

THE GREAT DEPRESSION



Unemployment

With less production, companies needed fewer workers. In the three years after the crash, an average of 100,000 people lost their jobs every week. Even people who had jobs often had to accept pay cuts. Many people lost their homes and faced poverty and hunger for the first time in their lives.





Soup Kitchens

Millions of Americans were out of work and could not provide food for their families. Thousands of people lined up for food at soup kitchens that were run by charities. After waiting in line for hours, they received bread and a bowl of soup. This was usually the only meal that they would eat all day.

Herbert Hoover

President Herbert Hoover was elected in 1928 before the Great Depression started. He believed that private charities and local communities should help the needy. He didn't think it was the government's job to help. Many people believed he did not do enough to help Americans during the Depression.





Hoovervilles

Many people blamed Herbert Hoover for the continuing depression. Shantytowns became known as "Hoovervilles." Empty pockets turned inside out were called "Hoover flags."

Newspapers used by homeless people were to keep warm were called "Hoover blankets."

Dust Bowl

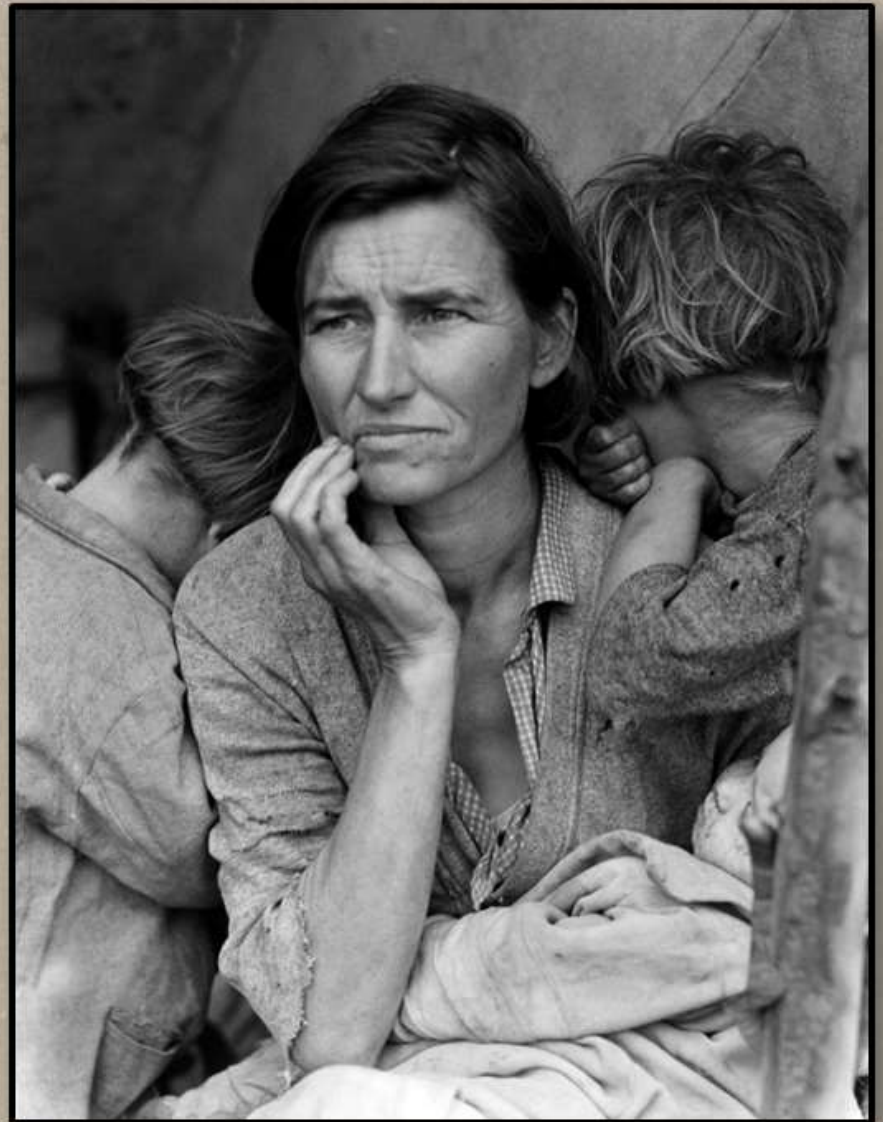
A severe drought hit the Great Plains in 1930. A drought is a long period without rain. Farmers watched their soil turn to dust in the hot sun. High winds that scattered the soil, called dust storms, left some farmland unusable. Most of the Great Plains became known as the Dust Bowl.



