Help That Reached Home

New Deal reformers in Alabama and beyond

SS24.5.8a "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 the names of three reformers in the passage. Circle one contribution made by each person so you can connect the reformer to the people they helped.

Who Did the New Deal Help?

1. During the Great Depression, many families could not find steady work or afford a farm. The New Deal was a set of government programs meant to help. Alabama senator John H. Bankhead II pushed for the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act of 1937. This law offered loans to some tenant farmers, people who rented the land they worked, so they could buy farms of their own.

2. Another Alabamian, Aubrey Williams, led the National Youth Administration, or NYA. It gave young people paid work and training during the Depression. Williams wanted Black youth to share in these chances, even though many programs treated them unfairly. He recruited educator Mary McLeod Bethune to lead the NYA office serving Black youth. Bethune pressed for more work and learning opportunities for those young people.

3. These reformers did not solve every problem. Not every tenant farmer could get a loan, and Black Americans still faced unfair treatment. Yet their work reached different groups: Bankhead supported a path to farm ownership, while Williams and Bethune opened doors for young workers. Their efforts show how people in Alabama and across the country tried to make New Deal help reach more families.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What did Senator Bankhead do to help tenant farmers?

2. How did Aubrey Williams help young people during the New Deal?

3. What did Mary McLeod Bethune do for Black youth through the NYA?

4. How did Bankhead's contribution differ from the work of Williams and Bethune?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine you run a community meeting in Alabama during the Great Depression. Write three sentences explaining how you would connect a tenant farmer and a Black teenager to two reformers' work, then name one problem your plan might not fix.

ANSWER KEY

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GRADE 5 · SS24.5.8a

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the names of three reformers in the passage. Circle one contribution made by each person so you can connect the reformer to the people they helped. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What did Senator Bankhead do to help tenant farmers?	**He pushed for a law that offered some tenant farmers loans to buy farms.**
2	How did Aubrey Williams help young people during the New Deal?	**He led the NYA, which gave young people paid work and training, and worked to include Black youth.**
3	What did Mary McLeod Bethune do for Black youth through the NYA?	**She led the NYA office serving Black youth and pressed for more work and learning opportunities.**
4	How did Bankhead's contribution differ from the work of Williams and Bethune?	**Bankhead worked to help tenant farmers buy land. Williams and Bethune worked to give young people access to jobs and learning.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I would tell a tenant farmer about the farm loans supported by Senator Bankhead. I would connect a Black teenager with the NYA work and training opportunities that Williams and Bethune worked to provide. My plan might not fix the unfair treatment Black youth faced when trying to get help.

Accept accurate descriptions of each person's contribution, even if students use different words. For the open task, accept either Williams or Bethune as the connection for the teenager if the response accurately explains that person's work.