

Answer Key: Civilian Conservation Corps Extension

Warm-up

- Responses will vary

Lesson

GRADE LEVEL & FOUNDATIONS

Part I: The Civilian Conservation Corps in Texas

Incorrect responses are crossed out.

Read the following statements about the CCC during the Great Depression. Place a checkmark next to each TRUE statement.

☐ The CCC provided jobs to young Texas men. ☐ ~~The CCC focused on establishing new farms in Texas.~~ ☐ Men in the CCC lived and worked at camps around Texas. ☐ The CCC focused on protecting the environment.	☐ ~~Some CCC jobs included bringing electricity to rural areas.~~ ☐ Some CCC jobs included reforestation and soil protection. ☐ The CCC helped teach farmers better techniques to protect their soil. ☐ ~~The CCC was not very beneficial to struggling Texans.~~
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Part II: Claude Hendon & the Civilian Conservation Corps in Texas

1. A - Hendon's parents were sharecroppers and the family faced incredible challenges, including a lack of food and money.
2. B - "Well, we were sharecrop farmers, so we never had any income. In 1934, my father borrowed \$50.00 and made a crop."
3. C - Hendon supported President Roosevelt and believed that the New Deal helped him support his family during the Great Depression.
4. A - "I voted Franklin Delano Roosevelt..., if he hadn't come up with some of these programs, I don't know what [would have happened]."

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5. *(Responses will vary but may include)*

- CCC enrollees woke up every morning at 6am for breakfast
- Enrollees went to work at 8 am doing various jobs related to the environment
- They had the weekends off and could do what they liked, including going into nearby towns.
- They lived in barracks with electricity and the camp had a library, recreation hall, cafeteria, and church.

6. Incorrect answers are crossed out

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|---|---|
| ☐ He earned \$30 a month. | ☐ He worked to prevent soil erosion. |
| ☒ ~~He had to work 6 days a week without breaks.~~ | ☐ He worked specifically at the soil conservation camp. |
| ☐ He measured land as part of a soil conservation project. | ☐ He helped farmers learn to build terraces on their farms. |
| ☐ A large amount of his monthly earnings were sent home. | ☐ He had Saturdays and Sundays off. |
| ☐ His crew worked to plant native grasses. | ☒ ~~His job included reforestation projects in East Texas.~~ |

7. Responses below are taken from the Foundations work and should serve as a guide for the Grade Level work.

Statement	Benefitted Family	Benefitted Texas	Not relevant
"It the recreation hall, you could buy toothpaste and soap and needle and thread."			X
"When I went in, we made \$30.00 a month - \$6.00 went to me, and \$24.00 went to my folks."	X		
"...my sister in Saint Louis says sometimes in a nostalgic sort of way that I kept them from starving to death."	X		
"The camp that we were in was basically interested in sodding waterways to outlets for terraces."		X	
"In the recreation hall, you could buy toothpaste and soap and needle and thread. Then you could go downtown and buy whatever you wanted if you had the money."			X
"...you just (chuckle) was glad to have a job even though your folks got the money."	X		

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ADVANCED

Students are asked to create short, constructed response answers to their questions. Their responses may vary from the responses below. The following responses should serve as a guide.

Part I: The Civilian Conservation Corps in Texas

1. The Civilian Conservation Corps was a New Deal program that provided job opportunities to young, unemployed, unmarried men through projects focusing on environmental conservation. Some of the jobs that the CCC took part in included planting trees, protecting soil, and teaching farmers agricultural practices that helped protect the environment. CCC workers also played a crucial role in developing and maintaining the state park system of Texas, building 29 parks that are still in use today.

Part II: Claude Hendon & the Civilian Conservation Corps in Texas

1. Life was very difficult for Hendon and his family. They were poor and often did not have enough to eat. He states that they nearly starved to death and never had any money. They'd buy old bread and fish and hunt illegally on state lands.
2. Hendon supported President Franklin and was grateful for his New Deal programs. He states that he had tears in his eyes when Franklin died "because he was kind of like a father to me because, actually, if he hadn't come up with some of these programs, I don't know what [would have happened.]"
3. Hendon described daily life in the CCC camps including that CCC enrollees woke up every morning at 6am for breakfast and went to work at 8 am doing various jobs related to the environment. They had the weekends off and could do what they liked, including going into nearby towns. They lived in barracks with electricity and the camp had a library, recreation hall, cafeteria, and church.
4. Hendon worked with the Soil Conservation Service running a survey crew. His men sodded waterways and built terraces for farmers to prevent erosion.

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5. Hendon's work in the CCC helped his family because \$24.00 of his monthly pay was sent home to the family which helped them afford necessities like food. He states that his sister said he "kept them from starving to death."
6. Hendon's work with the CCC benefited Texas because his crew helped teach farmers more sustainable farming techniques such as terracing to prevent erosion, they sodded rivers and replanted native grasses. Efforts like these helped Texas soil recover from the damage done by the Dust Bowl and helped prevent future damage and erosion.

Exit Ticket

- The two regions with the most CCC parks are the North Central Plains and the Coastal Plains. This is likely because these regions are more populated than the Mountains and Basins and Great Plains, and have more diverse geographic features.