The Great Depression and the New Deal (1929-1939)

Core Knowledge

OVERVIEW
A. Concept Objectives
1. Students will understand the causes of the Great Depression and how it affected American society.
2. Students will develop an awareness of how the New Deal alleviated the Great Depression and transformed American society.
3. Students will understand the importance of effective leadership in a democratic society.
4. Students will understand the impact of economic phenomena within the free enterprise system such as supply and demand, profit, government regulation, and international competition on the economy of the United States.

Secondary Student Objectives

STUDENT OBJECTIVES
· 1) Identify the causes and consequences of the Great Depression.
· 2) Compare and contrast the efforts made by President Hoover and President Roosevelt to end the Great Depression.
· 3) State the main goals of President Roosevelt's New Deal administration with examples
· 4) Explain the effects of the first and second New Deal on labor, conservation, cultural life, women, and minorities.
· 5) Describe the significance and legacy of the New Deal for the United States.
Question of the Day

• Describe what you see in this picture. What is happening here?
• What is unusual about the family in this picture?
• What reasons can you think of for why they are in this situation?

Activity 1: Think-Pair-Share

• Review:
  • What important themes did we cover in the decade called the “roaring twenties”.
  • Why do you think we call them the “roaring twenties”? Take one minute to write your answer.

  • When I tell you to, share what you wrote with the person next to you.
The Roaring 1920s—Swingin’!!!!

- Business Booms
- First shopping mall built
- First fast food chain, A&W Root Beer
- Appliances all the rage—radios, washing machines, telephones, cars
- Companies spend $1.5 billion on advertising in 1927
- Ford built his automobile empire
- People began to buy things on credit

Activity 2: Think-Pair-Share
Contrast the women in these two drawings. Take two minutes to write down as many differences as you can. When I tell you, share what you have written with the person next to you.

- Victorian Woman
- Jazz Age Woman
Pretest: Let’s see what you already know!

- Copy and complete!
The Economy of the Late 1920s

- “Everybody ought to be rich”
- 200 large companies controlled 49% of all American industry
- Too many goods, not enough demand
- Farm prices fell after WWI
- Farmers not able to repay their debts

Income Distribution, 1929:

- $10,000 and Over: 1
- $5,000-$9,999: 5
- $2,000-$4,999: 29
- $1,999 and under: 65
The United States presidential election of 1928 pitted Republican Herbert Hoover against Democrat Al Smith.

The Republicans were identified with the booming economy of the 1920s, whereas Smith, a Roman Catholic, suffered politically from anti-Catholic prejudice, his anti-prohibitionist stance, and the legacy of corruption with which he was associated.

Hoover's was a landslide victory.

Who clearly won this election? How do you know?
Let’s analyze Hoover’s famous 1928 campaign speech.

1) What is “rugged individualism?”

2) Does this speech reflect the optimism of the 1920’s? Use evidence to support your answer.

3) Based on your reading of this document, predict whether Hoover will succeed in dealing with the upcoming economic crisis.
Hoover's Ironic Acceptance Speech

• "We in America today are nearer to the final triumph over poverty than ever before in the history of this land... We shall soon with the help of God be in sight of the day when poverty will be banished from this land."

• Herbert Hoover in his acceptance speech June, 1928

• Question: Why is this speech "ironic?"

Prosperity was Short-lived

• During the first few months of Hoover's administration, the economy continued to prosper

• (left) The New York Stock Exchange—where stocks are bought and sold by brokers, or hired investors
The Great Depression

Inside the New York Stock Exchange today

In 1929

Dow Jones

- The Dow Jones Industrial Average (DJIA) is one of several stock market indicators created by Charles Dow.
- Dow compiled the index as a way to gauge the performance of America's stock market.
- Today, the average consists of 30 of the largest and most widely held public companies in the US.
The Dow Jones Industrial Average consists of the following 30 companies:

