. round steak</td>
<td>.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 lbs. lard</td>
<td>.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 gal. molasses</td>
<td>.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 lbs. ham</td>
<td>.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 box salt</td>
<td>.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 box soda powder</td>
<td>.10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Directions—Complete in 30 minutes or less:
It’s Winter 1932. Your average weekly salary was $26.31. However, you just lost your job, so you only have $26.31 to survive on for right now. You will create a balanced budget.

You have the following bills (You will need write down whether you decide to pay for some or all of them):
1) $4 for electricity—pay it or lose electricity!
2) $5 for gas—pay it or lose heat and the ability to use the stove!
3) $2 for water—pay it or lose running water!
4) $10 for the dentist—Your newborn baby has a horrible toothache and her mouth is becoming swollen and infected. She does not stop crying!

Now, create a food budget with what’s left over of your money.
1) You need food to feed your family, which includes your spouse and two children. Using the list of food and prices (left), buy enough food for the week. Write down your purchases and add up the total.
2) For each day of the week, Sunday through Saturday, you need to write a description of at least two meals you plan to serve per day.
   For example: Sunday: Breakfast—milk and dried fruit Dinner—Ham and potatoes
3) Write about the emotions you felt, as you placed yourself in this situation. What did you learn?
How Do You Feel?

Study these images, and then answer the following questions in complete sentences.

Farmhouse
Farmer's Son
Topsoil

1. Speculate as to when and where these photographs may have been taken.

2. Which image "speaks" to you and why?

3. If every picture tells a story, what story do these photographs convey?

4. What questions do these images evoke?

Warm Up/Do Now

Directions:
• Complete the questions on the "Dustbowl."

The Dustbowl

Causes of the Dustbowl:
1)  
2)  
3)  

1934 - a wind storm blows millions of tons of the nation’s dusted soil into the air.
• Many people moved to California to escape the dust and look for work.
  • "Okies" became the term for these migrant workers because many originated in Oklahoma.

Dorothea Lange

"Migrant Mother."
• Dorothea Lange traveled the west taking photos of migrant workers.
  • She came across this 17 year-old woman.
    • She ate frozen vegetables from the field or birds her children shot with a slingshot.
    • She sold the tires on her car for money.
    • The woman in the photograph hoped Lange’s photos could bring help to the nation.

Task: What other people from U.S. History can you think of that helped bring the nation’s problems to light?
The Dust Bowl, 1933-1939

Where was it?
- The Great Plains region—N. & S. Dakota, Nebraska, Colorado, Kansas Oklahoma and northern Texas

What Caused it?
- Farmers plow the plains, eliminating the protective layer of grass
- Wheat replaces grass—tractors make it much easier
- Severe drought
- High winds
- Layers of top soil blown away, leaving dunes of grit and sand

April 14, 1935—Black Sunday—Was one of the worst “black blizzards”

Lesson Eight Monday 8
Dust Storm Disater, 1935
By Woody Guthrie

On the 14th day of April of 1935,
There struck the west of dust storms that ever filled the sky.
You could see that dust storm apple,
It showed itself darklike black.
And through our mighty nation, it was a dreadful task.

From Oklahoma in to the Arizona line,
Dakota and Nebraska to the lazy Rio Grande.
It fell across our city like a curtain of black rolled down.
We thought it was our judgment, we thought it was our doom.

The radio reported, we listened with alarm.
The wind and wind's action of this great mysterious storm.
From Albuquerque and Clovis and all New Mexico.
They said it was the blackest that ever they had saw.

From old Dodge City, Kansas, the dust had raised their howl.
A tremendous rounded dust vortex on top of old Good Hill.

From Denver, Colorado, they said it was to strong.
They thought that they could hold out, but they didn't know how long.

Our relatives were huddled into their oil born shacks.
And the children they were crying as it whirled through the cracks.
And the family it was carried into those little rooms.
They thought the world had ended, and they thought it was their doom.

The storm took place at sundown, it lasted through the night.
What we looked out next morning, we saw a terrible sight.
We saw outside our window where wheat fields they had seen
Was now a sprawling ocean of dust the wind had blown.

