

Life During the Great Depression

WebQuest Description: Students will learn about the Great Depression and the effect it had on families across America.

Grade Level: 9-12

Curriculum: Social Studies

Keywords:

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WebQuest URL: <http://zunal.com/webquest.php?w=90273>

Introduction

The Great Depression has come and you have lost your job. You are struggling to get by with your family. Franklin Roosevelt has established the New Deal and several jobs to help bring America out of the Depression. You will use a list of web resources to find out what kinds of jobs the Federal Government was providing, and how people lived during the Great Depression. Using the websites provided to you complete the worksheet entitled "Surviving during the Great Depression".

Tasks

You are to explore what it was like for a family to live in the Great Depression. Use the resources under "process" to accomplish the following tasks: Find out what types of jobs were available through the WPA. Find out how many people were unemployed and what effect that had on him or her and his or her family. Find out how the depression impacted the average citizen. Using this information you will write a three paragraph essay on what it was like to live during the Great Depression.

Process

You will first answer the questions for each of the activities listed below. Then you will take the answers to your questions and turn them into a short essay. Print out the WebQuest worksheet before beginning this assignment.

- Use these resources to answer the questions on the worksheet about the Great Depression:
 - The Stock Market Crash
 - The Works Progress Administration
 - The WPA
- Next you will research how families were effected by the Great Depression. Go to this website and read the letters sent to First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt:
 - Dear Mrs. Roosevelt
- Then you will read about children and their lives during the depression: Digital History

2. Next you will turn your answers on the worksheet into a short essay. It should consist of about three paragraphs. In the first paragraph you should explain the economic conditions and causes of The Great Depression. You should also explain what happened to banks in this paragraph. The second paragraph should consist of what the New Deal provided to Americans and what kinds of jobs that people obtained through the WPA. The third paragraph should focus on family life and how difficult it was for people to make a decent living during the Great Depression. You should also discuss the lives of children in this paragraph.

Evaluation

You will be evaluated based on the quality of your research and the quality of your essay. You will be graded based on a rubric so look at it carefully to understand exactly how you will be graded.

| Category and Score | 8-10 points | 5-7 points | 2-4 points | 0-1 points | Score |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| Webquest worksheet | The worksheet is filled out correctly and has plenty of information. | The worksheet is filled out but may be missing important information. | The worksheet is not complete and is missing information. | The worksheet is barely complete or not complete at all. | 10 |
| Historical Accuracy of Essay | The essay is historically accurate and is full of exciting and interesting facts. | The essay is historically accurate and has some exciting and interesting facts. | The essay may not be historically accurate and has only a few exciting and interesting facts. | The essay is not historically accurate and has no exciting and interesting facts. | 10 |
| Quality of Writing | Essay is grammatically correct with only 3-4 errors. | Essay is grammatically correct with very few errors. | Essay is grammatically incorrect with several errors. | Essay is grammatically incorrect to the point where it is difficult to read. | 10 |

| Category and Score | 8-10 points | 5-7 points | 2-4 points | 0-1 points | Score |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| Overall understanding of the topic | The student clearly understands the impact of the Great Depression and how the New Deal helped give people jobs. | The student understands most of the information of the New Deal and the Great Depression and its impact. | The student understands some of the information of the New Deal and the Great Depression and its impact. | The student has no understanding of the impact of the Great Depression or the New Deal. | 10 |
| | | | | Total Score | 40 |

Conclusion

The Great Depression was a difficult time for many Americans who could no longer provide for their families and were forced to rely on government handouts. You have learned about first hand accounts of people suffering from the Great Depression and you have learned what it would have been like to be a laborer during the Great Depression. The Depression hit America hard and changed the image of the nation.

Teacher Page

The lesson works well for high school students learning about the Great Depression. Most of the readings are straight forward and easy to understand. It also offers students a way to explore the Great Depression and imagine what it might have been like if they lived during that time period. I plan to add some further resources and modify the assessment at a later date to create a better webquest. The American library of Congress also offers some great resources with depression era material.

Standards

Credits

Other