

How do we know what we know? *Advanced*

Unit 12: The Great Depression

Name:

Date:

Period:

Part I: An Era of Challenges and Hardship

The Great Depression was a period of extreme financial hardship for most Americans. The stock market crash of 1929 dragged the United States into the worst economic depression in the country's history.

While most Texans did not take part in the stock market (in fact, many Texans did not even know what the stock market was!) this crash had profound effects on Texans as well. With people across the nation losing their entire life savings, their jobs, and their homes, most people were not buying Texas products such as cotton and oil. Texas businesses closed and thousands of Texans lost their jobs. Texas cotton farmers, who had already experienced decades of financial struggles, were hit especially hard.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt's "New Deal" programs transformed Texas and other states across the nation, providing relief through programs to create jobs, providing electricity to rural areas, and supporting communities across the United States.

While people across America faced a decade of financial hardship, the Great Plains region of the U.S. also experienced an ecological phenomenon that came to be known as the Dust Bowl. The combination of a severe drought, the depletion of native grasses, and high winds caused ongoing dust storms that had a profound ecological impact on the region, which included west Texas. A New Deal program called the Civilian Conservation Corps took measures to educate farmers on restorative farming techniques and replant natural grasses to preserve the soil and prevent future dust storms.

Describe some of the challenges people faced during the Great Depression era and explain how the government worked to address these challenges.

Part II: Primary Source Analysis

Directions: Choose six of the ten available primary source materials. Read your chosen materials and complete the graphic organizers for each material.

Source #:	Title of Source:
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What is the main topic or topics addressed in this source?	Write a list of quick notes from the source about this topic:
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Write a short summary of the source

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