It covered up our fences, it covered up our barn.
It covered up our waters in this wild and dust storm.
We loaded our jakes and piled our families in.

We traveled down that highway to never come back again.

Question:
- What lyrical techniques does this songwriter use to describe “Black Sunday?”
Which areas defined The Dust Bowl?
The fertile soil of the Great Plains was exposed through removal of grass during plowing. During the drought, the soil dried out, became dust, and blew away eastwards, mostly in large black clouds.
Interesting fact: The dust storms could suffocate birds flying in the air, causing them to fall dead to the ground!

• At times, the clouds blackened the sky all the way to Chicago, and much of the soil was completely lost into the Atlantic Ocean.
Sand covering a farm after a dust storm

Curtains of thick sand would blow across the plains and seep into every crevice and cranny imaginable. The fine dust would get into food, water, and houses even though people did their best to protect themselves from it. It was described by a news journalist the following way: “I went inside the dust storm that for three weeks obscured the sun and made everything, food, water, even the air taken into the lungs, taste gritty. It blew into the eyes, underneath the collar; undressing, there were specks of dust inside the buttonholes; in the morning it had gathered like fine snow along the window ledge; it penetrated even more; it seeped along the wiring of the house; and along the edges of the door button there was a dusty brown stain.” (Quoted in Don Congdon, The 30’s: A Time to Remember. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1962)
An abandoned farm in Kansas.

A collage of newspaper headlines from the Dust Bowl
Some residents of the Plains, in especially Kansas and Oklahoma, fell prey to illnesses and death from dust pneumonia and the effects of malnutrition.

This ecological disaster, which began as the economic effects of the Great Depression were intensifying, caused an exodus from Texas, Oklahoma, and the surrounding Great Plains, with over 500,000 Americans left homeless. Many of these Americans—called Oakies—migrated west looking for work.
VIDEO: GREAT BOOKS—THE GRAPES OF WRATH
25 minutes

Q. How does this famous book effectively portray the struggles of migrant farmers during the Dustbowl Era?

Seminar Notes

All answers should be as specific as possible, and unless otherwise stated, given from the point of view from the author. Full credit will be awarded for direct use of the primary source.

USE DIRECT QUOTES FROM THE PRIMARY MATERIAL.

8.2 Cannery Row John Steinbeck

A. Answer the below questions in paragraph form.
   1. What does work mean to the average American?
   2. What symbols does Steinbeck create which speak to the American experience in the depression?
   3. What does literature tell you about the depression that “history” cannot?
ASSIGNMENT:

• Read “Dust Bowl Exodus: How Drought and the Depression Took Their Toll” and complete “For Discussion” questions.

Activity: Analyze the Dust Bowl through Song and Lyric!

• Take out a sheet of paper and a pen and get ready to analyze several songs on the Dust Bowl. You will need to answer several accompanying questions and then write a song of your own on the Dust Bowl!
Question:

- According to this songwriter, what is a “dustbowl refugee”?
- What problems do these people face?
What was the Oakies’ daily life like?

- “Why We Come to Californy”
  By Jack Bryant, Firebaugh, 1940

  You’ve all heard the story
  Of old Sunny Cal
  The place where it never rains
  They say it don’t know how.

  They say, "Come on, you Okies,
  Work is easy found
  Bring along your cotton pack
  You can pick the whole year round.

  Get your money ever’ night
  Spread your blanket on the ground
  It’s always bright and warm
  You can sleep right on the ground."

  But listen to me Okies
  I came out here one day
  Spent all my money getting here
  Now I can’t get away.

Question:

- What do you think was the importance of Route 66 during the 1930’s?
Directions
- Read this selection and then complete the activities as described.

The Great Depression

Dust Bowl Activity: Your Choice—20 minutes!

- 1) Draw a picture which illustrates the causes of the dust bowl. Make sure to label the different layers of earth, the climate effects, and the manmade causes.

- 2) Write lyrics for a song entitled something like “The Dust Bowl Blues.” Describe to your audience exactly how the dust bowl happened, and what happened to you because of it. It should be at least twelve lines.