Migrant Mother

This photograph is called the Migrant Mother. It depicts poor pea pickers in California.

This is Florence Owens Thompson, age 32, a mother of seven children, in March 1936.



Oklahoma
family living in
a shanty in
1936.





(You need a Brain Pop Account to watch this)



How did the Great Depression Start? Learn all about the Great Depression for kids



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US History The Great Depression

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The Great Depression was a time of great economic crisis during the 1930s. It began in the United States, but quickly spread throughout much of the world. During this time, many people were out of work, hungry, and homeless. In the city, people would stand in long lines at soup kitchens to get a bite to eat. In the country, farmers struggled in the Midwest where a great drought turned the soil into dust causing huge dust storms.

How did it start?

The Great Depression began with the crash of the stock market in October of 1929. Historians and economists give various causes for the Great Depression including drought, overproduction of goods, bank failures, stock speculation, and consumer debt.

Change of Presidents

Herbert Hoover was President of the United States when the Great Depression began. Many people blamed Hoover for the Great Depression. They even named the shantytowns where homeless people lived "Hoovervilles" after him. In 1933, Franklin D. Roosevelt was elected president. He promised the people of America a "New Deal."



Migrant Mother
Photo by Dorothea Lange
Farm Security Administration

The Great Depression Dust Bowl

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What was the Dust Bowl?

The Dust Bowl was an area in the Midwest that suffered from drought during the 1930s and the Great Depression. The soil became so dry that it turned to dust. Farmers could no longer grow crops as the land turned into a desert. Areas of Kansas, Colorado, Oklahoma, Texas, and New Mexico were all part of the Dust Bowl.

How did it get so dusty?

A number of factors contributed to the Dust Bowl. The first was a terrible drought (lack of rain) that lasted for many years. With so little rain the soil dried out. Also, much of the region had been plowed up by farmers to grow wheat or to graze cattle. The wheat did not anchor the soil or help hold moisture. After years of abuse, the topsoil was destroyed and turned into dust.

Dust Storms

With so much of the soil turned into dust, there were huge dust storms in the Midwest. The dust made it hard for people to breathe and piled up to the point where houses were buried. Some dust storms were so bad that they caused dust



Government & Economics

Spanish

English 810L

Farming and the Dust Bowl During the Great Depression

[AP US History](#) and the [College Board](#) program, approved by [newsela.com](#)
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Dust storms forced people to leave during the Dust Bowl of the 1930s. Photo from U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Simulation Game

