

HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY

STUDENT BOOK

▶ **5th Grade** | Unit 7

HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY 507

DEPRESSION AND WAR

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LIFEPAC Test | **Pull-out**



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DEPRESSION AND WAR

The Stock Market Crash of 1929 started the Great Depression. This was the largest, deepest, and hardest depression in American history. Millions of people were out of work, not just in America, but all over the world. A new president tried all kinds of things to end the depression, but it was World War II that finally brought jobs and prosperity back to America again.

The Second World War started in 1939 when Germany invaded Poland. Like World War I, America was isolationist and refused to get involved. However, when the Japanese (allies of Germany) attacked American soil in Hawaii in 1941, America got involved. The united American people gave the supplies and men needed to defeat the dictators and win the war.

This LIFE PAC® will discuss both the Great Depression and the biggest war in the history of the world, World War II.

Objectives

Read these objectives. The objectives tell you what you will be able to do when you have successfully completed this LIFE PAC. Each section will list according to the numbers below what objectives will be met in that section. When you have finished this LIFE PAC, you should be able to:

1. Describe the problems of the Great Depression.
2. Describe the New Deal and FDR's actions as president.
3. Describe World War II: especially its beginning, turning point, and events that led to the end of the war.
4. Describe American participation and strategy in World War II.
5. Name the leaders of World War II.

1. THE GREAT DEPRESSION

The Great Depression was a huge shock to the nation. The Roaring Twenties had been so prosperous that no one expected such poverty to follow, but it did. Millions of people had no jobs, no homes, and little food. The nation was filled with despair.

In 1932 the nation chose a new president, Democrat Franklin Delano Roosevelt (a distant cousin of Theodore Roosevelt). Franklin Roosevelt (FDR) promised the nation a “New Deal.” He tried all kinds of things to restart businesses and get jobs and food for people. His New Deal gave people hope and helped ease the worst losses of the depression. However, the depression did not end until 1942.

War broke out in Europe again in 1939. The U.S. was still isolationist and tried to stay out of this war. However, as more and more of Europe and Asia fell to the dictators of the Axis Powers, Americans became concerned. FDR did everything he could to help Britain, which was fighting alone in Europe. The U.S. got involved when it began manufacturing needed war supplies for Great Britain. This action created jobs in America and finally ended the Great Depression in 1942.

Objectives

Review these objectives. When you have completed this section, you should be able to:

1. Describe the problems of the Great Depression.
2. Describe the New Deal and FDR’s actions as president.
3. Describe World War II: especially its beginning, turning point, and events that led up to the end of the war.
5. Name the leaders of World War II.

Vocabulary

Study these new words. Learning the meanings of these words is a good study habit and will improve your understanding of this LIFEPAC.

aggression (ə gresh' ən). The first step or move in an attack or quarrel; action by the person or nation starting a war or fight.

appease (ə pēz). To make calm or quiet; to give someone what they want to make them calm or quiet.

charity (char' ə tē). A fund or organization for helping the sick, the poor or the helpless.

veteran (vet' ə r ən). A person who has served in the armed forces.

violation (vī' ə lā shən). A breaking of a law, rule, agreement, promise, or instruction.

Note: All vocabulary words in this LIFEPAC appear in **boldface** print the first time they are used. If you are unsure of the meaning when you are reading, study the definitions given.

Pronunciation Key: hat, āge, cāre, fār; let, ēqual, tērm; it, īce; hot, ōpen, ôrder; oil; out; cup, pūt, rüle; child; long; thin; /TH/ for then; /zh/ for measure; /u/ or /ə/ represents /a/ in about, /e/ in taken, /i/ in pencil, /o/ in lemon, and /u/ in circus.

Despair

Hoovervilles. Herbert Hoover was president when the stock market crashed in 1929, starting the Great Depression. Hoover was an engineer who was famous for getting aid to people who were starving in Europe during and after World War I. He was a good organizer and a very popular president until the depression began. Everyone blamed him for the depression, and he became one of the most unpopular presidents in American history.



| Herbert Hoover

The Great Depression destroyed the Roaring Twenties idea that America would be rich forever. At its worst point in 1933, one out of every four people did not have a job. That meant one out of every four families had no money for food, clothes, or housing. Many of the people who did have jobs had their pay reduced so that they had less money to spend for what they needed. Many of the people who had bought on credit could not pay for their goods. Hard working people all over the nation lost everything. The nation became poorer and poorer.

