

Life During the Great Depression Notes (Refer to PPT)

L _____ in the C _____

- Many lost their _____ → no longer pay mortgage or rent → _____
- Slept in parks and sewer pipes
- Used _____ as blankets
- Built _____ (shacks) out of whatever they could find

- Did not keep people _____ or the rain out
- Sanitation was poor.
- Little access to clean _____
- _____ spread easily
- _____ popped up all over the country.

- People could not afford food.
- They begged and rummaged through _____.
- New recipes like “Depression cake” and “mock-apple pie”
- Charitable organizations and public agencies began _____ kitchens and _____.
- Served soup because it was cheap to add water to make more; sometimes had bread
- Typical diet was dried _____, potatoes, and powdered milk

- _____ remained and racial tensions increased.
- Unemployed whites, African Americans, and Latinos competed for the same _____.
- Life for African Americans and Latinos became even harder during the Depression.
- African American unemployment rate was over _____ compared to almost 25% for all Americans
- Paid lower _____ than whites
- In the southwestern US, Mexicans and Mexican-Americans became targets.
- Some whites wanted them _____ even if they were born in the US.
- By the late 1930s, hundreds of thousands of people with Mexican descent moved to Mexico → some went on their own will, some were deported by the US government

L _____ in R _____ A _____

- People lost their _____.
- Farmers often lost their farms because the price of _____ fell, and they could not pay their debts.
- 400,000 farms were _____ 1929-1932.
- Farmers who kept their farms did a little better than those living in _____ because they could grow their own _____ for their families.

- Some turned to _____, but still struggled.

D _____ B _____

- In the early 1900s, farmers _____ the Great Plains.
- Removed protective layer of _____ from millions of acres
- Rich _____ great for growing crops
- Farmers _____ crop production → _____ depleted
- Climate of the Great Plains → _____ - _____ → little _____ per year
- Needed the deep roots of the grasses to protect against _____
- Farmland became unsuitable for farming.
- Soil became dry from lack of rain → barren with no grass and few trees

- Worst _____ began in 1933
- No grasses to hold _____ in place, the wind scattered it
- Once _____ was gone, the sand and grit were picked up
- Dust Bowl region = parts of _____, Texas, Oklahoma, _____, and New Mexico
- Hardest hit region by the drought

G _____ **M** _____

- Frequent _____, unsuitable farmland, and evictions
- Over 2.5 million people left the Dust Bowl.
- Hundreds of thousands of farm families _____ to California and other Pacific coast states
- Many living in the west did not want “_____” settling there.
- Billboards were put up along the highways headed west that said, “No _____ in California. If YOU are looking for _____-KEEP OUT.”

- Those who did migrate _____ often did not find decent paying jobs.
- Most had to live in _____ and _____.

- Farmers who stayed had their crops die from lack of _____ and livestock choked to death by _____ storms.
- Some dust clouds were over a _____ high and could darken our the sky, sometimes for days.
- These “_____” were reported all the way in New York City and D.C.

- Dust would _____ like snow and people had to _____ it.
- Dust would get into homes through small cracks and coat _____, furniture, and _____.
- Caused “dust pneumonia”; also called “_____”
- Some people _____.
- 1934 → 35 million acres were useless and another 125 million acres were quickly losing _____

- Dust reached the _____, thousands of miles away.
- One windstorm in 1934 carried millions of tons of dust and coated the _____ of _____ and the US Capitol.
- 1935-1937 → federal government tried to prevent soil _____ in Nebraska by planting trees and building dams, ponds, and terraces
- The drought ended in _____, but the economic effects lasted into the 1950s.

- Men struggled with not being able to take care of their _____.
- Federal government did not offer _____.
- Some cities and charities did offer _____, but it was often not enough.
- Many men would wander the streets looking for _____.
- Some men abandoned their families and became _____.
- Rode in railroad boxcars and slept under bridges
- About 300,000 hoboes during the Depression and most were _____

- Many women _____ food and sewed clothing.
- Those who worked outside the home made less _____ than men.
- Women (and often married women) would face _____ from those who thought they were taking away jobs from unemployed men.
- Some businesses, even _____, would not hire a married woman during the Depression.

- Families did not have money for _____ care.
- Poor _____ caused health problems.
- _____ and diet-related disease rose
- _____ became common (lack of Vitamin D) because of little _____.
- _____ programs for children were cut.
- Some schools closed. Some children worked in horrible conditions.

- Some _____ (mostly boys) ran away from home.
- Rode in railroad boxcars across the country looking for _____. Wanted to escape poverty
- “Hoover _____”
- Dangerous life → could be locked in ice cars, beaten or _____, or murdered
- 1929-1939 → almost 25,000 killed and over 27,000 injured

- Many families played _____ games or listened to the _____.
- About 40% of Americans owned a _____.

