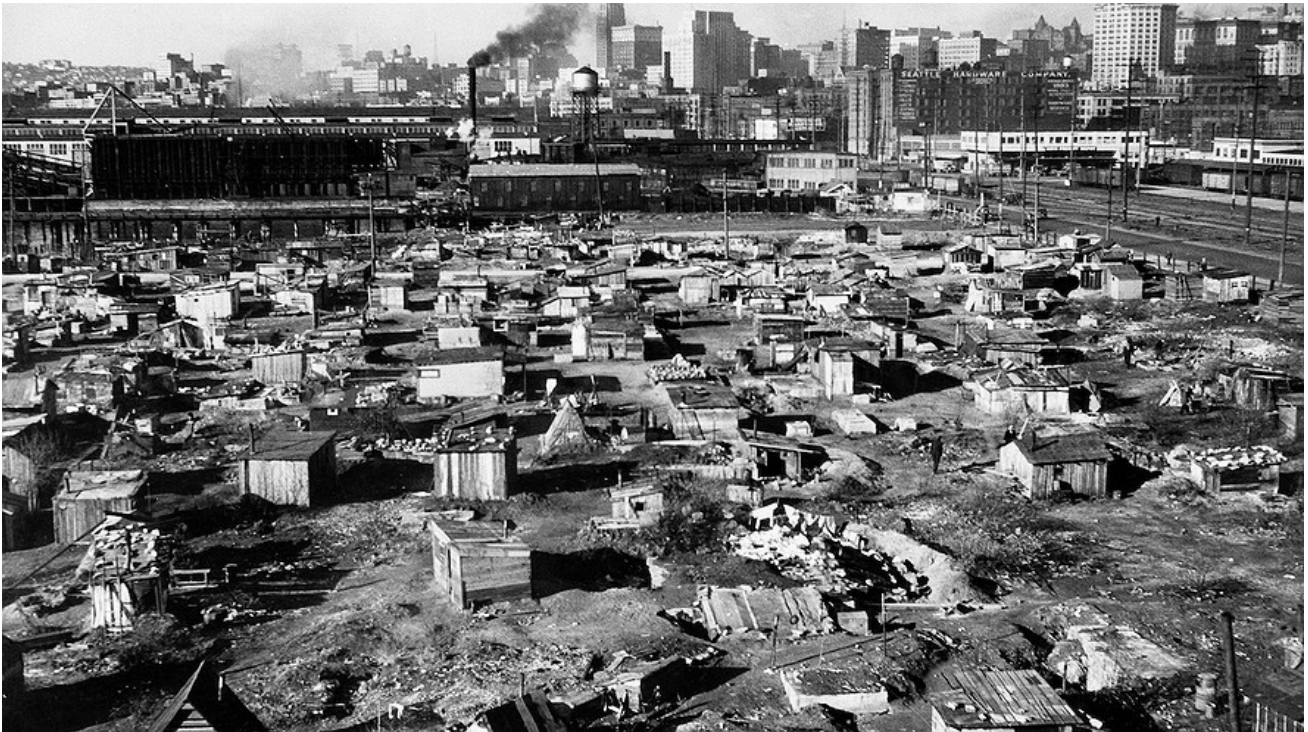


# Hoovervilles: The Shantytowns of the Great Depression

By History.com, adapted by Newsela staff on 04.04.17

Word Count **702**

Level **830L**



A typical shantytown of the Great Depression in the United States, this one located in a city. Photo: WPA

The Great Depression was an economic crisis that began in 1929. Many people had invested money in the stock market and when it crashed they lost much of the money they had invested. People stopped spending money and investing. Banks did not have enough money, which led many people to lose their savings. Many Americans lost money, their homes and their jobs. Homeless Americans began to build their own camps on the edges of cities, where they lived in shacks and other crude shelters. These areas were known as shantytowns. As the Depression got worse, many Americans asked the U.S. government for help. When the government failed to provide relief, the people blamed President Herbert Hoover for their poverty. The shantytowns became known as Hoovervilles.

In 1932, Hoover lost the presidential election to Franklin Roosevelt. Roosevelt created programs that helped lift the U.S. out of the Depression. By the early 1940s, most remaining Hoovervilles were torn down.

## **The Great Depression sets in**

The Great Depression was one of the most terrible events of the 1900s, and led to a huge rise in unemployment. By 1933, 1 out of 4 Americans was out of work.

Americans looked to the U.S. government for help. But President Hoover did not support using the government to help people find work. He believed that people just needed to work harder on their own to improve their lives. In Hoover's view, life would get better if people would simply help one another. Although people donated more to charity during the early 1930s, the amounts given were not enough to make a big difference. Many Americans were still struggling.

## **The rise of Hoovervilles**

As the Depression got worse, many Americans lost their homes. Desperate for shelter, homeless people built shantytowns in and around cities across the nation. These camps came to be called Hoovervilles, after the president.

Hooverville shanties were made of cardboard, wood, tin and whatever other materials people could find. Most shelters needed constant repair. Some homes were not buildings at all, but deep holes dug in the ground. Roofs were laid over them to keep out bad weather.



## Life in a Hooverville

No two Hoovervilles were quite alike, and the camps varied in population and size. Some were as small as a few hundred people, while others had thousands of inhabitants. St. Louis, Missouri, was home to one of the country's largest Hoovervilles.

Whenever possible, Hoovervilles were built near rivers so that people had water. Some Hoovervilles were dotted with vegetable gardens. Individual shacks sometimes contained furniture a family had carried from their former home. However, Hoovervilles were usually grim and unclean. They posed health risks to their inhabitants as well as to those living nearby.

## Hoover out, Roosevelt in

People used the term "Hooverville" to make fun of the president they blamed for their problems. They also used President Hoover's name in other ways. For example, newspapers used to protect the homeless from the cold were called "Hoover blankets." The cardboard used to patch holes in shoes was called "Hoover leather."

In 1932, people's anger at the president reached its peak. That year, thousands of men who had fought in World War I set up a Hooverville on the banks of the Anacostia River in Washington, D.C. They had been promised money from the government for their service in the war. In June, many of these men marched to the Capitol to request their money. However, the government refused to pay. When the former soldiers refused to leave their shacks, President Hoover sent U.S. Army leader Douglas MacArthur to kick them out. MacArthur's troops set fire to the Hooverville and drove the group from the city.

The next presidential election was in 1932. Hoover was so unpopular that he lost in a landslide to Franklin D. Roosevelt. Roosevelt created a government program known as the New Deal that helped put people back to work. By the early 1940s, many Hoovervilles had been torn down.

## Quiz

- 1 Based on the section "The Great Depression sets in," which of the following statements is TRUE?
- (A) Led by Hoover, the government quickly created programs to help people who had lost their jobs.
  - (B) Hoover believed the best way for people to make their lives better was to work harder on their own.
  - (C) Money given to charities during the Great Depression made a big difference for struggling people.
  - (D) People donated less money to charity during the Great Depression than they had before it started.
- 2 Which sentence from the article shows that people tried to fill their Hoovervilles with familiar objects?
- (A) Hooverville shanties were made of cardboard, wood, tin and whatever other materials people could find.
  - (B) Some were as small as a few hundred people, while others had thousands of inhabitants.
  - (C) Individual shacks sometimes contained furniture a family had carried from their former home.
  - (D) They posed health risks to their inhabitants as well as to those living nearby.
- 3 Which answer choice BEST describes the structure of the section "Hoover out, Roosevelt in"?
- (A) compare and contrast
  - (B) problem and solution
  - (C) cause and effect
  - (D) fact and opinion
- 4 Fill in the blank in the sentence below.
- In the two opening paragraphs, the author \_\_\_.
- (A) summarizes the main ideas detailed in the article
  - (B) explains the pros and cons of events in the article
  - (C) compares presidents who are the focus of the article
  - (D) shows the actions of banks described in the article

## Answer Key

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# HANDOUT 6: PREVIEW ACTIVITY

## THE NEW DEAL

What do you see?

What do you know?

What questions do you have?

Circle the type of source:

Primary    Secondary



**Directions:** Analyze the political cartoon and answer the following questions.

1. Identify the overall metaphor. What two main things are being compared?
2. Now identify other parts of the metaphor.
3. Whose point of view is being expressed? Is it Roosevelt's? The American public's? The cartoonist's?
4. According to that point of view, what is the problem?
5. If you could add a remedy to the cartoon, what might you draw in?
6. How did Roosevelt plan to solve the Great Depression?

## **Herbert Hoover Vs. Franklin Roosevelt (Compare and Contrast)**

### **Herbert Hoover:**

Herbert Hoover took a hands off approach to government meant he did not want to much power given to the government. He believed that the economy could take care of itself. He would constantly say “prosperity is right around the corner.” Unfortunately this is not the case.

Hoovers idea to help the economy was feeding money to the business. Instead of giving money directly to the struggling Americans he believed in the “trickle-down” mentality. The idea was to give money to businesses and they would take the money and give it to the workers. He passes The Reconstruction Finance Corporation to do this. He only gave them 1.5 billion dollars to do this. It was too little too late and it was not very successful in keeping business from going bankrupt.

