

Name: _____ Date: _____ Period: _____

Life During the great Depression

For this lesson, you will need to visit all four stations around the room. There will be seven to eight of you per station. At the stations you will find a poster with information and an activity to complete. Here's what to do when you get to each station.

1. Write down the information off of the poster onto your notes section for each station.
2. Complete the activity. Each station has a different type of activity, ranging from watching a video to constructing a Hooverville.
3. Answer the questions for your station. Make sure that your answers are well thought out and written with proper grammar, in complete sentences.
4. Once finished, quietly wait to move on to the next station. **I don't want extra talking today.** I will announce when you can move to the next station - you have ten minutes at each station.

This lesson is designed to give you more insight as to what life was actually like for those who lived during the Great Depression. Good luck, if you have any questions please come ask me.

Station 1: The Depression in the Cities

Lost jobs:

Eviction:

Shanty Towns:

Hoovervilles:

Hoover Flag:

Hoover Blanket:

Soup Kitchens:

Bread Lines:

Racial Violence:

Activity: *Examine the few types of materials that people used to construct shelter once they were evicted from their homes. Imagine what it would be like to live in a house made out of ply wood, cardboard, and scraps of metal. In the space below, build (draw) a house using these materials and any others you think you might be able to find if you were homeless in the 1930s. Be sure to label what is used. Then, record your thoughts of what it would be like to live in a shelter such as the one you drew.*

Questions:

1. Why do you think people thought President Hoover was to blame? Should people always blame the President when a country is in crisis?

2. If the Depression was this bad in the cities, what do you think it was like for people who lived in the rural areas of America, such as the farmers? Explain your answer.

Station 2: Effects on the American Family

Men in the streets/Abandonment:

Hobos:

Hobo Symbols:

Women struggle to survive:

Children suffer hardships:

Social and psychological effects:

Activity: *During the Great Depression, teenagers, especially teen boys, found life extremely difficult. For this activity there are seven "Tales from the Rails" stories about what life was like for boys that were your age. Select and read one of these primary sources. Based off what you read, list the things that you personally think would have been the hardest to endure and why.*

Story _____

A.

B.

C.

Questions:

1. Why did more men than women leave their homes during the Depression?
2. What benefit would a family get by forcing their teenagers to fend for themselves?
3. How do you think you would be able to survive if you were forced to leave your family because of a Depression? Explain your answer.

Station 3: Movies and Radio

Hollywood:

Walt Disney:

Radio:

Soap Operas:

Activity: Watch Disney's "The Three Little Pigs".

What message do you think the American people got from this short film?

If you were to create a movie to help people escape from today's hard times, what would the title of the film be? Would it be a cartoon? What would your message be?

Questions:

1. Why would the Entertainment Industry see a rise during this era of economic hardships?

2. Has a movie ever helped you get through a tough time? Do you think there are movies made today that help people escape from the tough reality we are facing as a nation today? If so, what are they?

Station 4: Literature and Art

Comics:

John Steinbeck:

William Faulkner:

Grant Wood:

Dorothea Lange:

Activity: *Choose one of the pictures and consider how it fits into our understanding of what it was like to live during the Great Depression. Then, in the space provided, write the story of one of the people in the picture - where they live, job, family, struggles, etc. You need to write this story based off what you know about the Great Depression and what you see in the picture.*

Picture #: _____

Questions:

1. What subjects did artists, photographers, and writers emphasize during the 1930s?

2. Why is it important to photograph not only the good times our nation faces, but also the bad times? What can we learn from a photograph?

3. Do you think these pictures give justice to the Great Depression? Do they really portray the hardships America was facing? Explain your answer.