- 3M Co. (MMM) (conglomerates)
- ALCOA Inc. (AA) (aluminum)
- Altria Group, Inc. (MO) (tobacco, foods)
- American International Group, Inc. (AIG) (property & casualty insurance)
- American Express Co. (AXP) (credit services)
- AT&T Inc. (T) (telecom services)
- Caterpillar, Inc. (CAT) (farm & construction equipment)
- Citigroup, Inc. (C) (money center banks)
- Coca-Cola Co. (KO) (beverages)
- E.I. du Pont de Nemours & Co. (DD) (chemicals)
- Exxon Mobil Corp. (XOM) (major integrated oil & gas)
- General Electric Co. (GE) (conglomerates)
- General Motors Corp. (GM) (auto manufacturers)
- Hewlett-Packard Co. (HPQ) (diversified computer systems)
- Home Depot, Inc. (HD) (home improvement stores)
- Honeywell International, Inc. (HON) (conglomerates)
- Intel Corp. (INTC) (semiconductors)
- International Business Machines Corp. (IBM) (diversified computer systems)
- JPMorgan Chase and Co. (JPM) (money center banks)
- Johnson & Johnson Inc. (JNJ) (drug manufacturers)
- McDonald's Corp. (MCD) (restaurants)
- Merck & Co., Inc. (MRK) (drug manufacturers)
- Microsoft Corp. (MSFT) (application software)
- Pfizer, Inc. (PFE) (drug manufacturers)
- Procter & Gamble Co. (PG) (consumer goods)
- United Technologies Corp. (UTX) (conglomerates)
- Verizon Communications (VZ) (telecom services)
- Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. (WMT) (discount, variety stores)
- Walt Disney Co., The (DIS) (entertainment)

INFO FROM WIKIPEDIA.COM

Activity: Go to http://finance.yahoo.com/. In groups of 3-4, pick four stocks to invest a total of “$10,000.” Track these stocks over five days. How much did you make or lose? Then, answer the questions.

Appendix K: Tracking the Stocks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stock</th>
<th>Stock</th>
<th>Stock</th>
<th>Stock</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Day 1
Day 2
Day 3
Day 4
Day 5

1. Which one of your stocks fluctuated the most during the week?
2. Which one of your stocks fluctuated the least during the week?
3. Which stock do you think would be the most stable to invest in?
4. What was the greatest amount of change in your stocks?
5. Do you think the stock market is a safe way to make money?
**The Stock Market Crash**

- Stocks hit all-time highs in September of 1929
- In October, stocks began to fall
  - Ex. General Electric stocks bought for $400 sold for $283
- **Black Tuesday**, Oct. 29, 1929—16.4 million shares sold, compared to average of 4 million
- This collapse of the stock market is known as the **Great Crash**
The Great Depression

Discussion Points:

1) How did businesses try to keep demand high? Why did this fail?

2) What could the government have done to prevent a crash from happening?

- Businesses tried to keep demand high by increasing production and offering incentives, but this failed as it led to overproduction and increased unemployment.

- The government could have implemented measures such as deregulation, increased spending, and fiscal stimulation to prevent a crash from happening.

The Great Depression

 Causes Of The Great Depression

• Many people buy shares in the hope of making quick money. If you have confidence that a business is going to do well in the future, then you can buy shares in the hope of selling them later for a profit. This is called speculation. This is what happened before 1929. The important 'boom' as the US provided huge sums of money to Britain in the Great War. Confidence increased.

- Share prices rose.
  - E.g.: the value of United Carbon shares almost quadrupled in the last 9 months of 1928.

- Confidence was low; many people thought that shares were easy money. Ordinary people borrow money from banks to buy shares, intending to sell them at a high price for a profit. As a result, $8 billion was lent by banks to speculate in 1929 alone, and the number of people owning shares increased by 500% (1914-1929).

- Shares became worthless: nobody is prepared to buy them. The banks tried to buy all the shares to restore confidence, but it didn't work. Thousands of people were left bankrupt.

- Banks had to close down:
  - 1929-653 banks fell, 1931-1,382 banks fell.
Black Thursday

October 24, 1929

- **Morning:** Stock prices began to fall
  - People became desperate to sell their stocks
  - Brokers began to panic
- **Noon:** A meeting was held among the bankers
  - Richard Whitney was vice president of the Stock Exchange floor
  - Whitney began bidding high on U.S. Steel stocks
  - People regained confidence and the market recovered

A Nervous Recovery

October 25 – 28, 1929

- Trading was heavy, but prices remained steady
- Investors were still nervous about the stability of the market
- **Monday:** October 28 opened with a flood of selling
  - Organized support did not appear as it had on October 24
  - Altogether, the New York Stock Exchange value had dropped ten billion dollars in one day
    - Was the largest fall in the history of the exchange
**Black Tuesday**

October 29, 1929

- When the stock exchange opened at ten A.M., everyone began **selling** their stocks
  - Prices dropped rapidly
    - RCA shares had been worth $420 each were now selling for $26 each
    - Bankers were **not** looking to help the market, they were also selling their stocks