His international approach did not work either. Increasing tariffs on imported goods was thought to help encourage American citizens to buy American made goods. The Smoot Hawley Tariff increased tax on imports by 50 %. All this did was cause tension in international trade.

### **Franklin Roosevelt:**

Franklin Roosevelt won the 1932 election by promising relief programs and that he would create jobs for the common man. Unlike Hoover, Roosevelt believed that the federal government needed to be more involved in the economy. By giving money/creating jobs to people in need you will create citizens who can buy goods. This means businesses will be able to make money.

The policies enacted by President Roosevelt between 1933-1936 became known as the New Deal. The new deal promised the American people relief, recovery, and reform in the economy. The initial hundred day of the New Deal (March 9<sup>th</sup>-June 16<sup>th</sup> 1933) is critical to FDR’s recovery plan. On the first day of the New Deal Congress passed the Emergency Banking Act. This closed all bank for four days to be inspected. It also created the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. The FDIC job is to insure the safety of investors’ money. This helped give the American people confidence in banks.

During the first hundred days Roosevelt enacted multiple government programs to create jobs. Many of these programs were set on creating jobs for the American people. The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) provided training for multiple crafts to help prepare them for a career. The Workers Progress Administration was the largest New Deal program and created jobs for millions of Americans by completing public works programs (building parks, roads, houses, etc.). The National Recovery Act was created on the last day of the New Deal and it required businesses in the same industries to cooperate with each other to set prices and output (how much goods a business can produce). Many believe the first 100 days were key in getting the U.S. out of the depression, but the New Deal wasn’t perfect. Many believe that some policies from the New Deal are still negatively affecting us today.

**\*\*\*Refer to page two for the assignment that goes with the reading above.**



**Action needed:**

In the provided graphic organizer below, using direct evidence from the text above, compare and contrast these two former Presidents of the United States. You may have more or less than what is available in the spaces below.

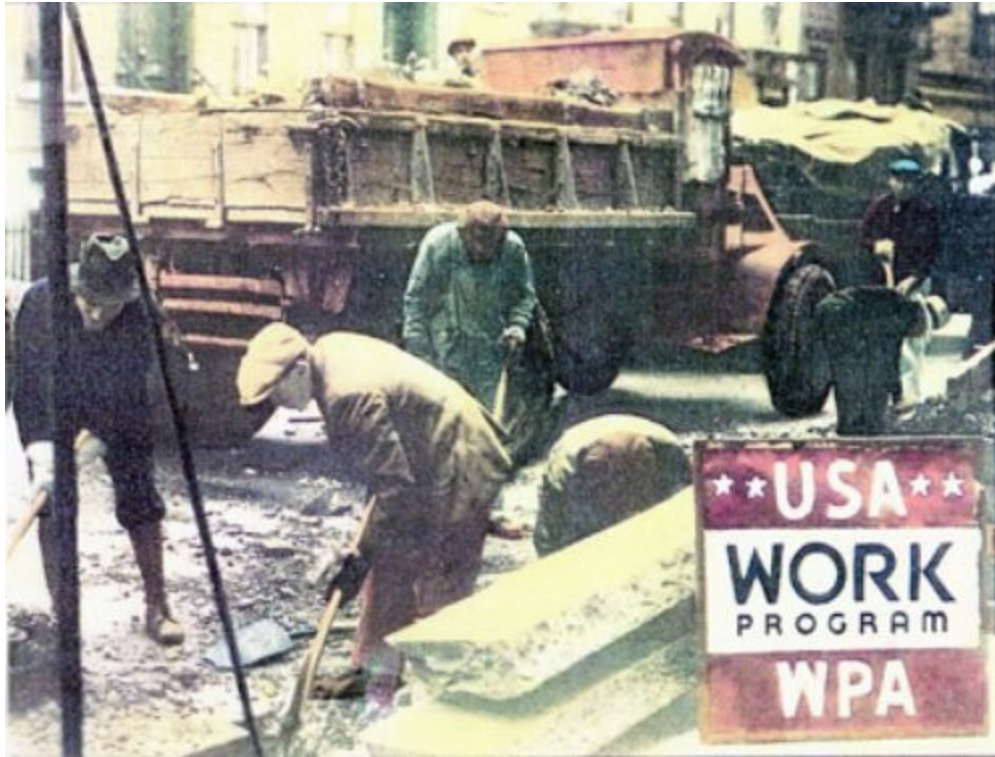
Hoover	Both	Roosevelt

FDR Speech Flocabulary Link:

<https://www.flocabulary.com/unit/fdr-speech-great-depression/>

# Different Paths

by Edward I. Maxwell



"Two roads diverged in a yellow wood..." That is how one of Robert Frost's most famous poems, "The Road Not Taken," begins. He goes on to consider what it means to take paths through life that have not been charted before. When considering what it means to experiment and discover new solutions, Frost's poem is very appropriate. New solutions for new problems very rarely mirror solutions that have come before. While past experience and knowledge of previous answers are important when facing new challenges, ultimately the problem solver must try something untested. It is for this very reason that companies, governments and other organizations, when faced with a particularly difficult challenge, assign several different and independent groups the job of finding a solution. This increases the chances of solving the problem more quickly.

A period from American history that exemplifies this concept is the New Deal Era. During this period the American people, their government, and various companies across the country, embarked upon several different, *untested* courses of action to combat the Great Depression, and lift the country out of a downward spiral. Countless programs were imagined and initiated, groups invested in new technologies and techniques, and people sought out new ways to keep their lives on an even-keel. Most notably, Franklin Delano Roosevelt (FDR), serving as President of the United States, set about to establish a great variety of government programs. These programs were meant to nurture recovery on several different fronts. FDR understood the likelihood that certain plans, no matter how well-crafted, might fail to truly bring about recovery. Therefore, he called for the development of several.

Roosevelt turned to his "Brain Trust" to help create all these government programs. The Brain Trust

was a group of cabinet members and advisors who were very close to the President. These men and women worked in all different fields, from economics and manufacturing, to the arts and anthropology. Each had his or her own area of expertise, and was asked by Roosevelt to create a solution specific to that particular area. Roosevelt was determined to not only mend the economic or financial injuries to the American people, but also to mend the injuries to their spirit, sense of initiative, purpose and creativity. Roosevelt viewed the Great Depression as a complicated problem that had arisen within a complicated society. Only a great number of various programs could address most of the country's problems and also ensure that many of the programs survived.

Three important New Deal government programs were the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), Works Progress Administration (WPA), and the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). Such programs were part of FDR's *alphabet soup* of policies.

The Civilian Conservation Corps was a group of young men between the ages of 18 and 25 who were responsible for helping to keep safe and cultivate certain natural resources across the United States. The CCC was incredibly popular. It was very successful in boosting the morale, or sense of well-being, among its workers. These young men were paid \$30 a month, sending \$25 home to their parents. Living in camps, they worked to plant new trees, helped America's forests regrow, built roads, and made adjustments to the land to protect it from floods, fires and erosion.

The Tennessee Valley Authority is a government-owned corporation that sought to rejuvenate the economy of the Tennessee Valley region during the Great Depression. This corporation set out to fulfill these goals by constructing dams to generate hydroelectric power as well as building coal-burning plants to generate electricity. The TVA was incredibly successful in meeting the region's electricity needs. Countless individuals worked as part of the TVA's initiatives, whether constructing new dams and plants or operating existing ones.

The Works Progress Administration gave jobs to millions of Americans and was the largest New Deal program. WPA workers helped build roads and public buildings, including many schools. A smaller group of American artists, musicians, writers, actors and directors were also given jobs by the WPA. This was a large part of FDR's goal to heal more than just each American's money troubles. He wanted to help American culture grow, even during a time of great hardship. The WPA is credited with funding many murals and other pieces of art across the United States. These art pieces were meant to inspire and reenergize the American people. The program also gave artists the chance to practice their craft and earn a living wage.

The New Deal Era was a period in American history during which almost every possible solution you could imagine was tried. FDR was determined to hit the Great Depression with everything he could manage. It may be, however, that the efforts of the New Deal programs were not what finally ended the Great Depression. World War II broke out in 1939, and the United States entered the war in December of 1941. Many men became soldiers and many women went to work on military assembly lines. Almost overnight, American factories were producing everything from bullets and guns to tanks and airplanes. Uniforms needed to be stitched and food rations needed to be grown. It may be that this war effort was the single thing that helped most to put America back to work. Suddenly, the Great Depression was forgotten in the face of a military threat from overseas.

# determined                                  de         .         ter         .         mined

## Advanced Definition

### adjective

1. characterized by determination; resolute.

*a determined competitor*

2. decided; settled.

## Spanish cognate

*determinado*: The Spanish word *determinado* means determined.

