

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

### PRETEST

**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

**VIDEO QUIZ**

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

1. As early as 1926, economic trouble was already beginning to surface in businesses and farms.  
True                  False
2. The collapse of the stock market was the only cause of the Great Depression.  
True                  False
3. By 1933, half of the banks had failed and one quarter of Americans were jobless.  
True                  False
4. Communities of cardboard shacks were called "Hoovervilles" after President Herbert Hoover.  
True                  False
5. President Hoover's advisors believed the economy would recover on its own.  
True                  False
6. President Roosevelt's first 100 days in office were spent making proposals to provide relief, recovery, and reform to Americans.  
True                  False
7. President Hoover gave Fireside Chats to America over the radio to help build confidence and courage during the Great Depression.  
True                  False
8. Senator Huey Long at a time supported FDR's efforts and launched a national program entitled Share Our Wealth.  
True                  False
9. The Works Progress Administration, of the first New Deal, created eight million jobs.  
True                  False
10. The Social Security Act of 1935 was the least important legacy of the New Deal.  
True                  False

**POSTTEST****Multiple Choice Questions****Directions: Read each of the following statements. Then circle the best answer.**

1. Which of the following is **not** true of the economic policies leading to the Great Depression?
  - a. Low interest rates caused businesses to build debt.
  - b. High tariffs discouraged foreign trade.
  - c. Tax policies encouraged rich to participate in the stock market.
  - d. Government strictly regulated business production.
  
2. Which of the following efforts was **not** made by President Hoover to end the Depression?
  - a. Building the Boulder Dam.
  - b. Government providing direct relief.
  - c. Trickle-down approach.
  - d. Do-nothing approach.
  
3. Which of the following was **not** one of the three main goals of the New Deal?
  - a. Rebuild the nation.
  - b. Reform the financial system.
  - c. Relief for the needy.
  - d. Recovery for the economy.
  
4. Which program was created to secure individuals' bank deposits?
  - a. FDIC
  - b. Bank Holiday
  - c. Emergency Banking Relief Act
  - d. Federal Securities Act
  
5. Which of the following was true of the opposition to the New Deal?
  - a. The critics on the right said it did not go far enough to help the poor.
  - b. The critics on the left said it gave the government too much control.
  - c. The critics on the left said FDR was becoming a dictator.
  - d. The critics on the left said it did not reform the economy.
  
6. Which was **not** a cause for developing a second New Deal?
  - a. Unemployment remained high.
  - b. There was still national suffering.
  - c. There was no improvement in the economy.
  - d. Eleanor Roosevelt visited citizens and reported her findings.
  
7. Which was **not** the case with minorities during the Great Depression?
  - a. Many Mexican-Americans were deported to Mexico due to discrimination.
  - b. African-Americans remained Republicans when FDR did not support anti-lynching.
  - c. Native-Americans received full United States citizenship.
  - d. The first African-American became a federal judge.
  
8. Who was the first woman to join the Cabinet as Secretary of Labor?
  - a. Frances Perkins
  - b. Mary McLeod Bethune
  - c. Mary Dewson
  - d. There were still no women in the Cabinet.

9. Which was not a reform enacted through FDR's Second New Deal?

- a. Works Progress Administration
- b. Wagner Act
- c. Social Security Act
- d. Hawley-Smoot Tariff

10. What finally brought America out of the Great Depression?

- a. Works Progress Administration
- b. Regulating big businesses
- c. Preparation for World War II
- d. American came out on its own.

Short Answer Questions

**Directions: Read each of the following statements and answer in one or two sentences.**

11. Briefly describe "Black Tuesday" and its significance.

12. Explain two of the United States basic economic problems during the Depression.

13. What was the Bonus Army and what was its effect on President Hoover's public support?

14. Why did Eleanor Roosevelt resign her membership from the Daughters of the American Revolution (D.A.R.)?

15. Describe the Fireside Chats and their significance.

16. What did it mean to "Ride the Rails"?

Essay Questions

**Directions:** Write a short essay in response to each statement. Use the back of this sheet if necessary.

1. Compare and contrast the administrative policies and public opposition for President Hoover and President Roosevelt during the Great Depression.

2. List and describe three programs created during the Great Depression, as well as their outcomes.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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?

## VOCABULARY TERMS

**Black Tuesday**

The crash of the New York Stock Exchange on October 29, 1929.

**Depression**

A period of low general economic activity marked especially by rising levels of unemployment.

**Dictator**

A ruler with absolute power and authority.

**Foreclosed**

A legal proceeding when a mortgage holder cannot pay his or her mortgage and banks repossess the property.

**Mortgages**

A transfer of rights to property as security for the payment of a loan that becomes void when the loan is paid.

**New Deal**

An administrative program of President Roosevelt designed to promote economic recovery and social reform.

**Share**

Any of the equal portions into which property or invested capital is divided.

**Stock market**

A market for money or capital available for investment or trading.

**Tariff**

Tax on imported goods.

**Trickle Down**

An effect caused gradually by remote or indirect influences.

**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.

	<b>President Hoover</b>	<b>President Roosevelt</b>
<b>Administrative Policies</b>		
<b>Programs Developed</b>		
<b>Outcome on the  Great Depression</b>		



### THE GREAT PICTURE

**Directions:** Complete the following chart. In each space, explain the main event listed above and describe its result on the Great Depression.

Start of the Great Depression

Hoover's Administration



Start of World War II

Roosevelt's Administration



**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			

## 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://newdea1.feri.org/library/index.htm>

Title of selected photograph: \_\_\_\_\_

TITLE OF ARTICLE:

## 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>