  *At 1:00 P.M., 10,000 people filled Wall Street. Rumors passed up and down the crowd. No one knew what to do or believe. All over the city, people watched the ticker tape unwind. (The ticker tape lists the changing stock prices.) People watched as their fortunes shrank rapidly. Complaining to others did no good, because they were also dealing with the same problem.*

- As the trading grew to a close, prices slowly began to rally
- The **volume** of shares at closing was a **record high**, 16,410,030 shares
- Over **fourteen billion dollars** were wiped off the value of the stock market
- The market value began to drop
  - June 1930 saw another large drop
  - Continued until reaching an ultimate low in July 1932
- **Black Tuesday marks the beginning of the Great Depression**
The Great Depression
Why did the market crash?

Causes:
• 1) Many people bought stocks on margin—like a loan
• 2) Companies lied about their profits—remember Enron?
• 3) Economies like ours go through natural “boom” and “bust” cycles
• 4) Republican Presidents believed in *laissez faire*—no control on businesses
• 5) Stock market was not regulated by government
The Stock Market Crash
From Riches to Ruin

- Many wealthy families lost everything
- Some even committed suicide
- Millions of people who never owned a single stock lost their jobs, farms and homes
- The crash triggered a much wider, long term economic crisis known as the Great Depression, lasting from 1929 to 1941 when America entered WWII
- The Depression had a ripple effect that hurt the economies of other countries

Unemployment 1925-1933

Question 3: How many people were unemployed in 1925? In 1929? In 1932?
The Great Depression

Wheat Prices 1925-1933

Question 4: How much did a bushel of wheat cost in 1925? 1932?

Stock Prices 1925-1933

Question 5: What was the average stock value in 1929? 1932?
Question 6: How many banks were suspended in 1925? In 1933?

**Bank Suspensions 1925-1933**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number of Suspensions (in thousands)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1925</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1926</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1927</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1928</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1929</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1930</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1931</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1932</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1933</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Historical Fiction Letter writing on Great Depression**

- **Introduction:** It is the day before Thanksgiving, 1929. You own a small shoe store. An investment broker convinced you to spend your life savings in the stock market. He told you that you could triple your money if you invest it with him. You even bought some stock on margin, thinking that you would be able to pay it off when your stock went up. To your absolute horror, the stock market crashed in October and completely wiped you out.

- **Complete:** Write a letter back to your husband or wife telling them what has happened. Make sure to use evidence for why this happened from your notes and the textbook. Also explain how you plan to cope.
Assignment: Compare/Contrast Essay—Then and Now.

- **Directions:** You will write a 5-paragraph compare/contrast essay, in which you analyze the Crash of 1929 and the second “Crash of 2008.” Structure: 1st paragraph—Intro. and thesis. 2nd paragraph—Crash of 1929 and Great Depression. 3rd Paragraph—The current economic crisis. 4th—Compare/contrast the two crises. 5th paragraph—Conclusion and your predictions for the future. Will we get out of the current crisis soon, and if so, how so? Or, will we suffer through another Depression? You will need to use at least five reliable resources and cite them in a bibliography. Start with these:
  - 1) [http://finance.yahoo.com/](http://finance.yahoo.com/). Info on today’s market and financial meltdown and the President’s attempts to rescue the economy.
  - 2) [http://www.history.com/genericContent.do?id=61014](http://www.history.com/genericContent.do?id=61014). A great timeline of events during the Crash and Depression.
  - **Other Requirements:** Typed, 12-point font, Times New Roman, double spaced, bibliography.
Objectives: Analyze the immediate effects of the Stock Market Crash of 1929.

Warm Up--10 minutes: In your groups, grab a laptop, go to http://finance.yahoo.com/, and record the opening price for your chosen stocks. On day 5, I will ask you to compute how much you gained or lost as well as answer the five questions below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stock</th>
<th>Stock</th>
<th>Stock</th>
<th>Stock</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Day 1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day 2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day 3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day 4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day 5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Which one of your stocks fluctuated the most during the week?
2. Which one of your stocks fluctuated the least during the week?
3. Which stock do you think would be the most stable to invest in?
4. What was the greatest amount of change in your stocks?
5. Do you think the stock market is a safe way to make money?

Hoover Struggles with the Stock Market Crash & the Depression

Hoover’s solution:

Do nothing!

Laissez-faire--Government should not interfere in the economy.

Hoover believed that the economy would eventually correct itself and the Depression would go away.

