

## The Depression and the New Deal

### Lesson 3 Living Through the Depression

#### ESSENTIAL QUESTION

*Why do people make economic choices?*

#### GUIDING QUESTIONS

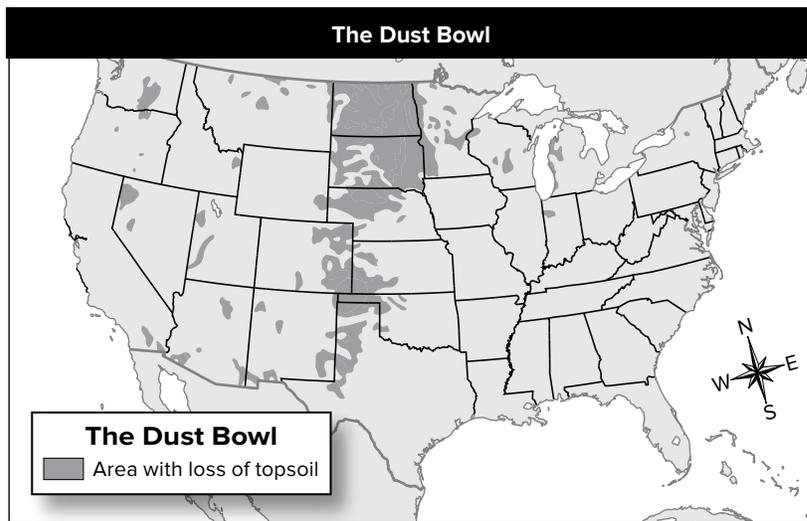
1. *Why was the Depression difficult for Americans?*
2. *How did minority groups adapt to hard times?*
3. *How did the 1930s become a golden age in entertainment and the arts?*

#### Terms to Know

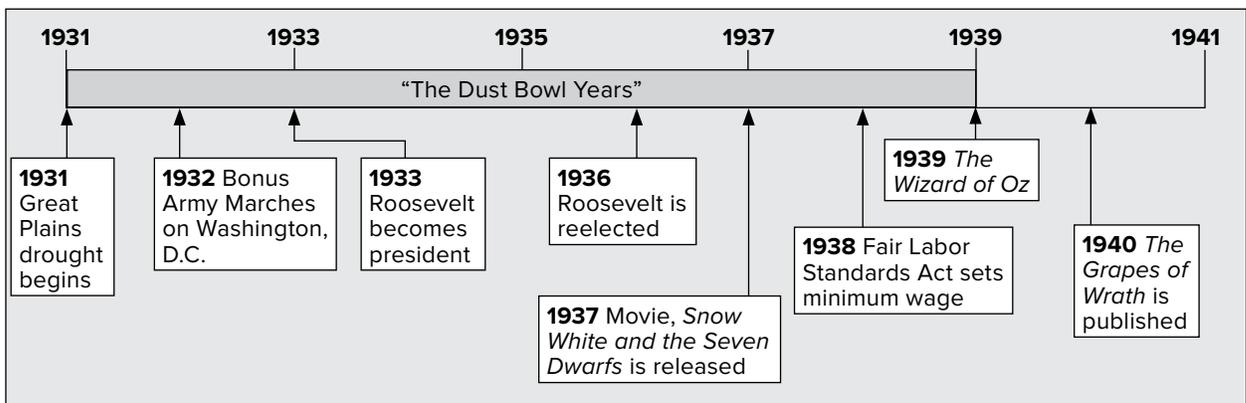
**migrant worker** a person who moves from place to place to find work

**fascism** a political philosophy that stresses the glory of the state over individual needs and that favors dictatorship

### Where in the world?



### When did it happen?



## The Depression and the New Deal

### Lesson 3 Living Through the Depression, *Continued*

#### Hard Times in America

The Depression was a very bad time for millions of Americans. People were without jobs. They could not afford medical care. Many lost their homes. Families broke apart.

Women took jobs outside the home. They usually were paid less than men. Women worked harder at home, too. To save money, they made their own clothes and baked their own bread. They canned vegetables. Some women started businesses at home.

Women began to work in government. FDR appointed more than 100 women to federal jobs. He named Frances Perkins as secretary of labor. Perkins was the first woman ever to work as part of a president’s cabinet. FDR appointed Ellen Sullivan Woodward to a federal position. She started a program to provide jobs for women.

It was hard for the president to travel, because he could not walk. His wife, Eleanor, could travel more easily. She went all around the country. People told her about their problems and fears in the Depression. She reported back to her husband. She spoke out for women and families who were in need.

