

Chapter 1 : The Great Depression Project by Nick Tomanelli on Prezi

Great Depression / New Deal Project. You have plenty of time in class to complete the following project. EACH DAY in class, try to complete. ONE STEP in the PROCESS SECTION.

Visit Website The next day, Roosevelt declared a four-day bank holiday to stop people from withdrawing their money from shaky banks. Next, he asked Congress to take the first step toward ending Prohibition – one of the more divisive issues of the s – by making it legal once again for Americans to buy beer. At the end of the year, Congress ratified the 21st Amendment and ended Prohibition for good. In May, he signed the Tennessee Valley Authority Act into law, creating the TVA and enabling the federal government to build dams along the Tennessee River that controlled flooding and generated inexpensive hydroelectric power for the people in the region. That same month, Congress passed a bill that paid commodity farmers farmers who produced things like wheat, dairy products, tobacco and corn to leave their fields fallow in order to end agricultural surpluses and boost prices. So, in the spring of , Roosevelt launched a second, more aggressive series of federal programs, sometimes called the Second New Deal. The WPA also gave work to artists, writers, theater directors and musicians. In July , the National Labor Relations Act, also known as the Wagner Act, created the National Labor Relations Board to supervise union elections and prevent businesses from treating their workers unfairly. In August, FDR signed the Social Security Act of , which guaranteed pensions to millions of Americans, set up a system of unemployment insurance and stipulated that the federal government would help care for dependent children and the disabled. He won the election by a landslide. Still, the Great Depression dragged on. Workers grew more militant: In December , for example, the United Auto Workers started a sit-down strike at a GM plant in Flint, Michigan that lasted for 44 days and spread to some , autoworkers in 35 cities. By , to the dismay of most corporate leaders, some 8 million workers had joined unions and were loudly demanding their rights. The End of the New Deal? Meanwhile, the New Deal itself confronted one political setback after another. Arguing that they represented an unconstitutional extension of federal authority, the conservative majority on the Supreme Court had already invalidated reform initiatives like the National Recovery Administration and the Agricultural Adjustment Administration. That same year, the economy slipped back into a recession when the government reduced its stimulus spending. Despite this seeming vindication of New Deal policies, increasing anti-Roosevelt sentiment made it difficult for him to enact any new programs. The war effort stimulated American industry and, as a result, effectively ended the Great Depression. They created a brand-new, if tenuous, political coalition that included white working people, African Americans and left-wing intellectuals. These people rarely shared the same interests – at least, they rarely thought they did – but they did share a powerful belief that an interventionist government was good for their families, the economy and the nation. Their coalition has splintered over time, but many of the New Deal programs that bound them together – Social Security, unemployment insurance and federal agricultural subsidies, for instance – are still with us today. Start your free trial today.

Great Depression Poster Project Freebie A few months ago, my class created some old-school Great Depression Poster Projects. I know we are in the technology age, but many of my students don't have access to computers outside of school.

