Relief and Resistance

Governor Murray's policies and Oklahoma's New Deal goals

OKH.C.7.3.A "Summarize policies of Governor William H. Murray which impacted the goals of the New Deal in Oklahoma."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three actions Governor Murray took. Number each one, then circle words nearby that show how it could support or limit a New Deal goal.

Who Would Lead Oklahoma's Recovery?

1 In 1931, two years before the New Deal began, Oklahoma faced falling oil prices and widespread hardship. Governor William H. Murray ordered National Guard troops into oil fields and shut down many wells. He wanted less oil on the market so its price would rise. Higher prices could help producers and workers, but closing wells also meant less work while they remained shut. When President Franklin D. Roosevelt launched the New Deal in 1933, economic recovery was one of its goals. Murray's earlier oil policy showed how a state leader might try to steady an industry during the Depression.

2 Murray also favored holding down state spending during the crisis. He sought to keep Oklahoma's budget under control rather than commit the state to large new expenses. This approach protected state finances, but it placed limits on what Oklahoma could pay for on its own. New Deal programs, by contrast, used federal money for relief and work projects. Their goal was to help people meet immediate needs and earn wages. For Oklahoma families without jobs, the difference mattered: careful state spending could not provide the same scale of aid as a large federal program.

3 Another question was who would direct relief. Murray wanted Oklahoma officials to retain control over decisions affecting the state, and he resisted federal direction of relief efforts. New Deal agencies sought to organize aid across the country while working with state and local governments. Murray's stance made cooperation harder when state and federal officials disagreed about how help should be delivered. His policies did not all point in one direction: limiting oil production was an attempt at recovery, while spending limits and resistance to federal direction could restrict efforts to provide relief.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Summarize Murray's oil policy and explain how it related to the New Deal goal of economic recovery.

2. How could Murray's approach to state spending limit a goal of New Deal relief programs?

3. Summarize Murray's position on who should direct relief and explain how it affected cooperation with New Deal agencies.

4. Which two Murray policies affected New Deal goals in different ways? Summarize the difference.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a brief recommendation to an Oklahoma official in 1933. Suggest one way state and federal leaders could work together on relief while respecting Murray's concern about state control, and explain how your plan would advance a New Deal goal.

ANSWER KEY

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HIGH SCHOOL · OKH.C.7.3.A

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline three actions Governor Murray took. Number each one, then circle words nearby that show how it could support or limit a New Deal goal. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Summarize Murray's oil policy and explain how it related to the New Deal goal of economic recovery.	**Murray closed many wells to reduce the oil supply and raise prices. Like the New Deal's recovery efforts, the policy tried to steady the economy, though closed wells meant less work while they remained shut.**
2	How could Murray's approach to state spending limit a goal of New Deal relief programs?	**By holding down state spending, Murray limited what Oklahoma could pay for itself, while New Deal relief used federal money to meet immediate needs and provide work.**
3	Summarize Murray's position on who should direct relief and explain how it affected cooperation with New Deal agencies.	**Murray wanted Oklahoma officials to retain control and resisted federal direction. This made cooperation harder when state and federal officials disagreed.**
4	Which two Murray policies affected New Deal goals in different ways? Summarize the difference.	**Closing oil wells aimed to raise prices and support recovery. Holding down state spending could limit the aid Oklahoma could provide to families in need.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I recommend that Oklahoma officials choose local work projects and ask a federal New Deal agency to help fund them. State leaders would identify urgent needs and oversee work in their communities, while federal officials would check that the money served the relief program's purpose. This plan would give Oklahoma a role in decisions without giving up federal support. Paying people to work would help families meet immediate needs, one goal of New Deal relief programs.

Accept summaries that distinguish Murray's state policies from the New Deal's later federal programs. For Your Turn, accept other workable proposals if they address state control and explain a relief or recovery goal.