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Oklahoma: Our History, Our Home

Chapter 14: The Roaring Twenties and the Great Depression



Children of a tenant farmer, Muskogee, OK, 1939. Source: Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division, FSA-OWI Collection, fsa 8b22482

The Great Depression brought many economic problems to Oklahoma in the 1930s. Farm prices were low, and many factories, banks, and businesses closed.

Instructions: Use the information in the links below to complete the activities.

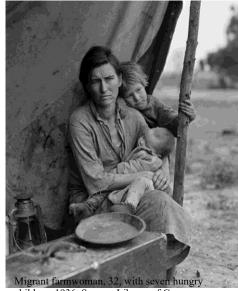
Part I: Click here for pictures from the Library of Congress: Great Depression photo collection: http://www.loc.gov/pictures/collection/fsa/
Search "Oklahoma" in the search bar. Look for photos from your county, or one nearby. Click the Gallery View button. Click the Next Page link, as needed, to view more pictures of our state during the Great Depression.

To enlarge the pictures, click the small version of the picture, and click it again.

Your task: Imagine that you work for a book publisher. You must choose one or two pictures from this website to include in a chapter about Oklahoma during the Great Depression.

When you have made your choice, print the picture(s). Staple the printed picture(s) to this page.

Below the printed picture(s), write a short paragraph to explain why you chose the photo(s). What qualities about the picture represent the topic? What facts would viewers gain from the photo? What emotions might viewers have when looking at the photo?



children, 1936. Source: Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division, FSA-OWI Collection, fsa 8B29525



Part II: Read through the websites below to find facts about the CCC (Civilian Conservation Corps) in Oklahoma. This program was designed to give unemployed young men a job during the Great Depression.

The CCC in Oklahoma

https://www.okhistory.org/publications/enc/entry.php?entry=CI012 Oklahoma and the New Deal

Oklahoma and the New Deal https://www.okhistory.org/publications/enc/entry.php?entry=NE007
1. Which president created the CCC?
2. What was the monthly pay for CCC workers in Oklahoma? What happened to the majority?
3. List four types of work the CCC did in Oklahoma.
4. Which seven state parks were built by the CCC in Oklahoma?
5. Why was the CCC discontinued?
Part III: Study the poster at right. 6. What do you think was the purpose of this 1930s CCC poster? How was the poster supposed to get a viewer's attention?
7. According to the poster, what would young men in the CCC get to have? Source: National Archives