Most projects were initiated, planned and sponsored by states, counties or cities. Nationwide projects were sponsored until Most of these are still in use today. These new buildings included 5, new schools; 9, new auditoriums, gyms, and recreational buildings; 1, new libraries; 7, new dormitories; and new armories. In addition, infrastructure projects included 2, stadiums, grandstands, and bleachers; 52 fairgrounds and rodeo grounds; 1, parks covering 75, acres; 3, playgrounds; 3, athletic fields; swimming pools; 1, handball courts; 10, tennis courts; 2, horseshoe pits; 1, ice-skating areas; outdoor theatres; golf courses; and 65 ski jumps. The 20, miles of water mains, installed by their hand as well, contributed to increased fire protection across the country. In priority projects were to improve infrastructure; roads, extension of electricity to rural areas, water conservation, sanitation and flood control. The following year, saw the introduction of agricultural improvements, such as the production of marl fertilizer and the eradication of fungus pests. South Carolina had one of the larger statewide library service demonstration projects. At the end of the project in , South Carolina had twelve publicly funded county libraries, one regional library, and a funded state library agency. The government wanted to provide new federal cultural support instead of just providing direct grants to private institutions. After only one year, over 40, artists and other talented workers had been employed through this project in the United States. As channels of communication between the administration and the country at large, both directly and indirectly, the importance of these projects cannot be overestimated, for they all carry a tremendous appeal to the eye, the ear, or the intellect—or all three. Federal Art Project This project was directed by Holger Cahill , and in employment peaked at over 5, artists. The Exhibition Division had public exhibitions of artwork from the WPA, and artists from the Art Teaching Division were employed in settlement houses and community centers to give classes to an estimated 50, children and adults. They set up over art centers around the country that served an estimated eight million individuals. Its purpose was to establish different ensembles such as chamber groups, orchestras, choral units, opera units, concert bands, military bands, dance bands, and theater orchestras that gave an estimated , performances and programs to 92 million people each week. Federal Theatre Project This project was directed by Iowan Hallie Flanagan , and employed 12, performers at its peak. These performers presented more than 1, performances each month to almost one million people, produced 1, plays in the four years it was established, and introduced new playwrights. Marshall and Sidney Lumet. The Federal Theatre Project was the first project to end in June after four years from an end of funding from the federal government. In almost all cases, the book sales were able to reimburse their sponsors. These writers also participated in research and editorial services to other government agencies. At its peak, this project employed more than 4, workers. WPA health education poster about cancer, c. By , there were 3,, African Americans men, women and children on relief, almost 35 percent of the African-American population; plus another , African-American adults were working on WPA projects. It is to the eternal credit of the administrative officers of the WPA that discrimination on various projects because of race has been kept to a minimum and that in almost every community Negroes have been given a chance to participate in the work program. In the South, as might have been expected, this participation has been limited, and differential wages on the basis of race have been more or less effectively established; but in the northern communities, particularly in the urban centers, the Negro has been afforded his first real opportunity for employment in white-collar occupations. The average worker was about 40 years old about the same as the average family head on relief. WPA policies were consistent with the strong belief of the time that husbands and wives should not both be working because the second person working would take one job away from some other breadwinner. Only 2 percent of the husbands had private employment. Of the 2, women, all were responsible for one to five additional people in the household. Most of the women worked with sewing projects, where they were taught to use sewing machines and made clothing and bedding, as well as supplies

for hospitals, orphanages, and adoption centers. The strongest attacks were that it was the prelude for a national political machine on behalf of Roosevelt. The South, as the poorest region of the United States, received 75 percent less in federal relief and public works funds per capita than the West. Some employers said that the WPA instilled poor work habits and encouraged inefficiency. Occasionally a supervisor or a foreman demands good work. To succeed him Roosevelt appointed Francis C. As the number of public works projects slowly diminished, more projects were dedicated to preparing for war. Army numbered only , soldiers. He observed that the WPA had already made substantial contributions to national defense over its five years of existence, by building 85 percent of the new airports in the U. Vocational training for war industries was also begun by the WPA, with 50, trainees in the program by October Notably apoliticalâ€”he boasted that he had never voted [49] â€”he had deflected Congressional criticism of the WPA by bringing attention to its building accomplishments and its role as an employer. Hunter, served as head of the WPA until May 1, Experience had amply justified this policy," FDR wrote: By building airports, schools, highways, and parks; by making huge quantities of clothing for the unfortunate; by serving millions of lunches to school children; by almost immeasurable kinds and quantities of service the Work Projects Administration has reached a creative hand into every county in this Nation. It has added to the national wealth, has repaired the wastage of depression, and has strengthened the country to bear the burden of war. By employing eight millions of Americans, with thirty millions of dependents, it has brought to these people renewed hope and courage. It has maintained and increased their working skills; and it has enabled them once more to take their rightful places in public or in private employment. Operations in most states ended February 1, With no funds budgeted for the next fiscal year, the WPA ceased to exist after June 30, Roosevelt administration had an enormous and largely unrecognized role in defining the public space we now use", wrote sociologist Robert D. Most are still providing service half a century later. It is time we recognized this legacy and attempted to comprehend its relationship to our contemporary situation.

Chapter 3 : Great Depression Lesson Plans | Education World

By the time Franklin Delano Roosevelt took office in , the Great Depression had already ravaged the country. Unemployment approached 25% for the nation and even higher in the industrial cities; a once-proud country was rapidly losing hope.

Taylor, students will have a basic knowledge of the Great Depression and its monumental effects. Presentation Inform students of a group project where they will be assigned one of three options listed below. Explain to them that the projects will require them to travel back in time to the Great Depression in an attempt to know what it was like to live through that era in comparison to how they live now. Guided Practice After students have been paired or grouped off, assign one of the following projects to complete. Create a meal that would have been cooked during The Great Depression and serve it. Give a report on what others thought of it. Provide the recipe used and list any details that compare and contrast foods and ingredients used then that many may not use now. Find a depression era picture and write a newspaper or magazine article words discussing details on what or who is pictured. Articles must be fictional and highlight financial woes in relation to the details of the story. The picture must be presented with the article for the full amount of points. Write an alternate account of one of the main characters from the book describing in detail how they had to make do with what they had. Tell a story outside of the story that shows the internal struggles of a main character. The story should be at words. When they have been given their assignment, have a brainstorming session in class where they are allowed to take notes. Lend ideas on websites and sources of reference in regards to this era and offer samples of each project to ensure understanding of what is being asked. Closure Give students the due date for the assignment with an opportunity to work on the assignment before it is due. Set aside dates for presentations and notify each group of their date to present. Project 1 - Grade is based on feedback the student received and the authenticity of the recipe. Project 2 - Evaluated for creativity and how well students discuss and relay the importance of the severity of the economic hardships of The Great Depression in their article. Writing standards should be used to critically assess student performance. Project 3 - Assessed critically according to writing standards. Authenticity in relation to the story and to the Great Depression era, plus creativity through storytelling should all be judged and marked accordingly. Students with learning issues should be able to complete their project with their prescribed accommodations and modifications with peer tutoring and support with few problems. Require them to list itemized expenses. Lessons are targeted towards middle school readers.

Chapter 4 : Federal Theatre Project - Wikipedia

President Roosevelt backed many public works projects during the Great Depression, but he was particularly fond of the Grand Coulee Dam. Early on, FDR became enamored with the idea of harnessing the power of the Columbia River and turning arid land in eastern Washington into farmland.

Visit Website As weapons production for World War II began ramping up and unemployment dropped, the federal government decided a national relief program was no longer needed. The WPA shut down in June of 1942. At that time, unemployment was less than two percent. Many Americans had transitioned to work in the armed services and defense industries. These programs employed artists, musicians, actors and writers. Roosevelt intended Federal One as it was known to put artists back to work while entertaining and inspiring the larger population by creating a hopeful view of life amidst the economic turmoil. Sculptors created monuments, and actors and musicians were paid to perform. Federal One also established more than 1,000 community art centers throughout the country. She later praised the project in columns and speeches and defended it against critics who saw the arts as a waste of money. Federal One comprised a small part of WPA expenditures. Some of them later became world-renowned. He worked as a mural assistant and later an easel painter between 1935 and 1941. In addition to Pollock, the WPA employed a number of other abstract and experimental artists that would go on to form the New York School, an avant-garde art movement of the 1940s and 1950s. That included women, African Americans and other groups. While inequities existed under the programs, many women, blacks and other minorities found employment with the WPA. In 1935, the WPA employed approximately 6.5 million workers, African Americans, about 15 percent of its total workforce. The Federal Music and Theatre projects also supported black musicians and actors. The program collected interviews, articles and notes on African American life in the South, including oral histories from former slaves. The WPA put women to work in clerical jobs, gardening, canning and as librarians and seamstresses. Women engaged in sewing projects made up about seven percent of the national WPA workforce. WPA construction projects sometimes ran three to four times the cost of private work. Some of this was intentional. The WPA avoided cost-saving technologies and machinery in order to hire more workers. Unions protested the WPA for its refusal to pay wages as high as those in the private sector. WPA arts programs drew frequent criticism from Congress and the lay public. Despite these attacks, the WPA is celebrated today for the employment it offered to millions during the darkest days of the Great Depression, and for its lasting legacy of smartly designed, well-built schools, dams, roads, bridges and other buildings and structures – many of which are still in use today.

Chapter 5 : A Great Depression Lesson Plan and Group Project Idea

Group Project Procedures. Anticipatory set. After reading Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry, by Mildred D. Taylor, students will have a basic knowledge of the Great Depression and its monumental effects.

The US is drifting from a financial crisis to a deeper and more insidious social crisis. Self-congratulation by the US authorities that they have this time avoided a repeat of the s is premature. Special features include an FDR video biography, and a chance to vote on the issues in The site features 20, items including photographs, speeches, letters, documents, and exercises from the New Deal era. The Library of Congress collection includes 2, documents representing the work of over writers from 24 states. Typically 2,, words in length, the documents consist of drafts and revisions, varying in form from narrative to dialogue to report to case history. Check out the Art Gallery for some intriguing glimpses into Depression-era America. A Resource Guide This Library of Congress resource guide links to digital materials related to Roosevelt such as photographs, manuscripts, and sound recordings, as well as external websites. The Flint Sit-Down Strike, An audio gallery of the famous Flint auto strike featuring a slide show and timeline. Conversations Produced by the Chicago Historical Society, this site explores the life and work of Studs Terkel, an important American oral historian. Galleries focus on interviews that Mr. Terkel did for his books, including one on the Depression, and also contains a multimedia interview with him. Depression Papers of Herbert Hoover A collection of press statements, radio transcripts, letters, and other messages from Herbert Hoover during the Great Depression. These deal mainly with welfare, unemployment and disaster relief funds, and Red Cross donations. These primary sources are useful as an accompaniment to a study of the Great Depression. Armed with this knowledge, they can then evaluate the current need of government programs, such as welfare, Medicare and Social Security, on the federal and state level. A Tale of Two Leaders Lesson Plan In this lesson, students will compare the economic challenges that faced the United States in to those the nation is facing today. They then compare the actions and strategies of past presidents to strategies of leaders today. A Tale of Two Economies Lesson Plan In this lesson, students use resources from The New York Times to compare the circumstances under which the Great Depression came about to the circumstances of the current economic crisis. Reading the captions will provide background information and an opportunity to learn about historical perspective. This lesson plan is provided by the New Deal Network. This lesson plan is intended for grades Riding the Rails PBS: Emphasis is put on the causes of homelessness and what made these young men leave home. The lesson plan also outlines topics for discussion, as well as small group activities. PBS recommends the purchase of the film Surviving the Dust Bowl in order to fully utilize this lesson plan. Brother Can You Spare a Dime: The lesson plan makes good use of primary sources and photos. Visions in the Dust For grades , this lesson plan uses photographic examination to teach students about the Dustbowl. Lesson Plan â€” Worth a Thousand Words: Depression-Era Photographs Using the authentic photographs that were taken to introduce the New Deal, students will follow this MarcoPolo lesson plan and learn about the depression. Recommended for grades The New Deal Network: Classroom The impressive New Deal Network features 20, items including photographs, speeches, letters, documents, and exercises from the New Deal era. They involve analyzing political cartoons, role-playing, and research. They involve, among other things, analyzing letters and interviewing people. Lesson Plan â€” Constitutional Issues: Streamline and Breadlines High School students will learn about the growth and development of cities in America from through Immigration, the migration of African-Americans from the South to the urban centers of the North, industrialization, and the Great Depression all affected cities during this period. This lesson will culminate in a student essay that compares two contrasting images from this time period. Students will choose one image from each group and compare and contrast the images in an essay. Do you think most Hooverville residents had a choice about how they lived? Can you think of anything similar to Hoovervilles in the United States today? If so, how are they different or similar to the Hoovervilles of the Great Depression? Teacher Resources provides course material and helpful link. For information on a variety of more specific topics, see the helpful Publications section. After reading the New York Times article, students can respond to the following questions: Do you think this

generation will be affected by the recession? See also interviews of history professors David Kennedy and James Gregory. There are about 30 lessons in total, organized by subject, standard, and grade level. This is a great site for teachers! The Guides are an excellent and comprehensive teaching resource. They then examine and collect evidence of its effects on their own communities. At Home and Abroad: A Great Disaster This assignment is designed for students seeking to improve their English reading, comprehension, and writing skills and provides multimedia presentations on the Great Depression. Prosperity and Depression, Document Based Essay This Prentice Hall DBQ is designed to test your ability to work with historical documents and is based on the accompanying documents

Chapter 6 : Top 10 Public Works Projects From the Great Depression - Listosaur | Hungry for Knowledge

The Great Depression and New Deal Backwards Planning Curriculum Units Michael Hutchison, Writer Dr. Aaron Willis, Project Coordinator Kerry Gordonson, Editor.