THE DUST BOWL
A FILM BY KEN BURNS

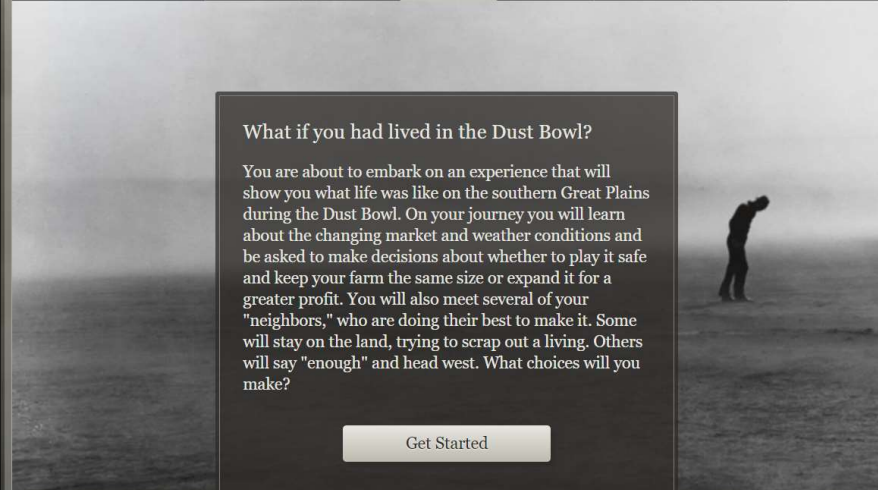
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What if you had lived in the Dust Bowl?

You are about to embark on an experience that will show you what life was like on the southern Great Plains during the Dust Bowl. On your journey you will learn about the changing market and weather conditions and be asked to make decisions about whether to play it safe and keep your farm the same size or expand it for a greater profit. You will also meet several of your "neighbors," who are doing their best to make it. Some will stay on the land, trying to scrap out a living. Others will say "enough" and head west. What choices will you make?

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DETAILS

Grade Level: World History
Length: 410 words
Lexile: 780L
Information:

Vocabulary:
None

Standards:
CC.8-10.1.1.1
CC.8-10.1.1.2
CC.8-10.1.1.3

Author:
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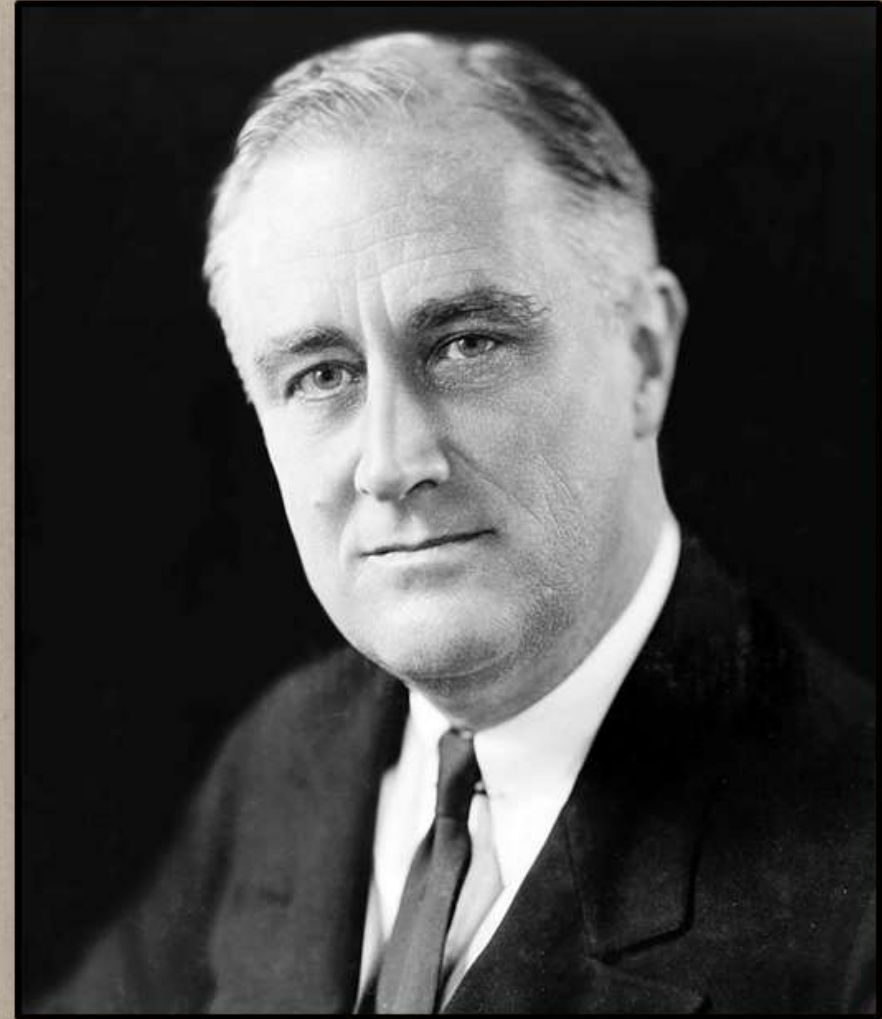
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**THE GREAT
DEPRESSION
AND THE
NEW DEAL**

Franklin D. Roosevelt

In 1932 Herbert Hoover was not reelected. Franklin D. Roosevelt won the election. He believed that the government needed to take bold action to fight the depression. He promised a New Deal for the American people. Many hoped he would be able to fulfill his promise to help those in need.





The New Deal

The New Deal was Roosevelt's plan to help America get out of the Great Depression. The New Deal focused on three major goals: relief, recovery and reform. The relief efforts helped people right away. One program spent \$500 million to feed and house the poorest in the country.

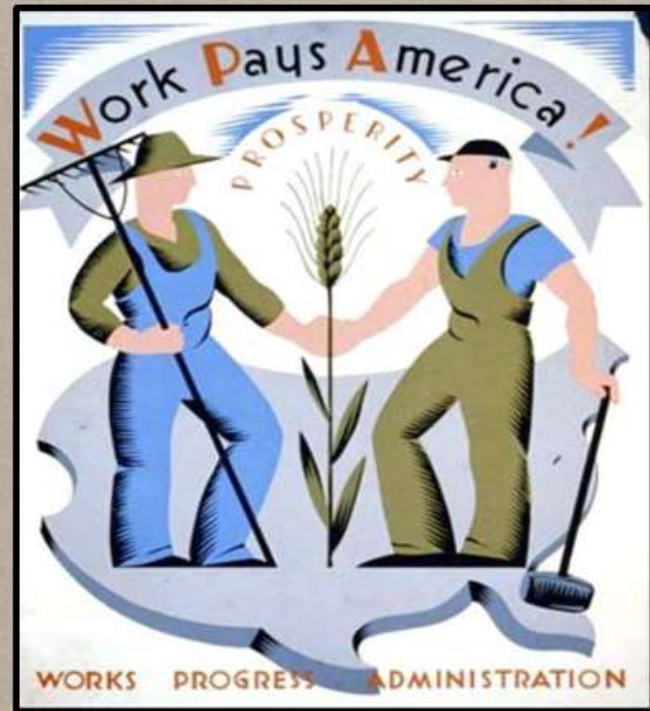
W.P.A.

The New Deal recovery programs tried to help the economy by providing jobs.

The Works Progress Administration employed more than 8 million people to build roads, schools, bridges and parks.

WPA

Works Progress
Administration



W.P.A. WORKERS BUILDING ROADS.