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In the 1930s, an environmental disaster struck the United States. The disaster was caused both by people and nature. Farmers on the Great Plains had plowed more and more land to plant more and more crops.

So much plowing removed the sod, or grass, that covered the Great Plains. People didn’t realize that the sod held the soil in place.

In 1931 there was a drought. Crops died and the ground dried out. Windstorms blew the dried soil into huge dust clouds. The clouds were so big and full of dust that they blocked out the sun. Dust piled up in drifts and buried roads and cars. This area became known as the Dust Bowl.

The soil that was left was not very good. It could not grow good crops. People called the ruined area the Dust Bowl. Many farmers could not keep up payments on their farms. Many left the Dust Bowl to find work in new places.

About 400,000 people went to California. They went to pick fruits and vegetables. They became **migrant workers**. That means they migrated, or moved, from place to place to find work. Because many of them came from Oklahoma, they were known as “Okies.”



#### Identifying

1. List two ways that Eleanor Roosevelt helped the nation during the Depression.

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#### Reading Check

2. What was the “Dust Bowl”?

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#### Defining

3. What are migrant workers?

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4. Place a one-tab Foldable along the dotted line above the words, “In the 1930s...” Write *Summarize the effects of the Dust Bowl* on the anchor tab. In your own words, write about the consequences of the Dust Bowl. Use both sides of the Foldable.

## The Depression and the New Deal

### Lesson 3 Living Through the Depression, *Continued*



#### Summarizing

5. How did FDR and Eleanor Roosevelt show support for African Americans?

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#### Listing

6. List four changes that helped Native Americans during the Depression.

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### Minorities in the Depression

Minority groups had a very hard time during the Depression. Many members of minority groups had no jobs at all. Those who had jobs were not paid well. Many were not treated fairly in other ways.

About half of the African Americans who lived in the South had no jobs. Many who had jobs were fired so white workers could take their jobs. About 400,000 went north. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) fought discrimination. Thanks to the NAACP, more than 500,000 African Americans joined labor unions. President Roosevelt appointed several African Americans to federal jobs. He had a group of African American advisers. They were called the “Black Cabinet.”

FDR’s Advisers in the “Black Cabinet”

Robert Weaver	college professor
Ralph Bunche	became civil rights leader
Mary McLeod Bethune	founded Bethune-Cookman College in Florida

Eleanor Roosevelt also helped African Americans. In 1939, singer Marian Anderson was told she could not sing at a private hall. The First Lady arranged for Anderson to sing at the Lincoln Memorial instead.

Native Americans received some help during the Depression. John Collier was the head of the Bureau of Indian Affairs. He made some changes called the “Indian New Deal.” These changes included:

- Reservation land could not be sold
- CCC hired about 77,000 Native Americans
- The Public Works Administration (PWA) gave money to build new schools on reservations
- Congress passed the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934. This paid for more land to make some reservations larger. It restored tribal governments.

About 2 million Latinos lived in the United States in the 1930s. Many had come from Mexico and lived in California. Some were farmers. Some were factory workers. Some were migrant workers.

## The Depression and the New Deal

### Lesson 3 Living Through the Depression, *Continued*

During the Depression, many Mexican American workers lost their jobs. Many Mexican Americans were sent to Mexico, even if they did not want to go. Those who stayed in the United States often faced discrimination.

The hard times caused some people to think in new ways. Some Americans joined political groups that wanted to make big changes. These radical ideas included communism and socialism.

**Fascism** was another radical idea. It put the glory of the nation above the needs of its people. Fascists also favored dictatorship. Fascists blamed Jews, Communists, and liberals for the troubles of the Depression. Few Americans were attracted to this type of thinking.

### Depression-Era Entertainment

The 1930s was a golden age for entertainment and the arts. There were two main types of entertainment. There was the kind that helped people laugh and forget their troubles. Then there was the kind that showed the injustice and suffering of the Depression years.

Radio shows were very popular. There was drama, adventure, and comedy. Millions of people went to the movies. Movies were a way to escape from worry.

Painters, photographers, and writers used art to show how hard life was. The subject of their art was everyday people in everyday situations.

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#### Check for Understanding

Name two reasons the Depression was hard on minority groups.

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How did the Depression change the lives of women in America?

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#### Listing

7. Name three radical political ideas.

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#### Reading Check

8. Why were movies and radio so popular during the Depression?

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9. Use a two-tab Foldable and cut the tabs in half to make four tabs. Place it along the dotted line to cover Check for Understanding. Write *Hard Times in America* on the anchor tab. Label the tabs *Women*, *African Americans*, *Native Americans*, and *Latino Americans*. On the tabs, write about each group's challenges. Use your Foldable to help answer Check for Understanding.