- Sports → New York _____ and college football
- Contests like _____
- 40% of Americans watched at least 1 _____ per week.

- People were _____ → lost will to live
- Suicide rate increased 30% 1929-1932
- Number of people admitted to mental hospitals tripled
- Alcoholism increased (_____ ended in 1932).
- People put off _____ and children or going to college
- Stopped trusting _____

G _____ I _____

- President Herbert _____ encouraged Americans to remain optimistic.
- Believed the government should ease suffering but not offer _____
- Would weaken their self-respect
- Believed _____, charities, and local organizations should offer _____
- Many people were shocked at his unwillingness to help
- Held meeting with leaders in business, _____, and labor to find solutions
- Wanted everyone to work together → don't lay off workers or lower _____; don't _____ or demand higher wages
- Did not work!
- Many blamed Hoover and _____ took control of the House of Representatives in 1930.

- People began to call shantytowns " _____."
- Newspapers → " _____"
- Empty pockets → " _____"
- Hoover would not change his policies.
- Would not allow direct relief or other federal welfare programs

- Hoover softened his view as the Depression continued.
- Late 1931 → Hoover asked Congress to pass measure that would reform _____, provide mortgage relief, and invest more federal money in businesses
- 1932 → Federal Home _____ Act was passed → lowered mortgage rates for homeowners and allowed farmers to refinance their farm _____ to avoid foreclosure
- Reconstruction Finance Corporation (_____) passed in 1932
- Authorized up to \$2 billion for emergency funding for _____, life insurance companies, _____, and other large businesses
- Many criticized it only helped businesses and not the _____.
- Hoover believed it would create jobs and higher wages. Did not work!

B _____ A _____

- Spring 1932 → group of almost 20,000 _____ veterans arrived in Washington, D.C., with their families
- Wanted Congress to honor the _____ Bill
- Passed in 1924 and gave WW1 veterans money and a life insurance policy for their _____
- Government had until _____ to do this
- Bonus Army wanted it immediately because of the hardships.

- Hoover did not agree and called them "communists" and "criminals."
- He believed in the right of peaceful assembly.
- June 17 → Congress _____ their request
- Hoover demands them to leave → worried about _____ . 2,000 remained

- June 28 → Hoover sends 1,000 _____ to force the veterans to leave
- Over 1,000 people were _____.
- Many were injured and 2 people were shot.
- Americans were outraged.
- In the fall of 1932, Hoover lost the presidential election to Franklin Delano _____.

Life During the Great Depression Reading Questions

➡ KEY TERMS ←

Complete the crossword by using the clues.

ACROSS

1. government-provided support for those in need
3. the region of the Great Plains that suffered severe drought and soil erosion in the 1930s
6. a group of WW1 veterans who gathered in Washington, D.C., in hopes of receiving payment from the Patman Bill
8. a shortage of rain for a long period of time
11. the process of wearing down the land by natural forces such as wind and water
12. a place where free or low cost food is offered to the homeless and poor

DOWN

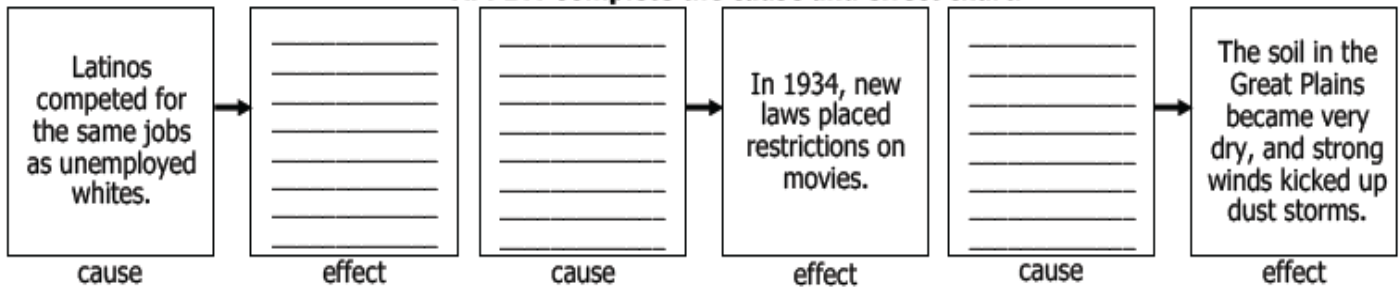
2. assistance in time of difficulty
3. to be sent out of a country
4. an area with shacks and poor people
5. a line of people waiting to receive free or low cost food
7. a system where farmer is given credit for supplies, farms a piece of land, and repays the land owner with a share of the harvest
9. to make someone leave their home
10. to move from one place to live in another

➡ DATES & EVENTS ←

Fill in the blank to complete each fact.