Make a prediction: Will Hoover’s plan succeed?
The Results of Hoover’s Strategy

The Bonus Army
• “Bonus army”--In 1932 thousands of veterans of World War I marched into Washington D.C. They wanted their wartime “bonus” they were to receive in 1945. Their numbers rose to 25,000 within two months

Hoovervilles
• The Bonus Army set up Hoovervilles--shantytowns where the unemployed and homeless lived.
  • These consisted of shacks made of wooden crates, tar paper, and other pieces. They were set up on the outskirts of cities.

They were nicknamed “Hoovervilles” because people blamed President Hoover for his lack of action to solve this situation. President Hoover believed that “nonintervention” was best. As he did nothing, things grew worse.

Let’s look at some photos of the early depression! Can you imagine what it was like to live during this time?
Picture Analysis of the Great Depression

Directions:
1) Number a sheet of loose leaf paper 1-6
2) You will analyze six photos from the Great Depression
3) For each photo, you must answer the questions in complete sentences.
4) You will have three minutes to answer the questions before we move on to the next photo, so please keep up with the pace of the class.

Answer the following question in complete sentences.
What are the circumstances represented by this photo?

Describe the condition of the house in the photo.

Answer the following question with a complete sentence.
What can you learn from the expression on the boy’s face?

Directions:
- Analyze the photo and answer the question.
Directions:
• Analyze the photo and answer the question.

Picturing the Great Depression

Answer the following question with complete sentences.

What is interesting or surprising about the situation captured in this picture?

Picturing the Great Depression

Answer the following question with complete sentences.

What problems or frustrations are suggested by this picture?
Answer the following question with a complete sentence.

What help seems to be needed here?
In upcoming slides, you will view many photos of the Depression. Choose one to complete this assignment!

Q. What does this picture show?
Q. What's going on here?

Life in the Cities: Breadlines

Q. And here? Does this photo surprise you?
The Great Depression

• Soup Kitchens
Q. What's unusual about this?

Lesson Topic: The Great Depression

Audio:
[Audio link]

Brother, Can You Spare a Dime?

They used to tell me I was building a dream
And so I followed the mob
When there was earth to plow or guns to bear
I was always there, right on the job

They used to tell me I was building a dream
With peace and glory ahead
Why should I be standing in line
Just waiting for bread?

Once I built a railroad, made it run
Made it race against time
Once I built a railroad, now it's done
Brother can you spare a dime?

Once I built a tower to the sun
Brick and mortar and time
Once I built a tower, now it's done
Brother can you spare a dime?

Once in khaki suit, gee we looked swell
Full of that Yankee doodle deem
Half a million boots went plodding through hell
And I was the kid with a dream

Say, don't you remember they called me Bill?
It was Bill all the time
Say, don't you remember, I'm your pal
Brother can you spare a dime?
Was there any hope for these families?

Hopping on a moving freight train was a dangerous act, but in the 30s hundreds of thousands of men and women did it. Used by permission: Saskatchewan Interactive. Click for Web site.
Conclusion: Looking Ahead...

- Over the next couple of days, we will take this a step further, so that you can really experience what it was like to live during the early days of the Great Depression! We will begin to research the type of clothing and food people could afford. By Friday, I want you to come dressed in old clothes and rags! (No, I’m not joking!)
Warm UP/Do Now: What do these recipes tell you about life during the Depression?

**Activity:**
**Everybody Has To Eat:**
**The Cost of the Depression**

It’s the Great Depression! You have sold some of your furniture to make ends meet. No more desks, so have a seat on the floor. Get pen and paper ready!
Directions—Complete in 30 minutes or less:

It’s Winter 1932. Your average weekly salary was $26.31. However, you just lost your job, so you only have $26.31 to survive on for right now. You will create a balanced budget.

You have the following bills (You will need write down whether you decide to pay for some or all of them):
1) $4 for electricity—pay it or lose electricity!
2) $5 for gas—pay it or lose heat and the ability to use the stove!
3) $2 for water—pay it or lose running water!
4) $10 for the dentist—Your newborn baby has a horrible tooth ache and her mouth is becoming swollen and infected. She does not stop crying!

Now, create a food budget with what’s left over of your money.
1) You need food to feed your family, which includes your spouse and two children. Using the list of food and prices (left), buy enough food for the week. Write down your purchases and add up the total.
2) For each day of the week, Sunday through Saturday, you need to write a description of at least two meals you plan to serve per day. For example: Sunday: Breakfast—milk and dried fruit Dinner—Ham and potatoes
3) Write about the emotions you felt, as you placed yourself in this situation. What did you learn?

Warm Up/Do Now

Directions:

• Complete the questions on the “Dustbowl.”

1. Speculate as to whom and where these photographs may have been taken.
2. Which image “speaks” to you and why?
3. If every picture tells a story, what story do these photographs convey?
4. What questions do these images evoke?
The Dust Bowl, 1933-1939

Where was it?
- The Great Plains region—N. & S. Dakota, Nebraska, Colorado, Kansas Oklahoma and northern Texas

What Caused it?
- Farmers plow the plains, eliminating the protective layer of grass
- Wheat replaces grass—tractors make it much easier
- Severe drought
- High winds
- Layers of top soil blown away, leaving dunes of grit and sand

April 14, 1935—Black Sunday—Was one of the worst “black blizzards”

Lesson Twenty-Ninth
Dust Storm Disaster, 1935
By Woody Guthrie

On the 14th day of April of 1935,
There struck the worst of dust storms that ever filled the sky.
You could see that dust storm apple,
It stood looked deathlike black.
And through our mighty nation, it let a dreadful track.

From Oklahoma City to the Arizona line,
Dakota and Nebraska to the lazy Rio Grandes,
It fell across our city like a curtain of black rolled down,
We thought it was our judgement, we thought it was our doom.

The radio reported, we listened with alarm,
The wild and windy actions of this great mysterious storm.
From Albuquerques and Clewiss, and all New Mexico,
They said it was the blackest that ever they had saw.

From old Dodge City, Kansas, the dust had risen their howl,
And a furious roundhouse locomotive ran ten of old Rock Hill.
From Denver, Colorado, they said it was the wind,
They though that they could hold out, but they didn’t knew how long.

Our relatives were huddled into their oil heen shack,
And the children they was cryin’, as it whistled through the cracks.
The family it was crowded into these little room,
They thought the world had ended, and they thought it was their doom.

The storm took place at midnight, it lasted through the night,
What we looked out next mornin’, we saw a terrible sight.
We saw outside our window where wheat fields they had been.
We saw a sprawling desert of dust the wind had blown.

It covered up our fences, it covered up our barns,
It covered up our houses in this wild and dusty storm.
We loaded our automobiles and piled our families in.

We carried down that highway to never come back again.

Question:
- What lyrical techniques does this songwriter use to describe “Black Sunday?”
Which areas defined The Dust Bowl?
The fertile soil of the Great Plains was exposed through removal of grass during plowing. During the drought, the soil dried out, became dust, and blew away eastwards, mostly in large black clouds.
Interesting fact:
The dust storms could suffocate birds flying in the air, causing them to fall dead to the ground!

- At times, the clouds blackened the sky all the way to Chicago, and much of the soil was completely lost into the Atlantic Ocean.
Curtains of thick sand would blow across the plains and seep into every crevice and cranny imaginable. The fine dust would get into food, water, and houses even though people did their best to protect themselves from it. It was described by a news journalist the following way: “I went inside the dust storm that for three weeks obscured the sun and made everything, food, water, even the air taken into the lungs, taste gritty. It blew into the eyes, underneath the collar; undressing, there were specks of dust inside the buttonholes; in the morning it had gathered like fine snow along the window ledge; it penetrated even more; it seeped along the wiring of the house; and along the edges of the door button there was a dusty brown stain.” (Quoted in Don Congdon, The 30’s: A Time to Remember. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1962)
An abandoned farm in Kansas.

A collage of newspaper headlines from the Dust Bowl
Some residents of the Plains, in especially Kansas and Oklahoma, fell prey to illnesses and death from dust pneumonia and the effects of malnutrition.

Fleeing the Dust Bowl

This ecological disaster, which began as the economic effects of the Great Depression were intensifying, caused an exodus from Texas, Oklahoma, and the surrounding Great Plains, with over 500,000 Americans left homeless.

Many of these Americans—called Oakies—migrated west looking for work.
ASSIGNMENT:

• Read “Dust Bowl Exodus: How Drought and the Depression Took Their Toll” and complete “For Discussion” questions.

Activity: Analyze the Dust Bowl through Song and Lyric!

• Take out a sheet of paper and a pen and get ready to analyze several songs on the Dust Bowl. You will need to answer several accompanying questions and then write a song of your own on the Dust Bowl!
The Great Depression

Question:
• According to this songwriter, what is a “dustbowl refugee”?
• What problems do these people face?