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## These are some examples of how the word or forms of the word are used:

1. Joining the American cause had the potential to both alienate him and disgrace his family. But Lafayette was **determined** to help the American cause.
2. While scientists have never **determined** whether the earthquake in 1990 directly caused the volcanic explosion a year later, the two events are generally considered to be related
3. While much of the brain is still mysterious to scientists, it has been **determined** that the memory center of the brain, where memories are made and stored, is closely linked to the sensory center, where the brain controls and processes your senses.
4. What the researchers found is that wild foxes, like wild dogs, are capable of being bred for tamability. Over the years, they also **determined** that selectively breeding silver foxes for tamability changes not only the way they behave, but also how they look.
5. Even with the expansion of greener alternatives, more conventional energy sources are required to meet energy demands in the short term. In 1969 the people of California, **determined** to prevent another tragedy like the Santa Barbara Spill from ever happening again, would have had a hard time imagining a world in such desperate need of new energy resources.
6. I went through the rest of my day and evening in a sort of trance, tingling with excitement, but so **determined** and focused that I had a sort of tunnel vision. I was surprised by how little my mother objected. She seemed to understand that I had to go, but I also suspected she didn't believe I would stay away
7. By understanding that lightning tended to hit the highest, nearest point, Franklin **determined** that putting a rod on the top of a building meant lightning would be more likely to hit that, than the house itself. Franklin's lightning rod connected to a wire that ran down through the house and into the ground, where it was attached to a ground rod.
8. The animals of our world have been shaped by millions and millions of years of evolution. Everything about them, their fur, their feet, and the shape of their beaks, has been **determined** by natural selection. Nature has tried many variations.

# initiate                                  in                  .                  i                  .                  ti                  .                  ate

## Advanced Definition

### transitive verb

1. to cause to begin; institute; originate.

*After two years of fighting, the warring countries have initiated peace negotiations.*

*The company has initiated a new policy concerning smoking.*

2. to provide with basic knowledge in a skill or field of learning.

*The new recruits were initiated in the techniques of self-defense.*

*He felt that the experience of being swindled initiated him as to the ways of the world.*

3. to admit as a member of a club or society by performing a formal ceremony or ritual.

*At the ceremony to initiate new members, each new person must repeat the club pledge.*

### noun

1. one who has been initiated.

*After the ceremony, there is a dinner in honor of the initiates.*

## Spanish cognate

*iniciar*. The Spanish word *iniciar* means initiate.

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## These are some examples of how the word or forms of the word are used:

1. Additionally, scientists and members of the government have **initiated** a plan to restore the Everglades to a healthier state of being, called the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP).
2. Before he left China, Saich was initiated as a master teacher of the Matrix approach, which meant he could **initiate** his own students in Japan into the tradition as well. He also copied many important texts from his Chinese teachers and brought them back to Japan for others to study
3. These hopes have led to significant growth within the green, or environmentally friendly, energy industry—wind power and solar power companies have popped up all over the country. However, government and corporate **initiatives** to increase U.S. energy production have also included more traditional energy resources. Developing offshore oil and natural gas resources has been a portion of those initiatives.

**recovery**                          re            ·            COV            ·            er            ·            y

### Advanced Definition

**noun**

1. the act of receiving back that which had been lost or stolen.
2. a return to normal conditions or health.

*the economic recovery following the war*

*a quick recovery from her operation*

3. the act of reclaiming waste substances for reuse in new products.

### Spanish cognate

*recuperación*: The Spanish word *recuperación* means recovery.

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### These are some examples of how the word or forms of the word are used:

1. The injury Anne experienced isn't unusual for young female athletes. It is something they dread, though, often requiring surgery and a lengthy **recovery** period. It's also something that medical researchers are studying in an effort to prevent so many girls from suffering.
2. After Hurricane Katrina devastated New Orleans, the National Guard was there. Soldiers and airmen from all 50 states were deployed to Louisiana to help people the same way they did after the Great Flood of 1927. Over 50,000 National Guardsmen were involved in the **recovery** efforts.
3. Following your doctor's orders will help you recover more quickly after surgery. "Once your surgeon tells you to get up and out of bed, do that," says Dr. Alanna Levine, a pediatrician in New York. "Getting out of bed really will help with **recovery**." Most teens are back to their usual activities in about 10 days.
4. When he failed to land a twisting double backflip during a trial for the 2010 Winter Olympics, Pearce suffered a traumatic brain injury. Though he was wearing a helmet at the time, the accident left him hospitalized in critical condition. Fortunately, Pearce has regained his ability to walk and talk and is on a slow but steady road to **recovery**.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1. What happened during the New Deal Era?

- A. Americans refused to embark on any untested courses of action.
- B. Americans fought the Great Depression in many different ways.
- C. Americans decided to end the Civilian Conservation Corps because it was not successful in boosting morale.
- D. Americans became very frightened of Roosevelt's Brain Trust.

2. What problem did the New Deal Programs try to solve?

- A. Roosevelt's Brain Trust
- B. the Tennessee Valley Authority
- C. World War II
- D. the Great Depression

3. The New Deal Programs helped Americans during the Great Depression.

What evidence from the passage supports this statement?

- A. The Civilian Conservation Corps boosted the morale of its workers, and the Works Progress Administration gave jobs to millions of Americans.
- B. After World War II broke out, American factories began producing everything from bullets and guns to tanks and airplanes.
- C. "The Road Not Taken," a famous poem by Robert Frost, considers what it means to take paths through life that have not been charted before.
- D. The men and women in Roosevelt's Brain Trust were experts in a variety of fields, from economics and manufacturing to the arts and anthropology.



4. Why might Roosevelt have asked the experts in his Brain Trust to help him create solutions in their particular fields?

- A. Because some of the members of his Brain Trust were experts in manufacturing, Roosevelt thought that they would be able to help the country build more tanks and airplanes.
- B. Because the experts knew a lot about their own fields, Roosevelt thought that they would be good at figuring out solutions involving their fields.
- C. Because the members of his Brain Trust included women as well as men, Roosevelt thought that they would be able to give balanced advice to Americans.
- D. Because the experts all had their own areas of specialty, Roosevelt thought that turning to them would keep any one field from becoming too powerful.

5. What is this passage mainly about?

- A. the Tennessee Valley Authority and how it provided electricity to one region of the United States
- B. the roads and public schools built by the Works Progress Administration
- C. the beginning of World War II and the reasons many Americans went to work on military assembly lines
- D. the New Deal Programs created to help solve the problem of the Great Depression

6. Read the following sentences: "Most notably, Franklin Delano Roosevelt (FDR), serving as President of the United States, set about to establish a great variety of government **programs**. These programs were meant to nurture recovery on several different fronts."

What does the word **programs** mean in the sentence above?

- A. events that celebrate important dates in American history
- B. concerns about the safety of everyday people in a time of war
- C. planned activities and procedures carried out to achieve a goal
- D. suggestions that citizens make to elected officials about how to run their country

7. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence below.

Roosevelt established several government programs, \_\_\_\_\_ the Tennessee Valley Authority, the Works Progress Administration, and the Civilian Conservation Corps.

- A. including
- B. instead
- C. in conclusion
- D. meanwhile

8. What was the Civilian Conservation Corps?

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9. What were some effects of creating the Civilian Conservation Corps?

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**10.** Did the New Deal Programs solve the problem of the Great Depression? Explain why or why not, using evidence from the passage.

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Quizizz link for the Great Depression

<https://quizizz.com/admin/quiz/5b0c673fdebf63001b02b722/great-depression>

# Causes of the Great Depression



# False signs of Prosperity in the 1920s

1. Many people were healthier
2. Stock value in 1925 was \$27B; By 1929 \$87B
3. Wages went up 40%
4. Employment was high
5. Belief that everyone could be rich
6. More people in the middle and upper class than ever before

# Great Depression

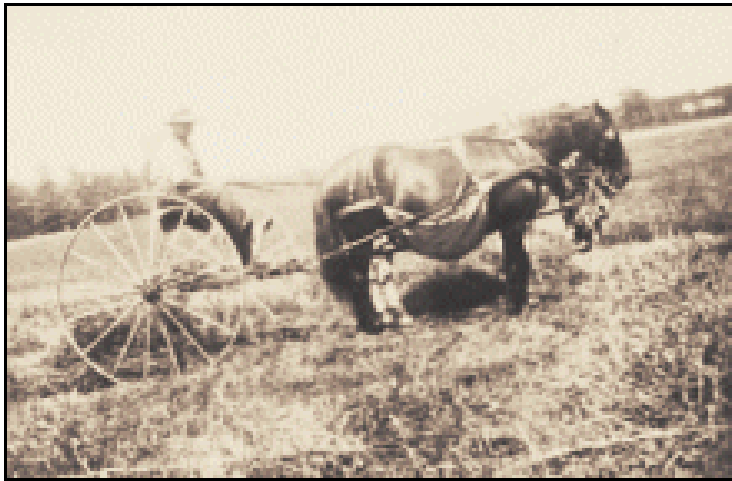
- Definition: The collapse of the United States and world economies beginning in 1929

# Causes:

- Throughout the 1920s many weak economic sectors of American caused an unstable economy.



