

TEACHING AMERICAN HISTORY PROJECT – 2009-2012

Lesson Title: U.S. History – The Great Depression - FDR & The New Deal from Marisa Birdsell

Grade: 8-10th

Length of Class Period: 50 – 60 Minutes

Inquiry: (What essential question are students answering, what problem are they solving, or what decision are they making?)

- What role should the government play in an economic crisis?

Objectives: (What content and skills do you expect students to learn from this lesson?)

- Students will be able to identify and describe New Deal Programs.
- Students will be able to evaluate the impact of New Deal Programs on the economy.
- Students will demonstrate an understanding of relief, reform, and recovery

Materials: (What primary sources or local resources are the basis for this lesson?) – (Attached)

- New Deal Programs Packet and Worksheet – Primary Source Photographs
- “New Deal Remedies” Political Cartoon Worksheet – Primary Source
- White paper or journals

Activities: (What will you and your students do during the lesson to promote learning?)

1. Question of the Day- How does the government help people during an economic crisis? What sort of programs or assistance comes to mind? Students will write a response for 2-3 minutes, and discuss.
2. Initiation/Discussion- Review relief, reform, and recovery, First New Deal, First 100 Days
 - a. Relief- to provide Americans with immediate assistance to help them with basic necessities of life, including food, direct monetary payments and employment
 - b. Recovery- A policy or program that has its primary goal to promote growth in the American economy
 - c. Reform- A policy or program that was designed to ensure that effects of the Great Depression did not occur again.
3. New Deal Programs- Class will divide into six groups and complete a worksheet
4. Group Presentations- Each group will briefly present their assigned program to the class
5. New Deal Remedies Political Cartoon- Students will work with a partner to complete the worksheet
6. Review- Discuss its popularity and successfulness. What does this mean today? Questions

7. Closure: What role should the government play in an economic crisis? Students respond for 2-3 minutes

How will you assess what student learned during this lesson?

Informal Formative Assessment

- Student Oral Responses- Answers to teacher questions, and group presentation
- Student Written Responses – Written responses to New Deal Program Evaluation, New Deal Remedies Political Cartoon, Question of the Day, and Guiding Question Response

Connecticut Grade Level Expectations:

Connecticut Standard 1- Content Knowledge: Knowledge of concepts and information from history and social studies is necessary to promote an understanding of our nation and our world.

- 1.1: Demonstrate an understanding of significant events and themes in US History.
- 1.8: Describe the interactions between citizens and their government in the making and implementation of laws.

1. Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) 1933



This environmental program put 2.5 million unmarried men to work maintaining and restoring forests, beaches, and parks. Workers earned only \$1 a day but received free board and job training. From 1934 to 1937, this program funded similar programs for 8,500 women. The CCC taught the men and women of America how to live independently, thus, increasing their self-esteem.

2. Agriculture Adjustment Administration (AAA) 1933



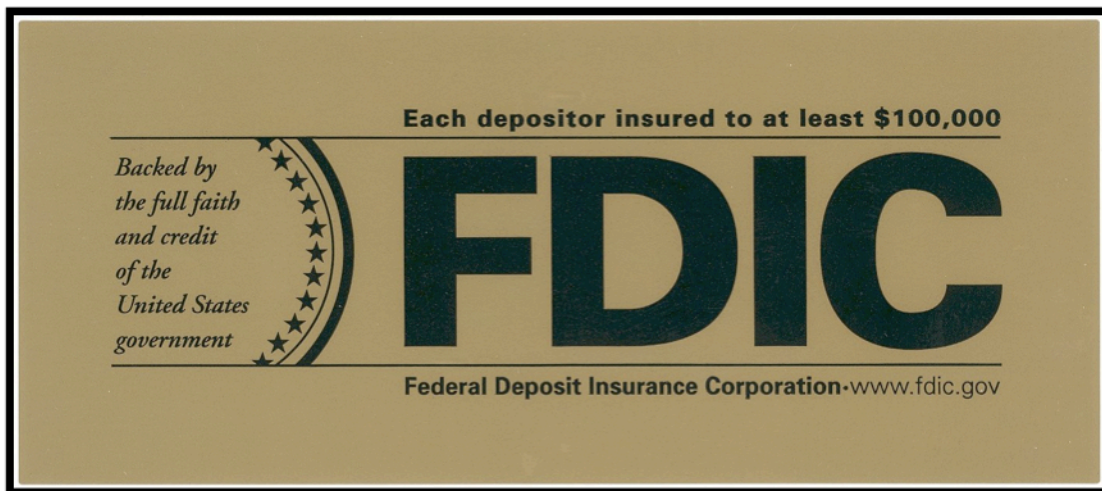
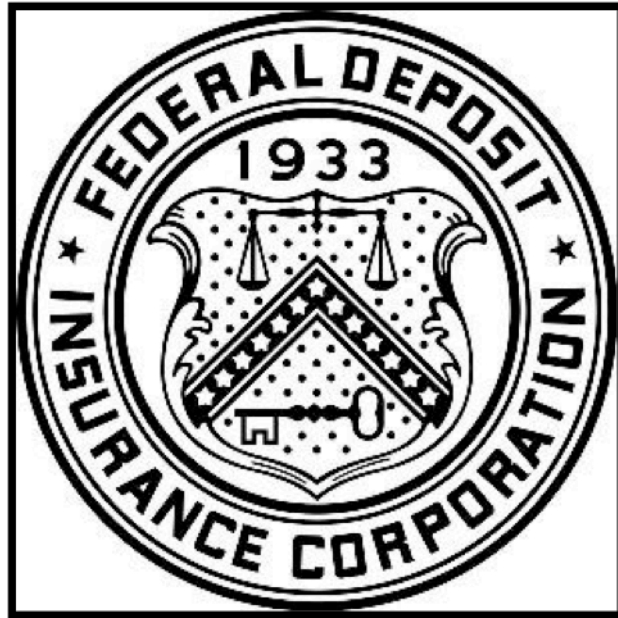
The AAA tried to raise farm prices. It used proceeds from a new tax to pay farmers not to raise specific crops and animals. Lower production would, in turn, increase prices. Farmers killed off certain animals and crops as they were told to by the AAA. Many could not believe that the federal government was condoning such an action when many Americans were starving. This was declared unconstitutional later on.

