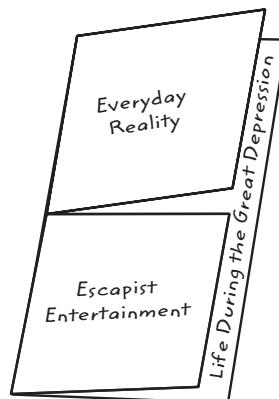


The Great Depression

TOPIC SUMMARY

October 1929 is infamous for the crash of the New York Stock Exchange and the beginning of the Great Depression. Panic selling of stock, with little willingness to buy, drastically reduced the value of shares. The crash wiped out people's investments, business capital, and banks' cash reserves. Reduced business activity put many people out of work, and widened the gap between rich and poor. Millions of Americans lived in poverty, further reducing their ability to buy goods and services. As trade declined, the depression spread worldwide.

Analyzing Popular Culture



1 Two-Tab Book

Ask students to research the way people coped with adversity during the Depression. Have students read about popular entertainment of the 1930s, such as movies and radio. Students should use a Two-Tab Foldable to list examples of the hardships people endured in real life and the kinds of entertainment that flourished.

Materials Needed: one sheet of 8.5" x 11" paper, scissors.

Interpreting Actions and Results

| Hoover's Actions | Description | Result |
|------------------------------|-------------|--------|
| Public Works | | |
| National Credit Corporation | | |
| Reconstruction Finance Corp. | | |
| Emergency Relief Act | | |

1 Folded Chart Foldable

Have students use a Folded Chart to assess the effectiveness of President Hoover's policies in response to the Great Depression. First ask students to describe measures the government took, then have them describe the results of those measures.

Materials Needed: one sheet of 11" x 17" paper.

Comparing Economic Stability



Ask students to assess the stability of the United States economy before, during, and after the Great Depression based on their reading. Have students compare the three periods in terms of unemployment, the stock market, productivity, and growth. Students should list their assessments in a Three-Tab Foldable.

Materials Needed: one sheet of 8.5" x 11" paper, scissors.

1 Three-Tab Book

Ask students to assess the stability of the United States economy before, during, and after the Great Depression based on their reading. Have students compare the three periods in terms of unemployment, the stock market, productivity, and growth. Students should list their assessments in a Three-Tab Foldable.