[www.moonstar.com](http://www.moonstar.com)



[www.fairfaxcounty.gov](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov)

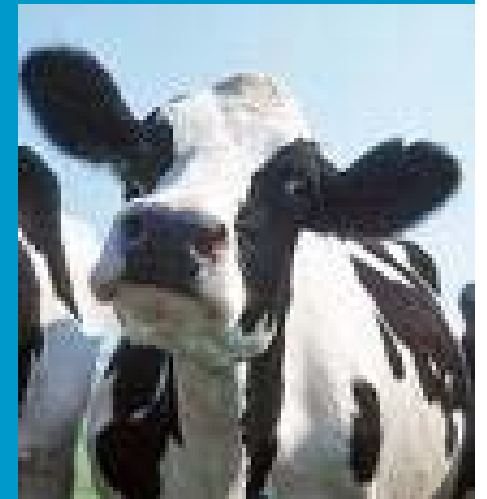


# 1. Farming

- Farmers always do well during war – they are able to sell food at high prices.
- 1914-1920 took out lots of loans to expand operations (i.e. tractors, larger fields, more cattle)



[www.cias.wisc.edu](http://www.cias.wisc.edu)



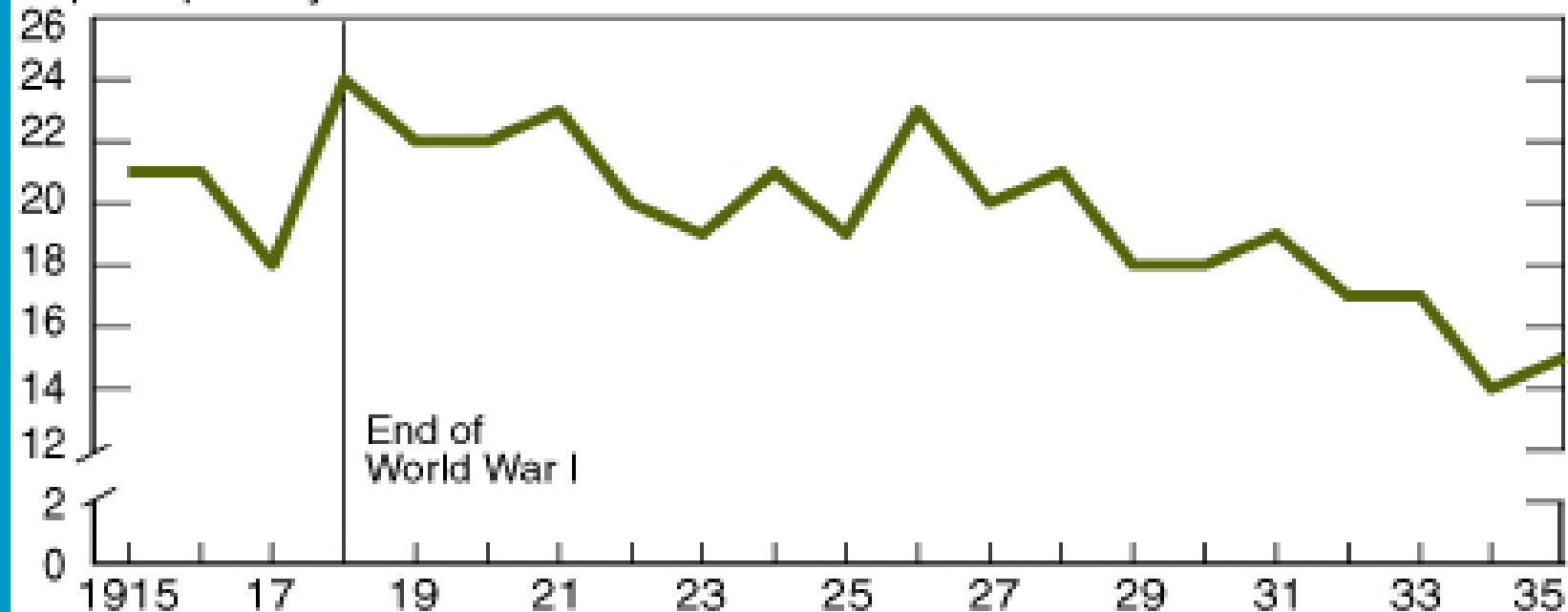
[www.cias.wisc.edu](http://www.cias.wisc.edu)

# Farming

After WWI food prices drop and farmers go into debt.

**Farm exports begin to fall as wartime demand disappears with World War I's end**

Export quantity index



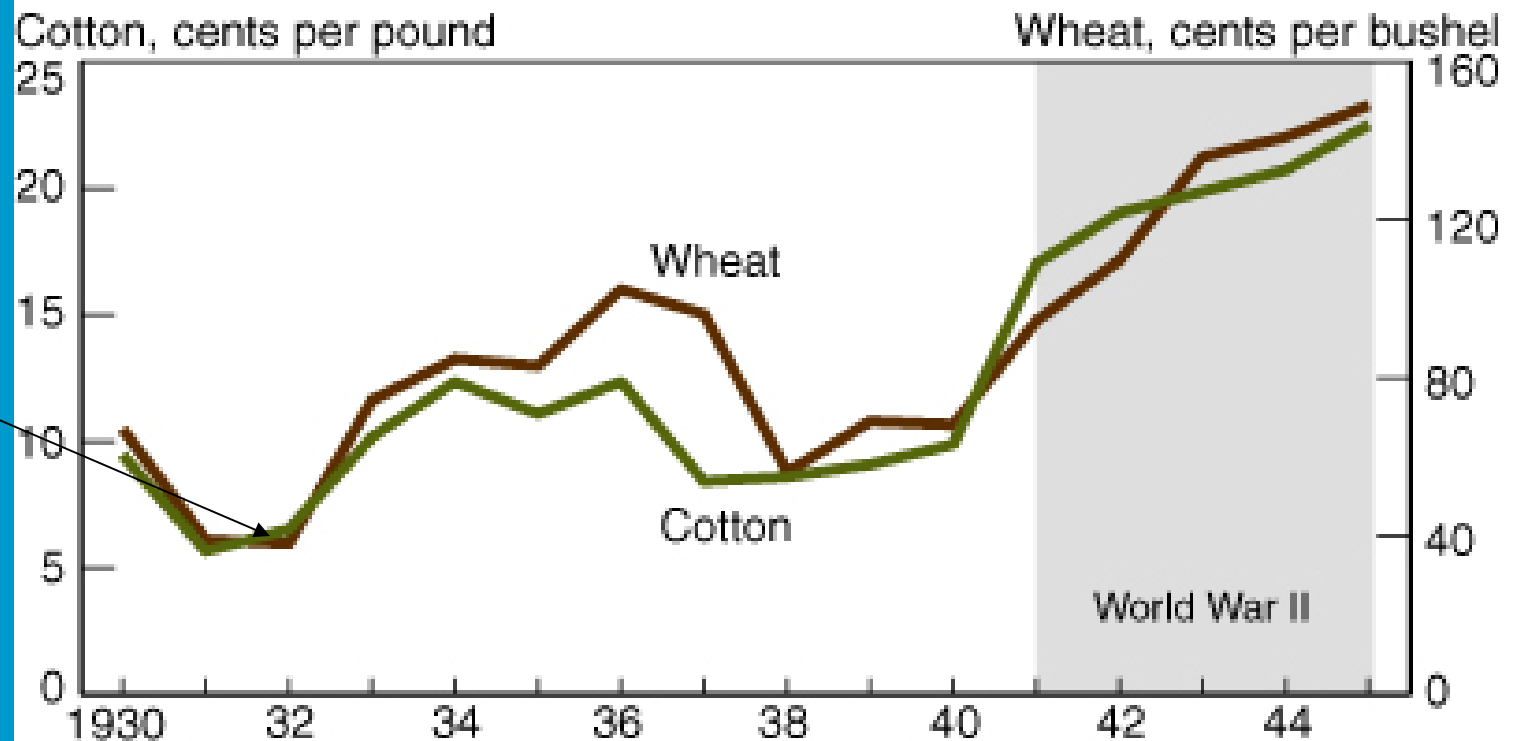
Note: Standard techniques were used to splice together four series using different base years; final base year is 1967. Data not available before 1915.

Source: Export quantity index, *Agricultural Statistics*, USDA, various issues.

# Farming

Farmers try to grow more crops but this drives prices lower and farmers go further into debt.

**The New Deal helps boost farm prices, but World War II proves to be a bigger stimulus**



FDR is elected in 1932. Starts government involvement in business affairs

Source: *Agricultural Statistics*, USDA, 1946.

# Dust Bowl

- 1930s Great Plains suffer huge dust storms that wipe out almost all farms. Most of these people were forced to migrate West to California and Oregon.



# Okies

- Okies were individuals from Oklahoma who migrated toward the West Coast during the Dust Bowl.