3. National Industrial Recovery Act (NIRA) 1933



The decline in the industrial prices in 1930s caused business failures and unemployment. The NIRA was formed in order to boost the declining prices, helping businesses and workers. The NIRA also allowed trade associations in many industries to write codes regulating wages, working conditions, production, and prices. It also set a minimum wage. The codes stopped the tailspin of prices for a short time, but soon, when higher wages went into effect, prices rose too. Thus, consumers stopped buying. The continuous cycle of overproduction and under consumption put businesses back into a slump. Some businesses felt that the codes were too complicated and the NRA was too rigid. It was declared unconstitutional later on.

4. Federal Deposit Insurance Corp (FDIC) 1934



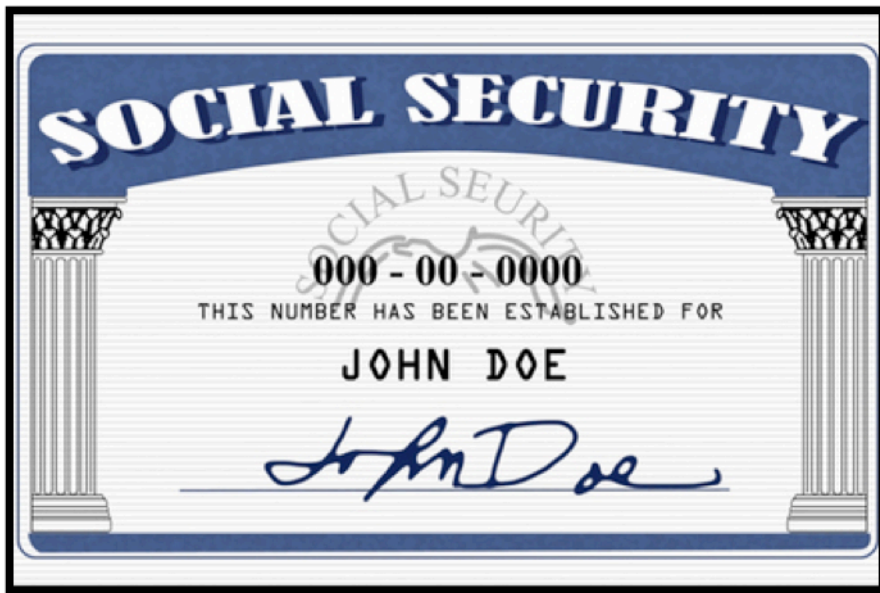
The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) was formed by Congress to insure deposits up to \$2500. Insured institutions are required to place signs at their place of business stating that "deposits are backed by the full faith and credit of the United States Government." Since the start of FDIC insurance on January 1, 1934, no depositor has lost a single cent of insured funds as a result of a failure.

5. Works Progress Administration (WPA) 1935



This agency provided work for 8 million Americans and attempted to decrease unemployment. The WPA constructed or repaired schools, hospitals, airfields, etc. WPA had employed more than 8,500,000 different persons on 1,410,000 individual projects, and had spent about \$11 billion. During its 8-year history, the WPA built 651,087 miles of highways, roads, and streets; and constructed, repaired, or improved 124,031 bridges, 125,110 public buildings, 8,192 parks, and 853 airport landing fields.

6. Social Security Act (SSA) 1935



This act established a system that provided old-age pensions for workers, survivors benefits for victims of industrial accidents, unemployment insurance, and aid for dependent mothers and children, the blind and physically disabled. Although the original SSA did not cover farm and domestic workers, it did help millions of Americans feel more secure.

Name:

Date:

New Deal Public Programs

Directions: Read and review your assigned program with your group members. Answer the following questions in complete sentences.

New Deal Program Name: _____

1. Who was the program intended to help?
2. What was this program intended to do?
3. Does this program fall under the Relief, Recovery, or Reform Program of Roosevelt's New Deal? Explain.
4. How successful do you believe this program was at relieving the economic crisis?
5. How does this program add to your understanding of the Great Depression?
6. Do you think it still exists today? Should it?

Name:

Date:

