

Lives in Hard Times

Trace how economic crisis and government action changed daily life.

SS5H3 “Explain how the Great Depression and New Deal affected the lives of millions of Americans.”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline details that show how the Great Depression made life harder, circle details that show how New Deal programs helped people, and number one example of each.

Hard Times and New Help

- ① In 1929, the stock market crashed, and the nation entered the Great Depression. Banks failed, businesses closed, and many workers lost their jobs. Families had less money for food, rent, and clothing. Some people waited in bread lines for free meals. Others lost their homes when they could not pay rent or mortgage payments. Millions of Americans faced daily uncertainty.
- ② Hard times changed where and how people lived. Families sometimes moved in with relatives because they could not afford their own homes. On the Great Plains, drought and dust storms ruined crops. Many farm families left their land to look for work elsewhere. Children might leave school to help earn money, while adults searched for any job they could find.
- ③ President Franklin D. Roosevelt responded with the New Deal, a group of government programs. The Civilian Conservation Corps gave young men paid work planting trees and improving parks. The Works Progress Administration hired people for public projects, including roads and schools. Social Security created payments for older Americans. These programs did not end every problem right away, but they gave many people jobs, income, and hope.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Name two basic needs that were harder for families to pay for during the Great Depression.

2 How did drought and dust storms affect farm families on the Great Plains?

3 How did the Civilian Conservation Corps affect the lives of some young men?

4 Explain one difference between how the Great Depression and the New Deal affected Americans.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a 3-4 sentence journal entry from the point of view of an American during this time. Include two ways the Great Depression affected the person's family and one New Deal program that changed the family's situation.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline details that show how the Great Depression made life harder, circle details that show how New Deal programs helped people, and number one example of each. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Name two basic needs that were harder for families to pay for during the Great Depression.	Food, rent, and clothing were harder to afford. Accept any two.
2	How did drought and dust storms affect farm families on the Great Plains?	They ruined crops, and many farm families left their land to look for work elsewhere.
3	How did the Civilian Conservation Corps affect the lives of some young men?	It gave young men paid work planting trees and improving parks.
4	Explain one difference between how the Great Depression and the New Deal affected Americans.	The Great Depression caused job loss and hardship, while New Deal programs provided jobs, income, or payments to help people.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Before the New Deal, my father could not find work, so our family had trouble paying rent. Dust storms also ruined our farm crops. Then my older brother joined the Civilian Conservation Corps and earned pay by planting trees. His income helped our family buy food.

Accept answers that accurately connect Depression hardships to daily life and New Deal programs to help for specific groups. In the journal entry, accept a plausible first-person voice if it includes two accurate hardships and one accurate program effect.