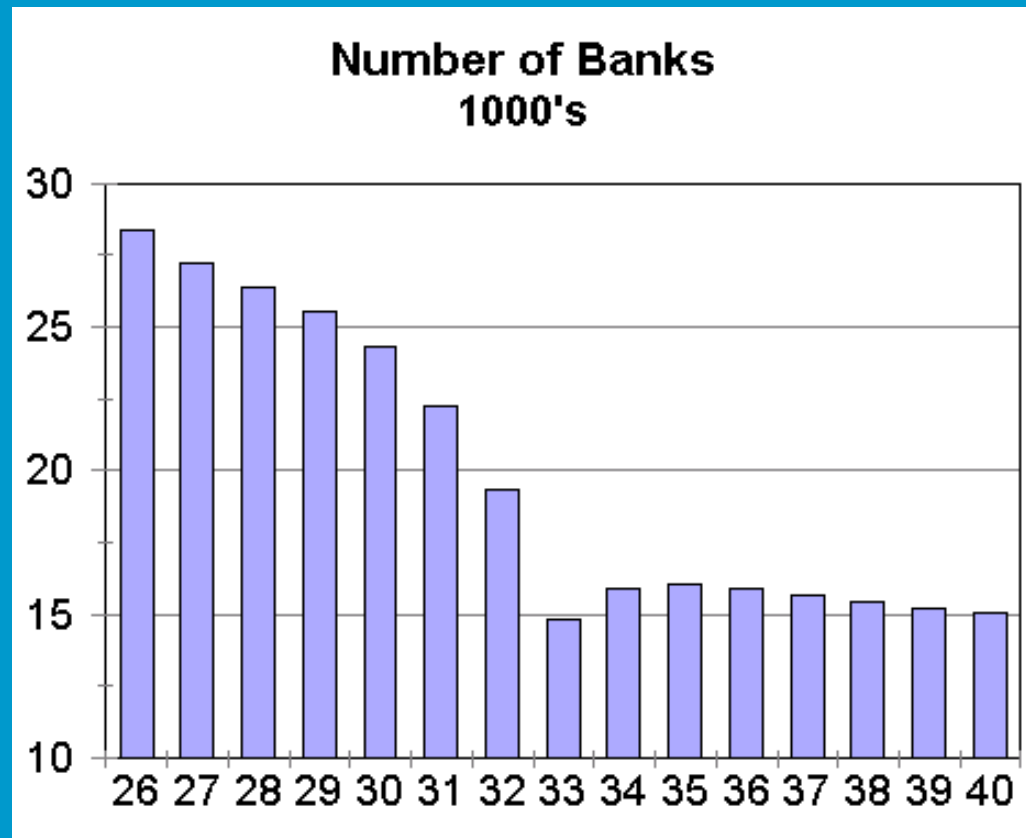


Migrant Mother. Destitute pea pickers in California. Mother of seven. Age 32. Nipomo, California Feb. 1936. Photo Dorothea Lange, LOC. [Click here to see and hear Florence Thompson, Migrant Mother.](#)



## 2. Banking

- Farmers and banking are connected
- 1920-1929 farmers can not pay loans back
- 6,000 banks fail in nine years



# Run on the Banks

- People begin to pull their money out of the bank.
- 1929-1933 5,000 More banks fail



One Billion dollars  
removed from  
banks by 1930

# 3. Business

- No loans to stay in business
- 1920s turn to stock market to invest money instead of banks
- Lose money in stocks – layoff workers and fire employees





## 4. Labor

- Increased number of layoffs and unemployed
- Wages did not keep up with cost of living
- No regulation for unemployed
  - no social security
  - no unemployment

Labor Bureau Office



- Many unemployed rode the rails looking for work.



[www.mhs.mb.ca](http://www.mhs.mb.ca)

# Unemployed

- Thousands would line up in the hope of finding work for the day or hopefully longer



# Bread Line

- People who could not find a job to make money during the depression were forced to wait in line for food handed out by the government.



# Hoovervilles

- During the Great Depression, shantytowns appeared across the U.S. as unemployed people were evicted from their homes.
- President Herbert Hoover believed that government assistance was not necessary to ameliorate the economic crisis at hand.
- When the government failed to provide relief, President Hoover was blamed for the intolerable economic and social conditions.

# Hoovervilles

- The shantytowns that cropped up across the nation became known as *Hoovervilles*.









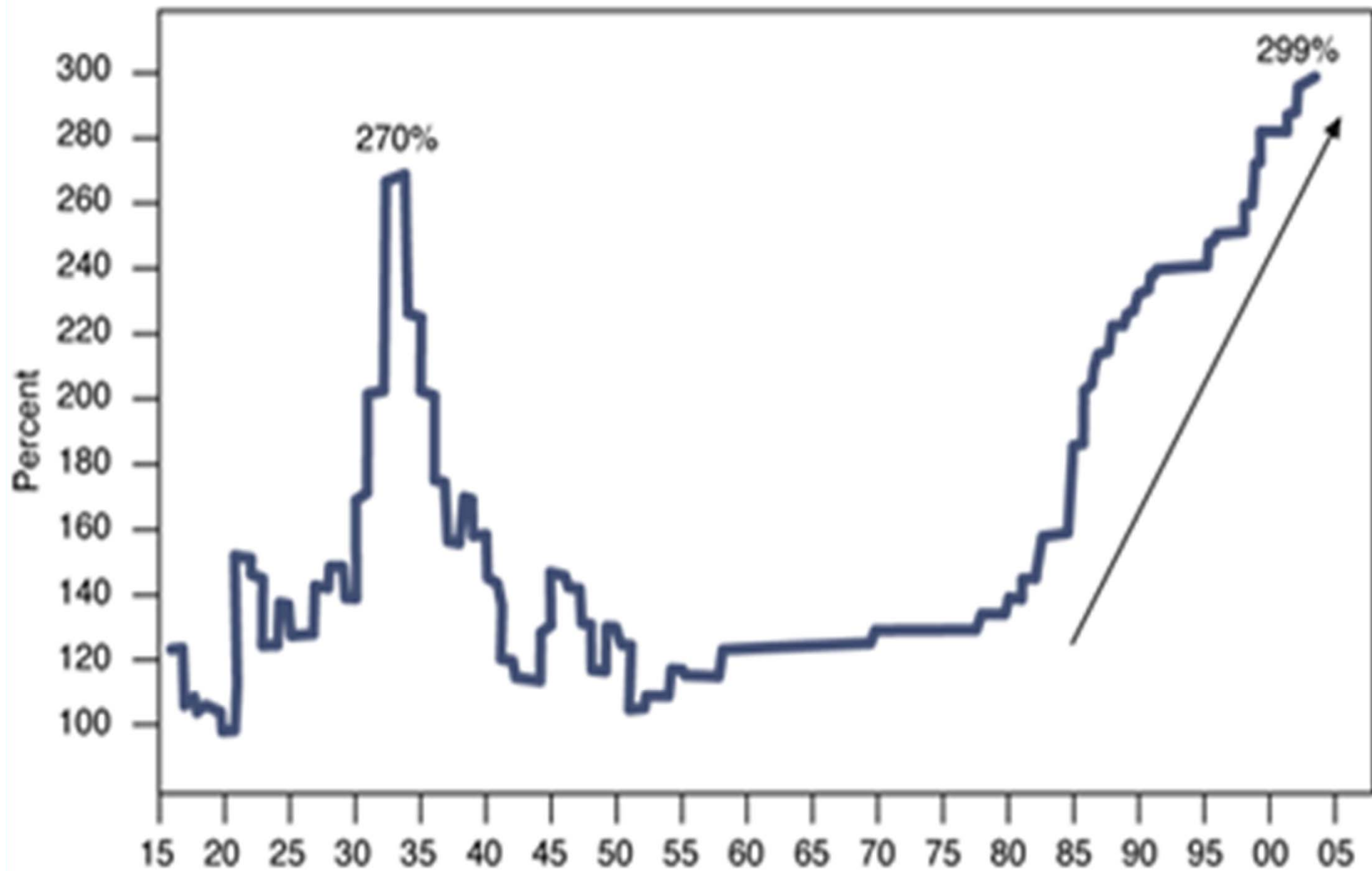


# 5. Buying on Credit

- 1920s people go on spending sprees
- Installment buying (buy now and pay later)
- By 1929 people are in major debt and can not pay it back.



# Total Credit Market Debt (all sectors) as % of U.S. GDP



Source: Gabelli

## 6. Overproduction

- Late 1920s- more goods produced than purchased.
- Overproduction caused industry to slow
- People were let go and related industries suffered.