13. Congress passed the _____ Corporation in 1932, and many complained it helped businesses and not the poor.
14. By the end of the 1930s, many farmers had moved to California and other west coast states, but the residents there did not want the " _____ " settling there.
15. Some men abandoned their families and became _____, wandering from place to place.
16. _____ were able to take control of the House of Representatives in 1930 because many Americans blamed President _____ for the Depression.
17. _____ was repealed in 1933, and alcoholism increased as more people looked to find an escape.

APPLY: Complete the cause and effect chart.



Life During the Great Depression Reading Questions

}}@> LITERARY WORKS <@{{

Read the lyrics from the song *The Great Dust Storm*, by Woody Guthrie. Answer the questions.

On the 14th day of April of 1935,
There struck the worst of dust storms that ever filled the sky.
You could see that dust storm comin', the cloud looked deathlike black,
And through our mighty nation, it left a dreadful track.
From Oklahoma City 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 judgement, we thought it was our doom.

The radio reported, we listened with alarm,
The wild and windy actions 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 rung their knell,
And a few more comrades sleeping on top of old Boot Hill.
From Denver, Colorado, they said it blew so strong,
They thought that they could hold out, but they didn't know how long.

Our relatives were huddled into their oil boom shacks,
And the children they was cryin' as it whistled through the cracks.
And the family it was crowded into their little room,
They thought the world had ended, and they thought it was their doom.
The storm took place at sundown, it lasted through the night,
When we looked out next morning, we saw a terrible sight.
We saw outside our window where wheat fields they had grown,
Was now a rippling ocean of dust the wind had blown.
It covered up our fences, it covered up our barns,
It covered up our tractors in this wild and dusty storm.
We loaded our jalopies and piled our families in,
We rattled down that highway to never come back again.

1. Why was this storm "mysterious"? _____

2. What was "it" that was covering up everything outside?

3. What happened to the wheat fields? _____

4. To what does the author compare the dust storm?

5. Why did the families leave? _____

6. To where do you think they are headed? Why?

APPLY: Use the song above and what you know about the migration caused by the Dust Bowl to write one verse that follows the last verse of the song.

Life During the Great Depression Quiz

QUIZ

Use the word bank to fill in the blank with the correct key term.

1. Many _____ programs for children were cut because there wasn't enough money to fund them.
2. Many people of Mexican descent moved to Mexico by the end of the 1930s, either on their own or because they were _____ by the US government.
3. When some farmers lost their farms, they began _____, but they still struggled to provide for their families.
4. President Hoover did not believe the federal government should offer _____ to Americans.
5. People were _____ from their homes when they could not longer pay their mortgage or rent, and many ended up living in _____.
6. When the _____ made it difficult for farmers to grow crops, most _____ to the west coast to find jobs.
7. Even though _____ could be long, many stood in line for hours waiting for food.
8. World War 1 veterans formed the _____, and they wanted to receive their benefits from the Patman Bill immediately because of the hardships of the Depression.
9. The _____ was the hardest hit region of the Great Plains during the drought, and the wind caused _____ of the land.
10. Soup was often served in _____ because it was easy to make more by adding water.

WORD BANK

Dust Bowl	drought	migrated	Bonus Army	sharecropping	evicted	erosion
shantytowns	welfare	deported	breadlines	soup kitchens	relief	

Choose the best answer.

11. Why did some people not want married women to work outside the home?
 - a. They believed the women should be at home taking care of their children.
 - b. They did not want women taking jobs away from unemployed men.
 - c. They did not like how women often made higher wages than men.
 - d. They thought it was too dangerous for women to work outside the home.
12. What is one way children suffered during the Great Depression?
 - a. Children often suffered from malnutrition and diet-related diseases.
 - b. Children were not able to play games and have fun.
 - c. Many children were put up for adoption.
 - d. Children were not allowed to eat in soup kitchens.
13. Why did President Hoover believe the federal government should not offer relief?
 - a. The federal government did not have the funds to provide relief.
 - b. Hoover believed the Depression was Americans' fault, and they should suffer the consequences.
 - c. Hoover believed it would weaken people's self-respect.
 - d. Hoover believed people would come to expect and rely too heavily on the relief.
14. What was the purpose of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation?
 - a. to provide the funding promised to the World War 1 veterans
 - b. to provide funding to the poor so they could pay their mortgages
 - c. to provide funding to banks, life insurance companies, railroads, and other businesses
 - d. to provide funding to the farmers who had to leave their farms because of the drought

13. Explain how the Dust Bowl happened.
