Help That Lasted

New Deal projects and reformers in Alabama

SS24.5.8 "Analyze how the government-funded New Deal programs of President Franklin D. Roosevelt impacted American society. 8a Identify the contributions of reformers during the New Deal, including Alabama political and civic leaders..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two New Deal projects, and circle one effect each had on people in Alabama. Number the two Alabama leaders 1 and 2 so you can find their contributions again.

New Deal Help in Alabama

1 In the 1930s, the Great Depression left many Alabama families without steady work. President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal used federal money to put people to work and help communities. In Alabama, the Civilian Conservation Corps, or CCC, hired young men to build trails and cabins in state parks. Their pay helped families buy necessities, and the parks gave neighbors places to gather.

2 The Tennessee Valley Authority, or TVA, built Wheeler Dam on the Tennessee River in Alabama. Building the dam gave people jobs. The dam helped control floods and produced electricity for the region. Alabama congressman Lister Hill backed the TVA because he wanted the Tennessee Valley to grow. Electric power helped homes and businesses, so the project's effects lasted beyond the workers' paychecks.

3 Not everyone shared equally in New Deal help. Some Black workers faced discrimination in hiring, and the CCC kept Black and white workers in separate camps. Alabama civic leader Virginia Foster Durr supported New Deal reforms and later worked to end the poll tax, a fee that kept many poor people from voting. Her efforts showed that helping families also meant listening to people whose voices were shut out.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did CCC work help Alabama families right away and communities later?

2. Describe two ways Wheeler Dam helped people in Alabama.

3. What did Lister Hill do to support change in the Tennessee Valley, and what change did he want?

4. What problem did Virginia Foster Durr work to change, and how did that problem affect people's voices?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence letter to an Alabama newspaper in the 1930s arguing for more support for either the CCC or the TVA. Explain two different effects of your choice, connect one leader's work to your argument, and include one concern about fairness.

ANSWER KEY

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GRADE 5 · SS24.5.8

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two New Deal projects, and circle one effect each had on people in Alabama. Number the two Alabama leaders 1 and 2 so you can find their contributions again. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did CCC work help Alabama families right away and communities later?	**Workers' pay helped families buy necessities right away. The trails and cabins gave communities places to gather later.**
2	Describe two ways Wheeler Dam helped people in Alabama.	**Building it provided jobs. The dam also produced electricity and helped control floods.**
3	What did Lister Hill do to support change in the Tennessee Valley, and what change did he want?	**He backed the TVA because he wanted the Tennessee Valley to grow.**
4	What problem did Virginia Foster Durr work to change, and how did that problem affect people's voices?	**She worked to end the poll tax. The fee kept many poor people from voting.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I think Alabama should give more support to the TVA. Building Wheeler Dam gives people jobs, and its electricity helps homes and businesses. Lister Hill backs the TVA because he wants the Tennessee Valley to grow. Leaders must also make sure Black workers have a fair chance to get these jobs.

Accept any two passage-supported effects for Wheeler Dam, including jobs, electricity, and flood control. For the letter, check for four sentences, a clear project choice, two effects, a relevant leader connection, and a fairness concern.