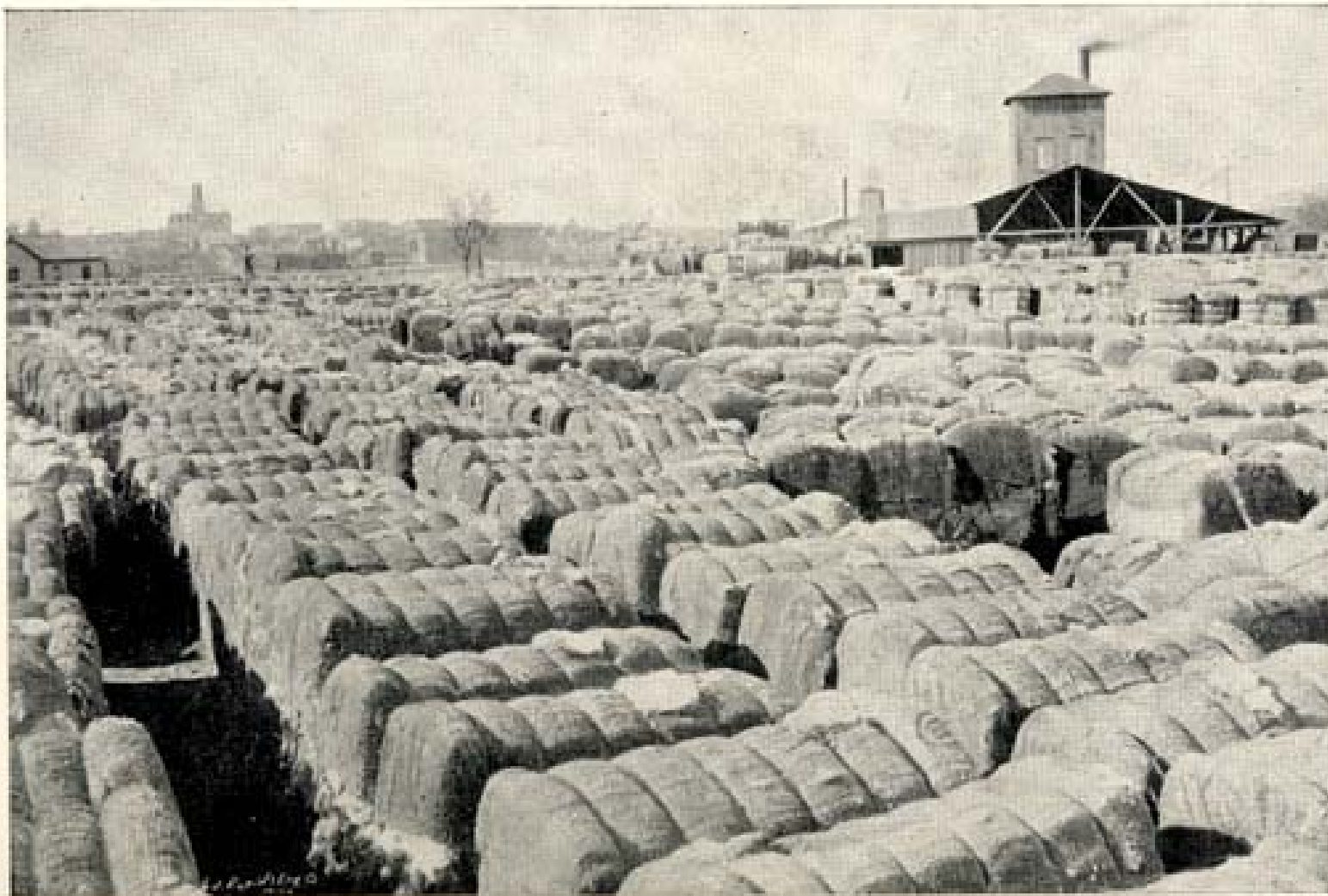


Fig. 8. Cotton Bales as Brought to the Compress.

[www.cmhpf.org](http://www.cmhpf.org)

**Too much cotton was left to rot with no buyers**

# 7. Uneven prosperity

- Rich were getting richer and the poor were getting more poor.
- Small portion of Americans had all the money
- 0.1% brought home most of the money and held 34% of the countries total savings
- 80% of Americans had no savings.
- Big business dominated – 200 companies controlled 49% of American industry



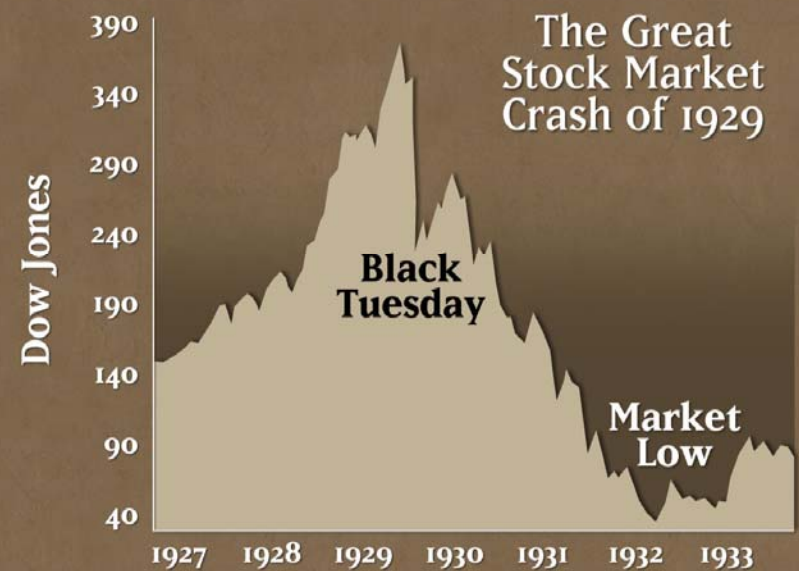
*"But, Jim, everybody said to buy now!"*



# 8. Speculation

- Making high risk investments in the hopes of a high gain.
- Usually only done by the wealthy – 1920s everyone tries to get rich
- Buying on Margin (Debt Speculation)
- Allowing investors to purchase stock for only a fraction of its cost and borrow the rest.
  - Many gave up life savings
  - Hoped stock would go up and pay off debt

Stock Market before and after Black Tuesday





# 9. Tariffs

- A **tariff** is a tax on imports.

Congress passed the **Hawley-Smoot Tariff** to protect American manufacturers from foreign competition. (By raising import tariffs to reduce the volume of goods coming into the U.S. and to protect American farmers)

The strategy was a mistake. Other nations retaliated and raised tariffs as well.

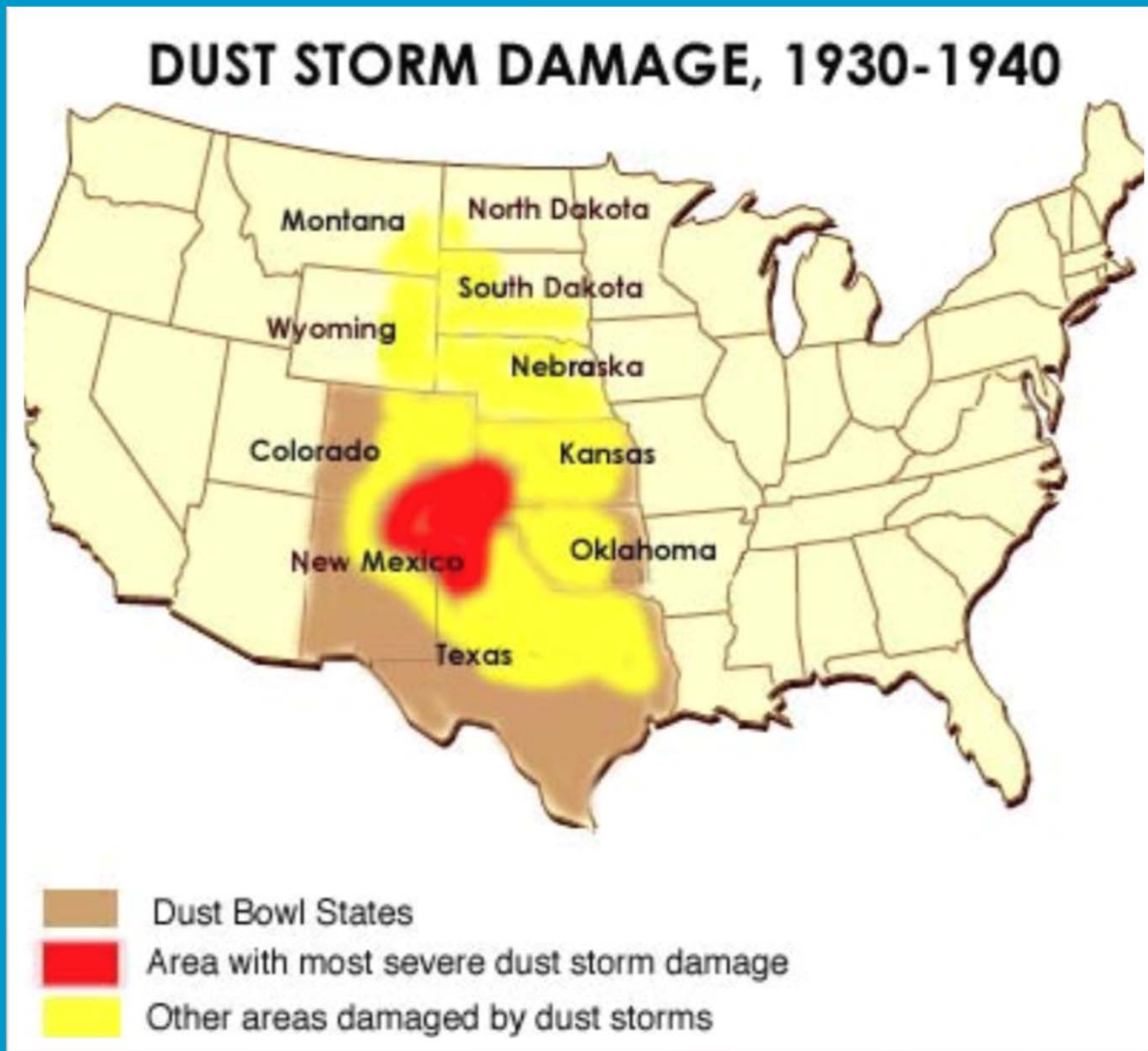
The resulting drop in world trade only made the glut of American factory and farm products harder to sell.



