



The Great Depression and the Federal Government – Grade 10

Ohio Standards Connection:

History

Benchmark F

Identify major historical patterns in the domestic affairs of the United States during the 20th century and explain their significance.

Indicator 10

Analyze the causes and consequences of major political, economic and social developments of the 1930s with emphasis on:

- The Great Depression;
- The Dust Bowl;
- The New Deal.

Economics

Benchmark B

Explain how the U.S. government provides public services, redistributes income, regulates economic activity, and promotes economic growth and stability.

Indicator 5

Analyze the impact of the Great Depression and World War II on the economy of the United States and the resulting expansion of the role of the federal government.

Lesson Summary:

Students will study the effects of the Great Depression on the role of the federal government in the American economy. Students will reflect on the approaches to government involvement in the economy taken by the Hoover and Roosevelt administrations. Activities include examining quotations from the two presidents and categorizing New Deal programs to see the extent of the expanding role for the federal government.

Estimated Duration: Four hours and 10 minutes.

Commentary:

While the effects of the Great Depression were extensive, this lesson focuses on the changed role of government. Students will use quotes from Presidents Herbert Hoover and Franklin Roosevelt to understand the different perspectives on government's role in economic, political and social issues.

Pre-Assessment:

- Write the following questions on the chalkboard or project on an overhead transparency:
 - What were some of the economic effects of the Great Depression?
 - What was the Hoover administration's response to the Great Depression?
 - Why did Franklin Roosevelt defeat Herbert Hoover in the 1932 election?
 - What was the Roosevelt administration's response to the Great Depression?
- Direct students to answer the questions on notebook paper.
- Allow students 10 or 15 minutes to answer the questions. Collect the papers and review the answers with the students.

Scoring Guidelines:

Consider the oral and written responses to the pre-assessment questions to determine students' prior knowledge about the effects of the Great Depression. Plan the content emphasis of the lesson based on the students' responses.