

## Reflect

Answer the Qs in the margin.

What effect did the high unemployment rate have on people who kept their jobs?

What were Hoovervilles?

Why did dust storms have such disastrous effects on the Great Plains farms?

Why do you think that these people were called Okies?

Focus Question : How did the Great Depression affect the lives of urban & rural Americans?

# AMERICANS FACE HARD TIMES

Few Americans understood the causes of the Great Depression, but everyone felt the impact.

- Between 1921–1929, the unemployment rate never rose above 4%. By 1933, however, it was near ..... %.
- Those who managed to keep their jobs had their wages and ..... cut.
- The homeless lived in empty railroad cars, in cardboard boxes, or in shacks built on public land or empty lots.
  - ..... appeared in major cities across the country.
- Between 1930 and 1934, nearly a ..... farmers lost their farms, homes, and farm equipment because they could not pay their mortgages.
  - Bankers sold the land and equipment at auction. Some farmers became tenant farmers, working for bigger landowners. Others decided to leave in search of ..... elsewhere in the U.S.
  - The remaining farmers on the Great Plains suffered a terrible ....., which led to the Dust Bowl.
    - Dust storms destroyed millions of acres of farmland.
- Millions of tons of topsoil were blown away in giant dust storms.
  - Farmers had dug up thick prairie grasses to plant wheat so there was nothing to hold the ..... in place.
  - 100 mile-per-hour winds blew dust ..... 8,000 feet tall in Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico, and Colorado.
  - Wildlife and farm animals suffocated in the choking winds.
  - Farmers who had lost their land, called ..... regardless of where they were from, were forced to leave.

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### Answer the Qs in the margin.

Where did the Okies head to?

What impact did the Great Depression have on family life?

What effect did the Great Depression have on minorities?

- In old trucks, they moved west or to northern cities. .... Okies left Texas, Oklahoma, Missouri, and Arkansas alone. Rural states lost population during the 1930s.
- Those who could afford it bought distressed neighbors' farms at ..... prices to build expanded commercial farms.
- Family life was hurt by the Great Depression.
  - Those who still had jobs lived in ..... that their next paycheck would be their last.
  - Those who were still working felt ..... because friends and relatives were unemployed.
  - America's birthrate ..... to its lowest level on record.
  - Some teens ran away and families broke up.
- Minorities suffered even more during the depression.
  - Even in good times, African Americans were "last hired and first ....."
  - Many were thrown off southern farms where they were sharecroppers.
  - As Okies moved west to find work, Mexicans and Mexican Americans faced fierce ..... for jobs.
  - Local governments urged repatriation for Mexican Americans.

## Reflect

SUMMARY- Summarize your notes using at least 6 complete sentences:

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