- 1) Describe what you see in this picture.
- 2) When and where do you think this picture was taken?  
Explain your answer.

# The Dust Bowl

# The Dust Bowl

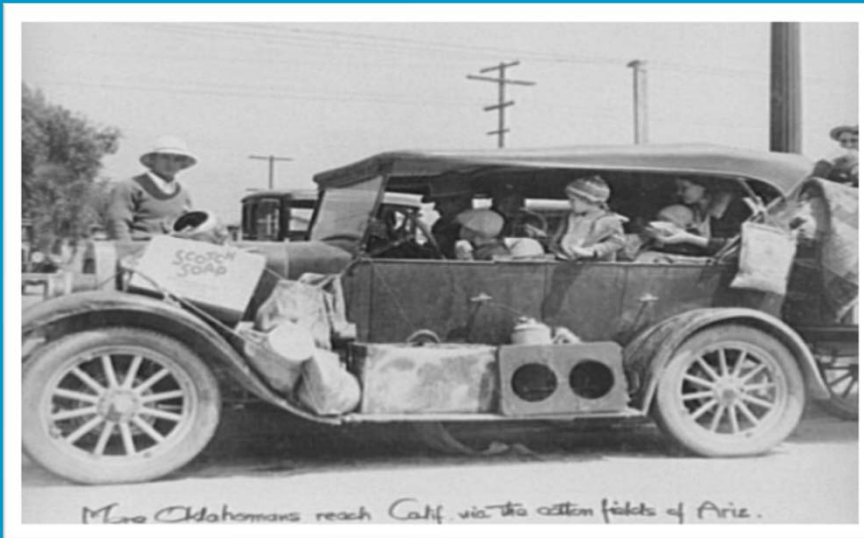


# Dust Storms



DUST STORM APPROACHING SPEARMAN, TEXAS.  
APRIL 14, 1935

# Displacement and Migration



*Migrant family in San Francisco, 1935*



*Farmer leveling dust hills in Texas, 1938*

# Central Historical Question

*What caused the Dust Bowl?*

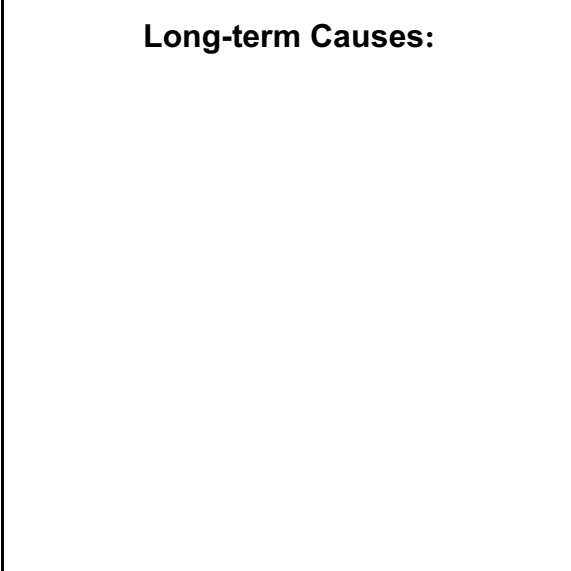




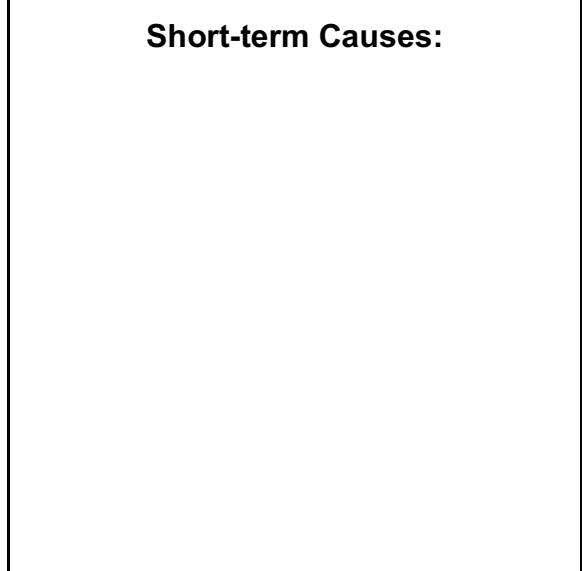
# Causes and Effects: Short-term and Long-term