Thousands of men wandered around the country searching for any work they could find. They slept covered with old newspapers they called “Hoover blankets.” Communities of shacks made of cardboard, wood, and tin were called “Hoovervilles.” People sold apples and shined shoes to get a few cents for a meal. When they could not earn even a few cents, they stood in long lines at **charity** or town aid stations to get a free piece of bread or bowl of soup.

Things on the farms had already been bad in the 1920s. Conditions got worse during the Great Depression. Prices for food fell so low that farmers could not make enough money to pay for seed or for shipping crops to market! Droughts in the Great Plains dried up the soil and created huge dust storms. Those rich lands became known as the “Dust Bowl.” Thousands of farmers lost their land, packed all their belongings in a car or cart, and traveled the country looking for work.

Thousands of banks failed between 1929 and 1933. People began to distrust banks and would withdraw their money from them. Without money, banks were forced to close. Every bank that closed caused hundreds of people to lose their savings. People who had worked hard and saved for years were left with nothing.

Herbert Hoover, a Republican, was not able to stop the Great Depression. He believed that American businesses were strong and should put themselves back to work, but this time they could not. The American people wanted a president who would use government money to feed people, create jobs, and help businesses. However, the U.S. government had never done this in any of the many depressions or panics that had hurt the nation in the past. Hoover would not use government money to give to people because he believed he could not. He did try some new things to help the people, but it was not enough to please a desperate nation. He quickly became a hated man.

Bonus Army. The soldiers who had fought in World War I were among the many Americans suffering in the depression. In 1924 the U.S. government had promised them a bonus for their service during the war. They were supposed to get the bonus in 1945. However, these men



| People often stood in long lines for a free bowl of soup.



| Dust storms wiped away crops and drove people from their homes in the Midwest.

had no jobs and wanted their bonus right away. They were not willing to wait thirteen years when their families were hungry now.

In 1932 about 20,000 ex-soldiers marched on Washington. They came to ask Congress to give them their bonus right away, because they needed it so badly. They called themselves the Bonus Expeditionary Force. (Remember the U.S. Army in World War I was the American Expeditionary Force.) The press called them the Bonus Army. They built a huge Hooverville in the capital and waited for Congress to grant their demand.



| Veterans marched on Washington and demanded their bonuses.

Congress refused to give the bonuses out early. Much of the Bonus Army, however, refused to leave. So, after some fighting broke out, Hoover sent the army in to remove the camp. The army commander, Douglas MacArthur, treated the **veterans** harshly, using tear gas and weapons to drive them out of Washington. Then, the camp was burned. The American public felt that the veterans had been treated unfairly, and they blamed Herbert Hoover.

FDR. The Republican party had been a supporter of businesses for a long time. By 1932 the American people believed big business and the Republicans had caused the Great Depression. Herbert Hoover ran for president again in 1932, but he did not have a chance. Anyone could have beaten him. The man the Democrats chose to run for president in 1932 was Franklin Delano Roosevelt, the governor of New York. He won easily.

FDR believed the government should use its money to fix the depression. He had used state money to help people in New York as governor. He was willing to try all kinds of new things to end the depression. He was very good at convincing people to trust him. He gave the country hope with his policies which he called the "New Deal."



Answer these questions.

- 1.1 Which president was blamed for the Great Depression? _____
- 1.2 What did the veterans call themselves who marched on Washington for their bonuses? _____
- 1.3 What fraction of people were out of work at the worst of the depression? _____

- 1.4 What happened to thousands of men who could not find work? _____

- 1.5 What was the Great Plains called because of the drought there?

- 1.6 Who did Herbert Hoover believe should fix the depression? _____

- 1.7 What happened to thousands of banks between 1929 and 1933? _____

- 1.8 What happened to the Bonus Army camp in Washington? _____

- 1.9 Who was elected president in 1932? _____
- 1.10 FDR's policies for the depression were called what? _____
- 1.11 What was a Hooverville? _____

- 1.12 What was a Hoover blanket? _____
- 1.13 What did Herbert Hoover believe he could not do with government money?

New Deal

Policy change. Franklin Delano Roosevelt's New Deal was a huge change in government policy. Today we expect the government to provide for people who lose their jobs, cannot work, or cannot pay for a doctor. That was not true before the Great Depression. The government never tried to take care of people who were in trouble before that time. It also did very little to control or help businesses except for laws to prevent abuses like child labor or unfair prices on the railroad.