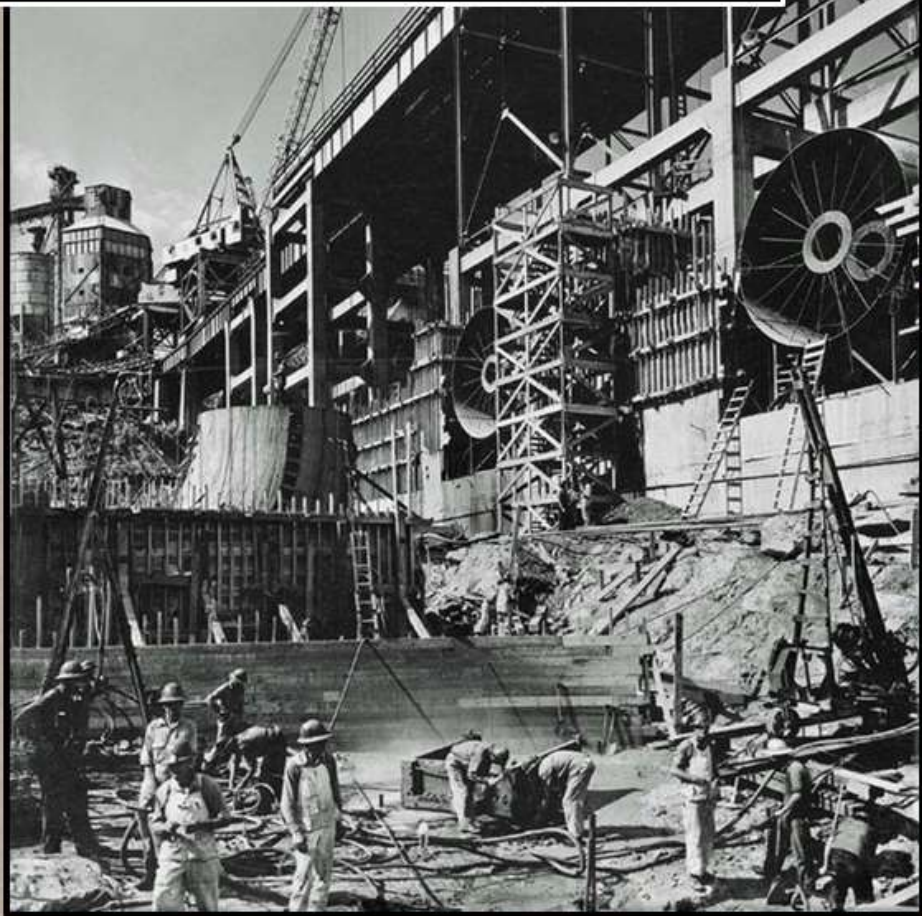




T.V.A.

The Tennessee Valley Authority built about 50 dams along rivers in the South to prevent flooding. Workers also built 13 power plants to provide electricity to many homes in the region for the first time.

T.V.A. WORKERS BUILDING DAMS



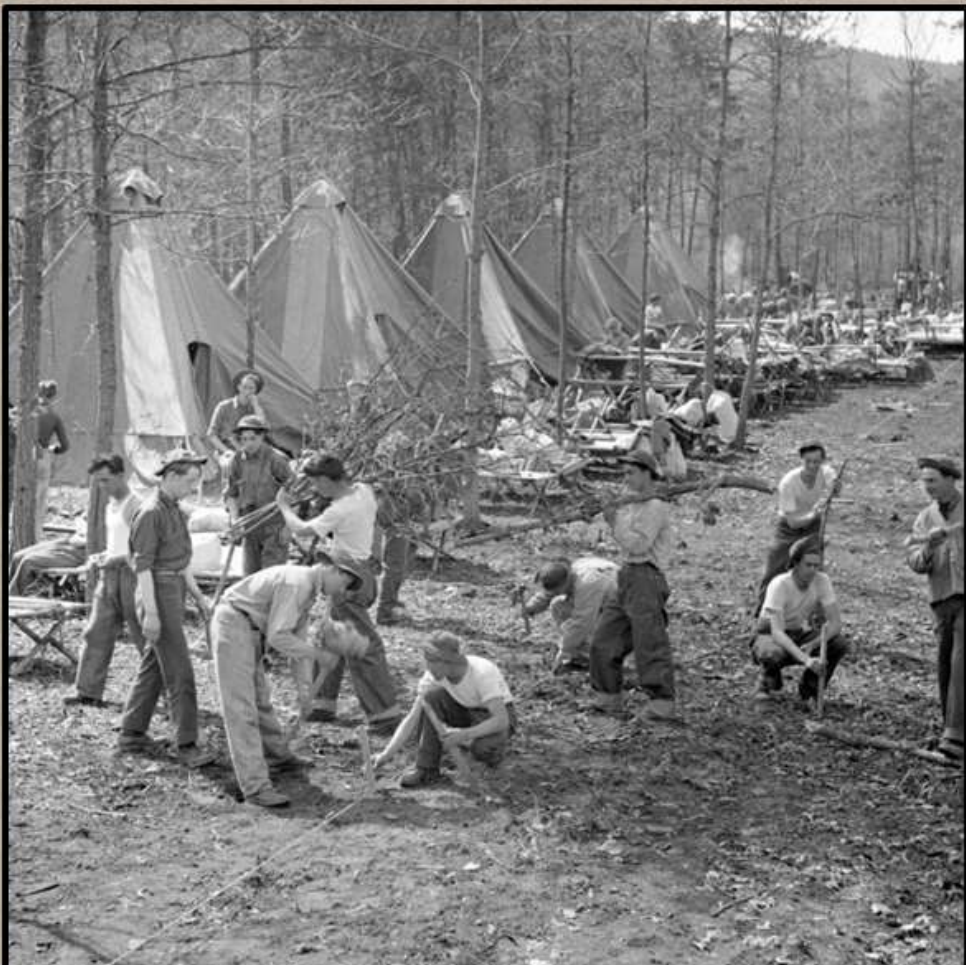
C.C.C.