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Class Period: \_\_\_\_\_

**Long-term Causes:**



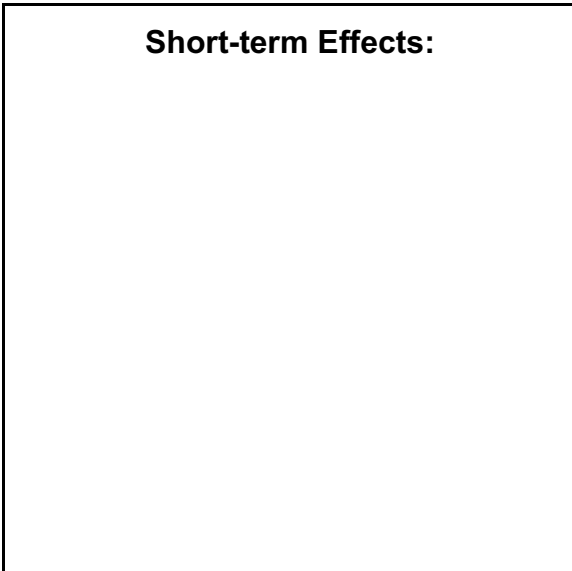
**Short-term Causes:**



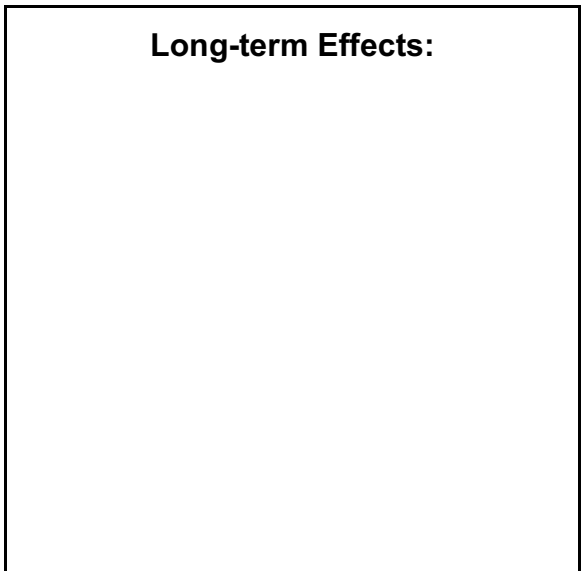
**Great Depression**



**Short-term Effects:**



**Long-term Effects:**



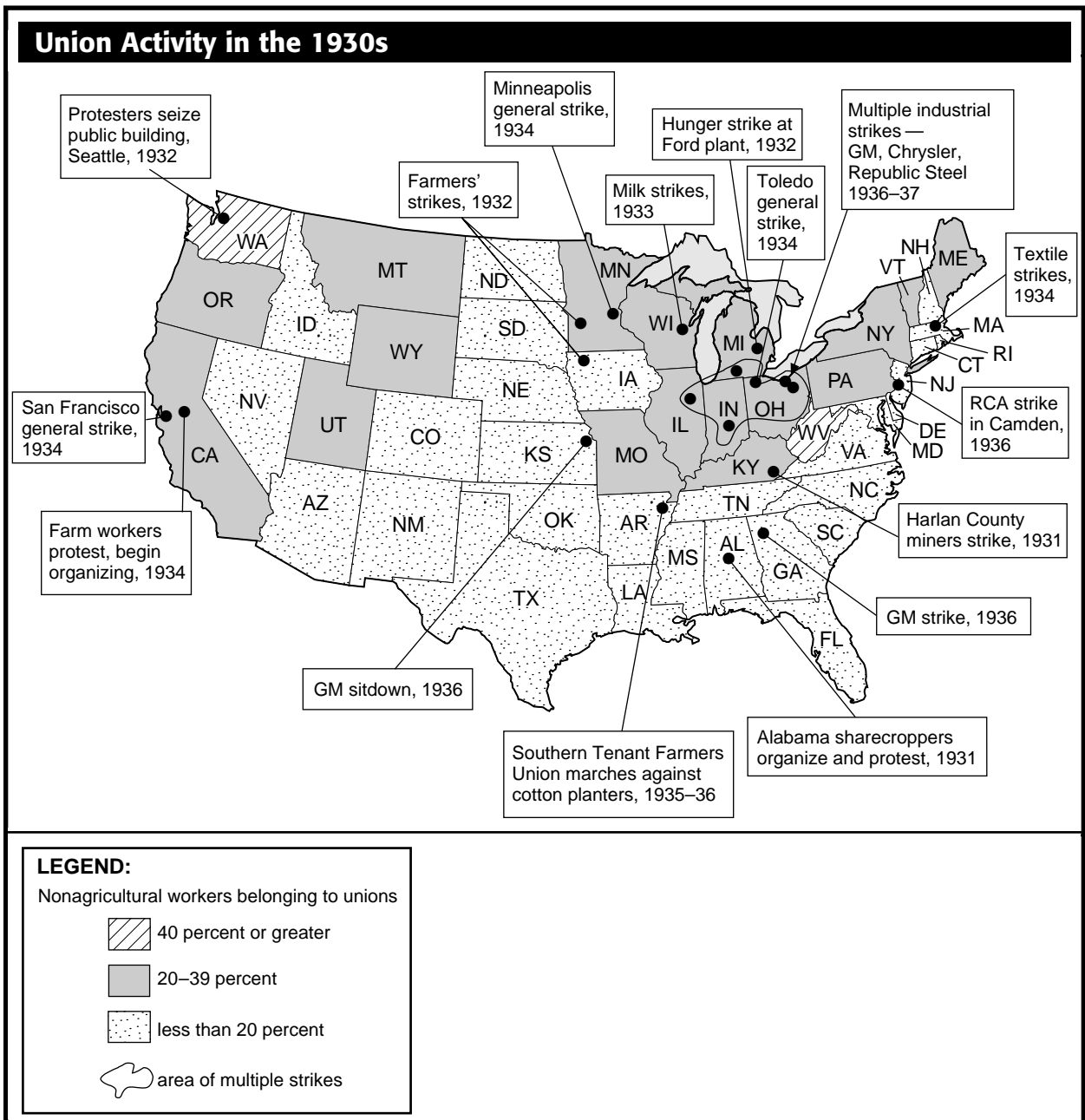
# The Great Depression

## GEOGRAPHY ACTIVITY

### Public Unrest During the Depression

During the 1930s, labor organization and unrest increased in response to the harsh conditions of the Great Depression. The map

below indicates major strikes and union membership by state. Examine the map and answer the questions that follow.



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1. What major strike took place in Kentucky? What farm strikes or protests does the map show?

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2. Where did the RCA strike take place? What major strikes occurred in Kansas and Georgia?

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3. According to the map, which states were most unionized?

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4. What percentage of the nonagricultural workforce was unionized in Missouri, Montana, and Tennessee?

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5. **Critical Thinking: Human Systems** From the evidence in the map, what different groups protested or struck during the 1930s? What relationship do you think existed between public protest and the Great Depression?

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**ACTIVITY**



Search newspapers and magazines to find a protest or strike that occurred in your state during the past 10 years. Draw its location on a map of your state. In a paragraph or two, explain the disagreement and express your point of view on the issue.

## CHAPTER 23

### GEOGRAPHY WORKSHEET 23

1. California, Texas, Illinois, Kentucky, Pennsylvania, New York; Texas, Illinois, Kentucky, Pennsylvania
2. Nevada, Utah, Wyoming, Kansas, North Dakota, Vermont, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Delaware, Maine; Nevada, Wyoming, North Dakota, Connecticut, Maine (Vermont did not report)
3. Nevada, Montana, Wisconsin, Maryland, New York, Massachusetts; New York, Maryland
4. Georgia, Florida; over 25,000 each; Vermont
5. the East; the East
6. **Critical Thinking: Places and Regions**  
Answers will vary; however, many students will say that prohibition was counterproductive because of the number of alcohol-related crimes and the growth of gangs that resulted. But some students may argue that the violations reinforced the need for tough laws.

#### ACTIVITY

Answers will vary depending on the information that the students gather. Be sure that students have identified and located important sites. If no local newspapers are available, have students select a location from the Geography Activity map and search secondary sources for information. Then have each student create a map of the state or community he or she chose, based on what he or she learned.

## CHAPTER 24

### GEOGRAPHY WORKSHEET 24

1. the Harlan County miners' strike of 1931; farmers' strikes in Minnesota and Iowa (1932), Alabama sharecroppers' protests (1931), Southern Tenant Farmers Union marches in Arkansas (1935–36), and farm-worker protests in California (1934)
2. Camden, New Jersey; GM strikes in 1936
3. Washington and West Virginia

4. Tennessee, less than 20%; Missouri, 20–39%; Montana, 20–39%
5. **Critical Thinking: Human Systems** The protests and strikes involved miners, industrial workers, sharecroppers, and independent farmers, as well as general strikes that cut across occupational lines and included the unemployed. The widespread nature of the strikes and protests reflect the frustration of the times and the fact that the Great Depression affected all workers. Students might also point out that strikers were demanding jobs as well as higher wages and that farmers tried to raise crop prices by limiting food supplies.

#### ACTIVITY

Answers will vary depending on the event chosen by students. Students should identify key issues for both sides, labor and management. Their responses should be to the issues at hand.

## CHAPTER 25

### GEOGRAPHY WORKSHEET 25

1. 6,333 projects
2. 9 projects
3. Ohio (511); Nevada (11)
4. California had more projects than New York. California's public works included schools and irrigation projects.
5. low-cost housing
6. California, Utah, South Dakota, Texas, Iowa
7. **Critical Thinking: Environment and Society** Answers will vary. Some students may feel that the projects most likely to affect people directly included water management, health and sanitation, transportation, power plant, school, hospital, and low-cost housing projects. All these projects would provide jobs and increase demands for goods and services.

#### ACTIVITY

Answers will vary depending on the projects chosen by students. Students should clearly define the need(s) and the benefits of the project.

# The Stock Market Crash

What year did the stock market crash discussed in the article occur?

- 1865
  - 1902
  - 1929
  - 1945
  - 1981
- 

2) Around how long did the Great Depression last?

- 2 years
  - 5 years
  - 10 years
  - 40 years
  - 100 years
- 

3) During what month did the stock market begin to crash?

- October
  - January
  - March
  - April
  - December
- 

4) Which of the following caused the stock market to crash?

- Wild speculation
  - People buying stock on credit
  - Slow economy
  - All of the above
  - None of the above
- 

5) What is it called when people buy stocks using credit?

- Mortgage
  - Margin
  - Bond
  - Mutual Fund
  - Certificate
-

6) True or False: The stock market crash is generally considered the start of the Great Depression.

- TRUE
  - FALSE
- 

7) When did the stock market eventually recover?

- 2 years later
  - 1950s
  - 1980s
  - 2000
  - Never
- 

8) What is a nickname for a time when stocks are overvalued?

- Balloon
  - Elephant
  - Globe
  - Monopoly
  - Bubble
- 

9) What was the result of the stock market crash?

- The economy recovered
  - Many people lost their savings
  - Business improved
  - New jobs were created
  - All of the above
- 

10) True or False: Before the crash, the stock market continued to rise even though the economy had slowed.

- TRUE
- FALSE

# The Stock Market Crash

The stock market crash of 1929 was one of the worst [stock market](#) crashes in the history of the United States. The value of stocks fell dramatically over the course of several days at the end of October. Many people lost all of their [savings](#) and ended up losing their homes. Businesses had to layoff employees or go bankrupt. The crash signaled the start of the Great Depression that would last for more than ten years.

## Before the Crash

The 1920s (also called the Roaring Twenties) were a time of economic boom and business speculation. New industries such as automobiles and radios were changing the landscape and culture of America. People thought everyone was going to be rich and that the economy would never stop growing. This optimism caused wild speculation in the stock market. Between 1921 and 1929 the stock market had grown by 600% with the Dow Jones Industrial Average rising from 63 points to 381 points.

## The Crash

The crazy growth in the stock market wasn't based on reality, however. The economy could not continue to grow at such a rapid rate forever. In 1929 the economy began to slow down. At the end of October, panic gripped the stock market and people began to sell massive amounts of stock. The worst days were October 28th and 29th when values fell a total of 23%. These days became known as "Black Monday" and "Black Tuesday."

## After the Crash

Although the market tried to rally, it couldn't recover. Over the course of a few months, the stock market fell around 40%. Many investors lost everything. It didn't reach the bottom until the summer of 1932 when it had dropped 89% from its peak. Billions of dollars of wealth had been erased and the country entered into a deep economic depression.

## Major Causes of the Crash

The stock market crashed for a number of reasons. Here are a few of the major causes:

- Wild speculation - The market had grown too fast and stocks were overvalued. The stocks were worth much more than the real value of the companies they represented.

- The economy - The [economy](#) had slowed down considerably and the stock market didn't reflect it. Despite many signs that the economy was struggling, the market continued to rise.
- People were buying stocks using credit - Many people were borrowing money to buy stocks (called "margin"). When the market began to fall, they had to sell quickly in order to pay their debts. This caused a domino effect where more and more people had to sell.

## **The Great Depression**

The stock market crash signaled the beginning of the Great Depression that would last for ten years until 1939. During this period, unemployment rose to around 25%, banks failed across the country, and hundreds of thousands of businesses went bankrupt. While the stock market crash was not the only cause of the Great Depression, it did have a major impact.

### **When did the stock market recover?**

The market reached rock bottom in 1932 and then made a mild recovery. It didn't recover all the way to back to its peak value of 1929 until the middle of the 1950s.

### **Interesting Facts About the Stock Market Crash of 1929**

- Many banks that had invested in the stock market or loaned money to investors went out of business.
- When stocks become overvalued it is often called a "bubble."
- The worst one day percentage fall of the U.S. stock market was on October 19, 1987. October 28-29 in 1929 is still the worst percentage two day crash of the market.
- Over 16 million shares were traded on Black Tuesday. This record volume of shares was not broken for nearly 40 years.