The Great Depression The dark years of the Great Depression began when the soaring economy of the s took a nose dive in . Americans were not prepared for the financial crisis. To teach the Great Depression to high school students requires them to understand how the stock market works. When I was teaching, I had our Economics teacher come in as a guest speaker and give students a primer on the Stock Market. So, in the Fall of 1929, millions of people saw the stock market begin to dip slightly. They panicked and started selling their shares causing stock values to plummet. This rendered thousands upon thousands of businesses worthless. Overnight, businesses had to close down and lay off workers. As a result inflation went through the roof. Not only did people lose their jobs, but now they could barely afford to buy food! The effect did not confine itself within the United States, either. When the s began, wage cuts and increasing unemployment brought Americans to their knees. Excellent teachers know how to get their students to empathize. Encourage students to ask questions like, How did the American people of the s deal with all of this? Many who lost fortunes in the stock market committed suicide. Others who could no longer support their families, left to find work elsewhere. Teenagers, especially, had it hard. They were old enough to work and help their families, but no work was available. They saw themselves as a burden and an extra mouth to feed. As a result, many left home looking for employment and opportunity elsewhere. They jumped trains from coast to coast, risking their lives. The fact that a severe drought hit the Midwest at this time was like pouring salt in a wound. But Americans survived the Great Depression. Determination and help from a new president, Franklin D. Roosevelt, turned the country around. Roosevelt, elected in 1933, created countless government programs that altered the role of government in American society forever. Teenagers and young adults all over the country were put to work in national forests, rebuilding and cleaning. They were given room and board on camps in the national forests and were required to send home a percentage of their earnings to their families. Unit 17 offers the regular PowerPoint presentation along with a presentation discussing how young people in America hit the trains and rode the rails to better opportunities. A Diary project that ignites student imagination is featured to supplement the unit. There is also another PowerPoint with photographs of the Great Depression in which students must analyze these primary sources. There are many spectacular films and literature related to this unit. For more ideas, visit our Teach with Movies or our Teach with Literature page. Use this PowerPoint presentation of 53 slides to teach your students unit . A complete set of Fill-in-the-Notes for your students. Once you place your order, you will receive the presentation via email. Simply download the presentation, print the slides six per page and give each student a copy. This fantastic assignment is based on primary sources from the Library of Congress. Primary sources are excellent teaching tools because they lend a voice to peoples of the past, allowing students to connect to history on a personal level. Studying and analyzing historical photographs is another way for kids to learn. This PowerPoint presentation offers nearly 40 photographs of the Great Depression! This assignment accompanies the Photo Analysis PowerPoint above. Here, students identify key features of photographs and learn to analyze photographic primary sources in order to understand history. This PowerPoint presentation teaches students how teenagers during the Great Depression coped, most leaving home to look for employment elsewhere. A complete set of Fill-in-the-Notes for the PowerPoint above. Simply place an order, download the presentation, print the slides six per page and give each student a copy. Here is an amazing project that requires students to pretend they are living through the Great Depression in the s, creating authentic-looking journals they would have kept as they began their adventure riding the rails. A grading rubric for the project above. The following are primary sources written by people who were teenagers during the Great Depression. These letters are to be used with the above project, giving students an overall understanding of the feelings, fears, hopes, and thoughts of teenagers at the time. Have your students read and pass around these letters so that everyone gets a chance to read them all. A study guide to help prepare students for the end-of-unit exam. Making this a mandatory assignment helps students do better on the test.

DOWNLOAD PDF THE GREAT DEPRESSION PROJECT

This test covers all the material in the unit; it is a combination of term matching, multiple choice, short answer recall, and questions that require essay answers.