The Civilian Conservation Corps.

Set up work camps for more than 2 million unemployed young men between the ages of 18 and 25. The men received housing, food and \$30 per month. The CCC is best known for planting trees and maintaining national parks.

CCC
Civilian Conservation Corps.





**C.C.C. WORKERS
MAINTAINING THE FORESTS.**



LUNCHTIME AT THE C.C.C. CAMP



H-136

Social Security Administration

One of the New Deal programs that still exists today is the Social Security Administration. It provides monthly payments to the elderly, disabled and unemployed. Payments are paid for by taxes. Every citizen of the U.S. is issued a social security card with their own Social Security number.

A monthly check to you -

FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE
- BEGINNING WHEN YOU ARE 65

GET YOUR SOCIAL SECURITY ACCOUNT NUMBER promptly

APPLICATIONS ARE BEING DISTRIBUTED AT ALL WORK PLACES

Your monthly Social Security check

WHO IS ELIGIBLE - EVERYBODY WORKING FOR SALARY OR WAGES (WITH ONLY A FEW EXCEPTIONS, SUCH AS AGRICULTURE, DOMESTIC SERVICE, AND GOVERNMENT WORK). APPLICATIONS FOR SOCIAL SECURITY ACCOUNTS ARE AVAILABLE THROUGH EMPLOYERS. IF YOU DO NOT GET ONE FROM YOUR EMPLOYER, ASK FOR ONE AT THE POST OFFICE.

HOW TO RETURN APPLICATION

1. HAND IT BACK TO YOUR EMPLOYER, OR
2. HAND IT TO ANY LABOR ORGANIZATION OF WHICH YOU ARE A MEMBER, OR
3. HAND IT TO YOUR LETTER CARRIER, OR
4. DELIVER IT TO LOCAL POST OFFICE, OR
5. MAIL IT IN A SEALED ENVELOPE, REGISTERED, RETURNABLE LOCAL, SO IF NOW, NO POSTAGE NEEDED.