A singer comments on the Dust Bowl?

Directions:
• Analyze the song lyrics and answer the questions

Lesson Eight: Woody Guthrie

Dust Bowl Refugees
By Woody Guthrie

Note: Guthrie hated the term “Dust Bowl Refugees.” He introduced this song by saying, “You know, there are different kinds of refugees. There are people who are forced to take refuge under a railroad bridge because they are just no place else to go, and there are those who take refuge in public office.

I'm a dust bowl refugee,
Just a dust bowl refugee.
From that dust bowl to the peach bowl,
Now that peach bowl is a dollar one.

Cross the mountains to the sea,
Came the wife and kids and me.
It's a hot old dusty highway
For a dust bowl refugee.

Hard, it's always been that way,
Here today and on our way.
Down that mountain, cross the desert,
Just a dust bowl refugee.

We are ramblers, so they say,
We are only here today.
Then we travel with the seasons,
We're the dust bowl refugees.

From the north land and the drought land,
Cross the wide and kids and me.
And this old world is a hard world
For a dust bowl refugee.

Yes, we ramble and we roam,
And the highway that's our home.
It's a never-ending highway
For a dust bowl refugee.

Yes, we wander and we work,
In your crops and in your fruit,
Like the whirlwinds on the desert
That's the dust bowl refugees.

A singer comments on the Dust Bowl?

Original Title: “God Blessed America”

Lesson Eight: Woody Guthrie

God Blessed America

For the 1940 Version

This land is your land, this is my land.
From California to the New York Island,
This land is God's land, God blessed America for me.

As I was walking on a shiny highway,
I saw above me the golden sky,
And I saw God's land as the flag was flying.

God blessed America for me.

I turned and rushed and followed my footsteps
To the sparkling sands of her diamond deserts,
And all around me a voice was sounding:

God blessed America for me.

1940 Version

This land is your land,
This land is my land.
From the Redwood Forest
To the New York Island,
The Canaan is narrow to the Gulf Stream waters.

God bless America. This land is made for you and me.

As I was walking on a shiny highway,
I saw above me the golden sky
And all around me the voice was saying:
This land is made for you and me.

I turned and rushed and followed my footsteps
To the sparkling sands of her diamond deserts
Till I came to the sands of

Questions:
1. How are these versions two alike? How are they different?
2. Which words or phrases refer to the hard times of dustbowl?
3. What is a lynching reflect on what's positive about America? Which reflect on what's negative?
4. Why do you think the lyrics were changed?
What was the Oakies’ daily life like?

• “Why We Come to Californy”
  By Jack Bryant, Firebaugh, 1940

You've all heard the story
Of old Sunny Cal
The place where it never rains
They say it don’t know how.

They say, “Come on, you Okies,
Work is easy found
Bring along your cotton pack
You can pick the whole year round.

Get your money ever' night
Spread your blanket on the ground
It’s always bright and warm
You can sleep right on the ground.”

But listen to me Okies
I came out here one day
Spent all my money getting here
Now I can't get away.

Question:
• What do you think was the importance of Route 66 during the 1930’s?
The Great Depression

Directions

• Read this selection and then complete the activities as described.

The Grapes of Wrath, by John Steinbeck, 1939

This small excerpt from Steinbeck’s novel depicts the hardships that farmers faced during the Dust Bowl and the Great Depression.

And then the dispossessed were drawn west from Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico; from Nevada and Arkansas, families, tribes, dusted out, tracted out. Carloads, caravans, homeless and hungry: twenty thousand and fifty thousand and a hundred thousand and two hundred thousand. They streamed over the mountains, hungry and restless - restless as ants, scurrying to find work to do - to lift, to push, to pull, to pick, to cut - anything, any burden to bear, for food. The kids are hungry. We got no place to live. Like ants scurrying for work, for food, and most of all for land.” – John Steinbeck

FIRST: Pretend that you are traveling by car or by foot out to California. Write a one-page journal entry about what your trip on Route 66 is like.

SECOND: Illustrate the famous passage above from “The Grapes of Wrath.” Use colored pencils adding detail to the text.

Dust Bowl Activity: Your Choice—20 minutes!

• 1) Draw a picture which illustrates the causes of the dust bowl. Make sure to label the different layers of earth, the climate effects, and the manmade causes.

• 2) Write lyrics for the a song entitled something like “The Dust Bowl Blues.” Describe to your audience exactly how the dust bowl happened, and what happened to you because of it. It should be at least twelve lines.