Chapter 7 : PBL Unit 2 - The Great Depression and the New Deal - Mr. Rosdahl

As the Great Depression ended the prosperity of the s, the Pacific Northwest suffered economic catastrophe like the rest of the country. Businesses and banks failed and by only about half as many people were working as had been in

Background[edit] Philip W. Greek theatre on Delos [1]: The Federal Theatre Project was a new approach to unemployment in the theatre profession. The problems of the theatre preceded the financial collapse of By that time it was already threatened with extinction due to the growing popularity of films and radio, but the commercial theatre was reluctant to adapt its practices. Sound motion pictures displaced 30, musicians. Unemployed directors, actors, designers, musicians and stagecrew took any kind of work they were able to find, whatever it paid, and charity was often their only recourse. The primary aim of the Federal Theatre Project is the reemployment of theatre workers now on public relief rolls: The far reaching purpose is the establishment of theatres so vital to community life that they will continue to function after the program of this Federal Project is completed. At its conclusion, 65 percent of its productions were still presented free of charge. Therefore, when Federal Theatre was criticized for spending money, it was criticized for doing what it was set up to do. Only one event was presented in Arkansas. Units created in Minnesota, Missouri and Wisconsin were closed in ; projects in Indiana, Nebraska, Rhode Island and Texas were discontinued in ; and the Iowa project was closed in On June 30, , the Federal Theatre Project ended when its funding was canceled, largely due to strong Congressional objections to the overtly left-wing political tones of less than 10 percent of the Federal Theatre Project productions. Living Newspaper Living Newspapers were plays written by teams of researchers-turned-playwrights. These men and women clipped articles from newspapers about current events, often hot button issues like farm policy, syphilis testing, the Tennessee Valley Authority , and housing inequity. These newspaper clippings were adapted into plays intended to inform audiences, often with progressive or left-wing themes. Triple-A Plowed Under, for instance, attacked the U. Supreme Court for killing an aid agency for farmers. These politically themed plays quickly drew criticism from members of Congress. Although the undisguised political invective in the Living Newspapers sparked controversy, they also proved popular with audiences. New productions[edit] Numbers following the city of origin indicate the number of additional cities where the play was presented.

Chapter 8 : The Great Depression

Online activities and background information from the Library of Congress to help students learn more about The Great Depression. American Treasures: America Eats (Exhibition) View Federal Writer's Project photographs of this s project.

Unemployment approached 25 percent and the nation was rapidly losing hope. In his inaugural address, Roosevelt promised Americans a change for the better and he immediately set out to deliver. Some say those programs helped the U. Others argue that the New Deal did not improve the unemployment rate and that ultimately, World War II was responsible for ending the Great Depression. Construction took place from to , using local timbers and stone. It is listed as a National Historic Landmark and draws more than a million visitors each year. Today, LaGuardia boards more than 23 million passengers annually. In , Chris Ward, the director of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, which operates the airport, recommended that LaGuardia be demolished in stages and rebuilt into a more modern facility. Fort Peck Dam Spanning more than 21, feet in length and standing feet high, the Fort Peck Dam provides hydroelectric power and water management along the upper Missouri River. Located in northeast Montana near the town of Glasgow, it is the largest hydraulic earth-filled dam in the United States and it impounds Fort Peck Lake, the fifth-largest manmade lake in America. The dam made headlines in when an earth slide claimed the lives of eight workers. Only two bodies were ever recovered, leaving six bodies buried in the finished structure. Triborough Bridge This project had a dire beginning, as construction started on Black Friday in With the advent of the Great Depression the project was set aside until funding was provided by the PWA in The Triborough Bridge, since renamed the Robert F. Kennedy Bridge, actually consists of three long-span bridges, a viaduct and some smaller bridges, and 14 miles of approach roads, all of which connect Manhattan, Queens, and the Bronx in New York. Remarkably, it was the first major tunnel project completed without a fatality. Today nearly 42 million vehicles use the tunnel each year. It follows an old railroad track originally built in and along the way passes 42 bridges and plenty of great scenery. Great Smoky Mountains National Park It may be overshadowed by more famous parks, but Great Smoky Mountains National Park is the most-visited national park in America, hosting nearly 10 million visitors per year. To put that figure in perspective, the second-most visited park in America, Grand Canyon National Park, draws fewer than 5 million visitors each year. Early on, FDR became enamored with the idea of harnessing the power of the Columbia River and turning arid land in eastern Washington into farmland. Built from to , the Grand Coulee is one of the largest concrete structures in the world, standing feet high and stretching almost a mile in length. Hoover Dam Talk of damming the lower Colorado River began around , but it took almost 30 years before the U. Congress finally authorized the construction of the Hoover Dam. During the heart of the Great Depression, the dam employed more than 20, workers during its construction.