- Social Security Board

INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED AT ANY POST OFFICE

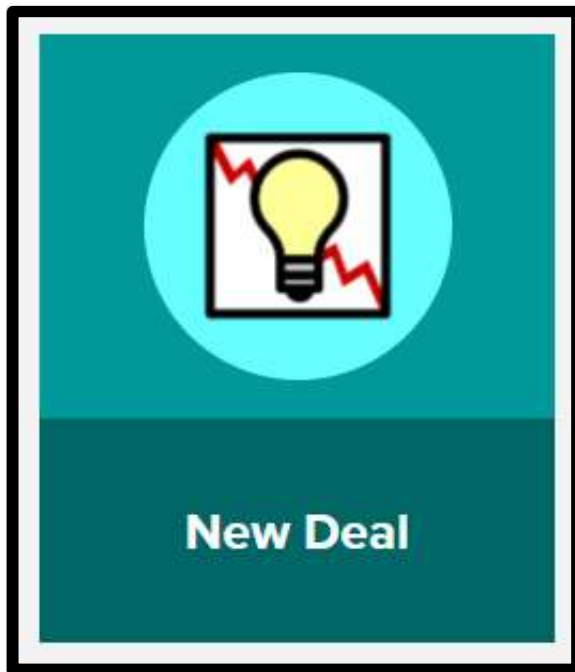


The End

While the New Deal did not completely restore the country to the way it was before the Depression, it did help the nation get back on its feet. It wasn't until 1942 that the Depression was truly over - when America entered World War II.



(You need a Brain Pop Account to watch this)



History Brief: The New Deal



Reading Through History



44K



The Great Depression First New Deal

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The "New Deal" refers to a number of U.S. government programs put into law to help the country recover from the Great Depression. The New Deal programs that were passed during the first two years that Franklin D. Roosevelt was president are sometimes called the "First New Deal." You can go here to read about the [Second New Deal](#).

First Hundred Days

When President Roosevelt first came into office, he wanted to get things started quickly. During the first one hundred days that he was president, he issued several executive orders and helped get many laws passed through Congress.



FDR explains the New Deal
during Fireside Chat
Photo by Unknown

Banking Reform

One of the first things that President Roosevelt did was to close the banks in what he called a "bank holiday." Congress then passed a law called the Emergency Banking Act. This law allowed for banks to reopen under the supervision of the Federal Treasury. It helped to stabilize the banks and to bring back confidence in the banking system.

The Great Depression Second New Deal

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The "New Deal" programs put into place by President Roosevelt to help the country recover from the Great Depression can be divided into two groups: the First New Deal and the Second New Deal. You can read about the [First New Deal](#) here.

What was the Second New Deal?

Despite several new laws and regulations put into place with the First New Deal, the Great Depression continued and things weren't getting any better. In 1935, President Roosevelt decided to pass a new round of laws and regulations to fix the economy. The laws passed between 1935 and 1938 are often referred to as the "Second New Deal."

Social Security

One of the most important aspects of the Second New Deal was the Social Security Act passed in 1935. This act was made to assist the elderly in retirement. It provided a pension to retired people, cared for orphans and the disabled, and set up a system of unemployment insurance. Currently, retirement benefits are paid for by a payroll tax. Half of the tax is paid by the worker and half by the employer.



U.S. History II

Spanish | English 820L

Great Depression: The New Deal

By Thomas Bruneau, The 100th Anniversary Edition of American History is assisted by
Thomas Bruneau

Grade Level 8

Version 1.0.0.0



1935 Roosevelt signed the Social Security Act, the Federal Home Loan Bank Act, and the Federal Housing Administration Act. 1937 Roosevelt signed the National Labor Relations Act, the Fair Labor Standards Act, and the National Labor Relations Board Act. 1938 Roosevelt signed the Social Security Act Amendments of 1938. 1939 Roosevelt signed the Federal Reserve Act Amendments of 1939. 1940 Roosevelt signed the National Defense Education Act. 1941 Roosevelt signed the National Labor Relations Act Amendments of 1941. 1942 Roosevelt signed the National Labor Relations Act Amendments of 1942. 1943 Roosevelt signed the National Labor Relations Act Amendments of 1943. 1944 Roosevelt signed the National Labor Relations Act Amendments of 1944. 1945 Roosevelt signed the National Labor Relations Act Amendments of 1945. 1946 Roosevelt signed the National Labor Relations Act Amendments of 1946. 1947 Roosevelt signed the National Labor Relations Act Amendments of 1947. 1948 Roosevelt signed the 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