

13.2

Americans Suffer



As a Young Historian, I will be able to...

- **Examine the spread of unemployment in America's cities.**
- **Analyze the effects of the Great Depression on farmers.**
- **Analyze the impact of human and geographical factors that created the Dust Bowl.**
- **Describe how the Great Depression affected family life and the lives of African Americans and Mexican Americans.**

Economic Hardship Shakes the Cities

**While Americans didn't understand the
economic problems of the era, they
did see the results**

**The unemployment rate went from
3.7% between 1921-1929...**

...to 25% in 1933!!

**Some Americans were able to keep jobs,
but at drastic pay cuts or hours
shortened**

**People became desperate & turned to
bread lines**

Poverty

**People soon moved from being
“unemployed” to “unemployable”
facing hunger & homelessness**

**People began to sell household belongings
just to pay rent or put food on the
table**

**Many homeless people settled in little
communes called [Hooverilles](#)- little
makeshift shantytowns of tents & shacks on
public land**

**People tried to help one another staging
protests to stop evictions or sharing supplies**

Rural Poverty

Farmers, who were suffering before the Great Depression, struggle to keep their farms & lives

Crop prices fell, & commodity price levels drop.

For example a bushel of wheat in 1932 could sell for \$2.16....

...after the Depression started it sold for 32 cents

Farming Problems

Homes, land, and equipment were lost.
Some became **tenant farmers...**

...Farmers working for bigger
landowners rather than for themselves

Through the mid 1930s, problems were
amplified due to a drought in the Midwest

Farming methods such as over plowing,
overgrazing, overgrowing, & lack of
irrigation caused topsoil damage

The Dust Bowl

Gigantic wind storms would collect the topsoil & blow giant dust storms across the plains

Time period became known as “The Dirty Thirties”

Dust storms would blind humans & animals & choke & kill all living things

There was more dirt moved during this time than the construction of the Panama Canal



Moving For Work

People who lost their farms packed up all they owned & traveled the nation in search of work

Okies- Named given to refugees of the Dust Bowl because some came from Oklahoma

Almost 2.5 million people moved out of the Midwest Region in search for jobs

Those who stayed & survived the Depression were able to build LARGE commercial farms

Hard Times for Americans

**The Great Depression affected the economy
& the minds of all Americans**

**Families struggle with basic needs & stress
tested family units**

**Minority groups would get kicked out
of jobs & faced racism due to hard
times**

Repatriation- Government encouraging
people to immigrate back to
countries of origin