Chapter 9 : Works Progress Administration (WPA) - HISTORY

The Great Depression Project Guidelines: Picture yourself as a factory worker in the '30s. You spent the last ten years doing manual labor for fifteen hours a day. With this job it was possible to bring home \$24 a week to your family. After ten years of hard work and saving every penny to get a.

In his Inaugural Address, Roosevelt promised Americans a New Deal and he then immediately set out to deliver on that promise. From 1933, The New Deal established a series of government agencies whose purpose it was to put the United States back to work and re-establish lost hope. They are ranked according to their economic impact and their everlasting legacy to the United States. The Lincoln Tunnel As ambitious a construction project as you could ever hope to see, the Lincoln Tunnel stretches 1.7 miles. Today nearly 100,000 vehicles use this tunnel daily making it one of the busiest tunnels in the world. It follows an old railroad track that was originally built in 1825 and along the way, one passes over 42 bridges and enjoys scenery that is beyond belief. Constructed from this park offers unparalleled vistas and is a must-see on any trip east. Hoover Dam Congress approved the building of Hoover Dam in 1931 and it was finally constructed from 1931 with the help of the PWA. Interestingly the name was originally Hoover Dam but in 1933, at the urging of President Roosevelt, the name was changed to Boulder Dam. Bad blood and all that; some silly notion of blaming Hoover for the Great Depression. In the end public opinion proved too much of an obstacle for Roosevelt and the name of the dam reverted back to Hoover Dam. Early on he became enamored with the idea of harnessing the power of the Columbia River and turning arid land in Eastern Washington into farmland. Built from the Grand Coulee is the largest dam in the United States and one of the largest in the world. It provides irrigation for over 1,000,000 acres and electricity for all or parts of eleven states. This mammoth structure stands 726 feet high and is 1.2 miles long. Honorable Mentions Naming any top five list is difficult and purely subjective. A National Historic Landmark, this timber, and stone structure on Mt. Hood in Oregon is visited by over a million visitors each year. Built between 1933 and 1952, this dam provides hydroelectric power, flood control and water quality management along the upper Missouri River. Now called the Robert F. Kennedy Bridge, this is actually three bridges, a viaduct and fourteen miles of connecting roads, all of which connect Manhattan, Queens, and the Bronx in New York. Some say that the government overstepped its bounds and that the United States was dangerously close to becoming a totalitarian government under President Roosevelt. Some argue that unemployment was not erased during the New Deal years and only World War Two was responsible for the end of the Great Depression. What cannot be debated, however, is that the New Deal programs gave hope to millions of citizens who had given up hope. What cannot be debated is that the infrastructure of the United States was rebuilt and modernized and many of the projects were springboards for a future where the U.S. The sheer number of accomplishments is staggering. CCC projects included 3,000 fire towers erected, 97,000 miles of roads built, 3 billion trees planted, state parks created and over 3 million men employed. The PWA funded the construction of over 34,000 projects, including airports, dams, schools and hospitals. The WPA is credited with having constructed 1,000 miles of roadways, repaired 1,000 public buildings and constructed landing fields. From 1933 and the birth of the New Deal to 1945, unemployment dropped from approximately 15 million to 9 million and most of those workers were employed by New Deal programs. Go to practically any major city in the United States and you will see projects built during the New Deal. More importantly, talk to survivors of the Great Depression. My father and mother talked to me about the importance of the New Deal, not only in economic terms but also about the intangibles like regained pride and hope, how men and women who appeared to have given up in slowly but surely re-discovered a will to continue the struggle. Have you spoken to people who lived during the Great Depression?