The New Deal was the first time in American history that the government took responsibility for the businesses and work of the nation. Before that time people all over the country believed the government had no right to do that. They believed that taxes taken from the people could not be used to help specific people in trouble or interfere with the freedom of businesses to do as they wanted. However, the crisis of the Great Depression changed that. Now people wanted the government's help, and FDR was determined to give it.

The New Deal had three goals: relief, recovery, and reform. Relief was to provide people with the food, clothing, and shelter they needed to live. Recovery was to get people working and buying goods again. Reform was to change the laws so that such an awful depression could never happen to America again.

The Hundred Days. At his inauguration Roosevelt calmed the nation with his hopeful speech. He told the people that they had “nothing to fear except fear itself.” FDR then called Congress into session to go to work. The now Democratic Congress gave the president anything he wanted to try to combat the depression. The result was a huge pile of new laws. This time of rapid action was called the “Hundred Days.”

Roosevelt’s first action was to declare a bank holiday. He closed all the banks in the country for a week. He promised that only the banks that were safe would be allowed to reopen. People believed him. When the banks reopened, people stopped taking their money out. Very few banks failed after that.

The new Congress passed dozens of laws creating organizations to help people and businesses. Most of the organizations were known by their letters, like the Civilian Conservation Corp, called the CCC. Thus, Roosevelt’s laws were sometimes called alphabet soup!

The Civilian Conservation Corp was the most famous and most popular of the relief organizations. It took young men who had no jobs and put them into military-like units. They were put to work building trails in national parks, replanting forests, building roads, and fighting forest fires. They worked hard and were paid very little, but they got a place to



| Franklin Delano Roosevelt



| Replanting forests was one of the CCC’s projects.

sleep, food to eat, and a little money to send home.

The president created other relief organizations. The Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA) gave money to states and cities for food, clothing, and shelter. The Civil Works Administration (CWA), the Public Works Administration (PWA), and the Work Progress Administration (WPA) created jobs for people. This was done by having the government hire them to build roads, parks, dams, or buildings. These put millions of people to work on temporary jobs.

FDR hoped that the public works jobs would give people money to spend on goods. Then, the factories would start hiring people to make the goods. This was called “priming the pump,” putting money into the nation to get it producing money again, like water sometimes had to be put into a hand pump to get it to pump water again.

One of the biggest public works projects was the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA). The TVA’s job was to build dams and produce electricity on the Tennessee River, one of the poorest places in the country. The TVA transformed the Tennessee River Valley. It controlled flooding, reduced soil erosion, provided jobs, built new homes, and made the entire region prosper.

To encourage recovery, the Agricultural Adjustment Act (AAA) helped farmers get better prices for their crops. The National Industrial Recovery Act (NIRA) tried to set up rules to help the nation’s business get going again. All of these alphabet agencies helped by giving people jobs, some money, and hope. However, they did not end the depression.

FDR also passed some reform laws. The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) was created to control the stock market. The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) was set up to protect deposits in banks. So, people could know that if the bank failed they would still get their money back because it was **insured**. The Social Security Act took money from everyone’s wages to pay for workers who retired or could not work. The National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) was set up to enforce fair work laws and protect unions.



| The TVA built dams and brought benefits to the Tennessee River Valley, particularly the Norris Dam (pictured).



| Social Security pays retirees and people who cannot work.

The bad thing about all these alphabet organizations was how much they cost. The U.S. government did not have enough money to pay for all of it, so they borrowed the money. This is called *deficit spending*, spending money that creates debt. Once this kind of spending started, it was hard to stop. The U.S. government has usually continued to get deeper and deeper into debt since the Great Depression.

Good Neighbor Policy. Franklin D. Roosevelt also changed America's foreign policy. The United States had been overbearing with the other American continent nations since the Spanish-American War. FDR modified American foreign policy to be friendlier in the way it dealt with its close neighbors. American soldiers were taken out of Central America. Some controls over Cuba and Panama were ended. The U.S. finally began to treat the other nations of the Western Hemisphere with equality and respect. It was called the Good Neighbor Policy.

End of the New Deal. The nation was desperate when FDR was first elected, and Congress did anything he wanted. However, that began to change in 1936, after he was re-elected as president for a second term. Roosevelt made a serious mistake in 1937 when he tried to control the Supreme Court.

The Court had thrown out several of the New Deal laws. FDR tried to add six new justices who would agree with his policies. However, Congress refused to go along with his "court-packing plan." The fight over the idea hurt FDR's support in Congress. He could not get the Congress to agree with him as easily after that.

Another thing that hurt Roosevelt's power was that the depression got worse again in 1937. However, it was not as bad as it had been in 1933, and things did improve the following year, but even with all of Roosevelt's new laws and plans, one out of six people was still without a job at the beginning of 1940. It was World War II that finally provided enough jobs to end the Great Depression.



| The Good Neighbor Policy made the U.S. friendlier to its neighbors



| Woman in a factory production line.



Name the item, event, person, or thing.

- 1.14** The first time that the government took responsibility for business and work:

- 1.15** FDR's foreign policy in the American hemisphere:

- 1.16** The three goals of the New Deal: _____

- 1.17** The CCC, gave conservation jobs to young men: _____

- 1.18** The SEC, controlled the stock market:

- 1.19** The time at the beginning of the New Deal when many new laws were passed:

- 1.20** When the government spends more money than it has, creating debt:

- 1.21** FDR's first action as president: _____

- 1.22** An important public works organization, the WPA: _____

- 1.23** Organization to get electricity from the Tennessee River, the TVA:

- 1.24** Emergency relief for people, the FERA: _____

- 1.25** Organization to enforce fair work laws, the NLRB: _____

- 1.26** Congress refused to agree to add six more people to this in 1937:

- 1.27** This finally ended the Great Depression: _____

SELF TEST 1

Match these people. Some will be used more than once (each answer, 2 points).

- | | | |
|--------------|--|--------------------------|
| 1.01 | _____ dictator of Italy | a. Franklin D. Roosevelt |
| 1.02 | _____ prime minister of Great Britain | b. Herbert Hoover |
| 1.03 | _____ Communist dictator of the Soviet Union | c. Benito Mussolini |
| 1.04 | _____ dictator of Germany | d. Adolf Hitler |
| 1.05 | _____ invaded Ethiopia in 1935 | e. Winston Churchill |
| 1.06 | _____ hated Jews, believed his people were a master race | f. Joseph Stalin |
| 1.07 | _____ head of the Nazi Party | |
| 1.08 | _____ elected president of the U.S. four times | |
| 1.09 | _____ president blamed for the Great Depression | |
| 1.010 | _____ president at the start of World War II | |

Choose the correct item from the box (each answer, 3 points).

New Deal	bank holiday	Bonus Army	Lend-Lease
Civilian Conservation Corp		Hundred Days	World War II
Good Neighbor Policy		Dust Bowl	Tennessee Valley Authority

- 1.011** FDR's program to end the Great Depression: _____
- 1.012** Roosevelt's first action as president: _____
- 1.013** Event that ended the Great Depression: _____
- 1.014** Veterans that marched on Washington to get money they were promised for serving in World War I: _____
- 1.015** FDR began to treat the nations of our hemisphere as equals: _____
- 1.016** Provided jobs and electricity in one of the poorest parts of the nation: _____

Write true or false in the blank (each answer, 2 points).

- 1.031** _____ Thousands of Americans wandered around the country looking for work during the Great Depression.
- 1.032** _____ Before the Great Depression, the U.S. government had never tried to use its money to feed people, create jobs, and help businesses.
- 1.033** _____ Franklin Roosevelt was allowed by Congress to pack the Supreme Court with new judges that agreed with his policies.
- 1.034** _____ Japan conquered Manchuria before World War II.
- 1.035** _____ Britain and France opposed German expansion by force from the time it began in the 1930s.
- 1.036** _____ Vichy France was the name France used for the part of Germany they occupied before World War II.
- 1.037** _____ Germany used trench warfare again in World War II.
- 1.038** _____ The Netherlands, Norway, Belgium, and Greece were all conquered by Germany in World War II.
- 1.039** _____ Most Americans realized that Germany and her allies were a threat to the United States and wanted to help the Allies.
- 1.040** _____ The *U.S.S. Arizona* was sunk by a German U-boat near Canada, killing most of the crew.



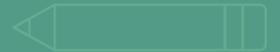
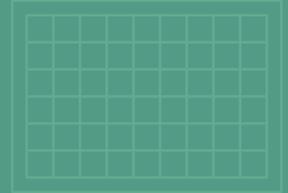
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