Relief and Results

How New Deal agencies addressed different needs

USH.C.4.3.D "Summarize the goals and effectiveness of new federal agencies to address conditions of the Great Depression (e.g., Social Security Administration, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation [FDIC], Works Progress Administration [WPA]..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each agency's goal, circle evidence of what it accomplished, and number any limits you find. Use your marks to judge how well the agencies addressed the Depression.

Five Agencies, Different Problems

1 During the Great Depression, a family might fear losing both a paycheck and the savings left in its bank. Thousands of banks had failed by 1933. Congress created the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) to insure deposits at participating banks. Insurance helped restore trust, making bank runs less likely, although it could not replace a lost job. The 1935 Social Security Act created a system of old-age insurance, administered by the Social Security Board, later the Social Security Administration. Monthly retirement payments began in 1940. They gave eligible older workers a steadier income, but many workers, including most farmworkers and domestic workers, were initially excluded.

2 For people who needed wages at once, the federal government offered work programs. The Works Progress Administration (WPA), launched in 1935, hired unemployed people to build roads and schools and to work on writing and art projects. Its jobs provided pay and useful public works, but they were temporary and could not employ everyone. The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), begun in 1933, employed mainly young men to plant trees, improve parks, and fight soil erosion. Workers sent much of their pay home, helping families buy necessities. Yet the CCC offered few places for women and often kept Black and white workers in separate camps.

3 Along the Tennessee River, frequent floods damaged farms, while many homes lacked electricity. Established in 1933, the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) built dams to control flooding and generate power. Electricity reached more communities, and the agency encouraged improvements in farming, but dams displaced some residents and did not prevent every flood. These programs attacked different problems: unsafe savings, old-age poverty, unemployment, and limited access to power. Together they eased hardship and changed what Americans expected from Washington. They did not end the Depression; wartime production and hiring later brought full employment. Judging each agency means weighing whom it helped against whom it left out.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did the FDIC and the old-age insurance system address different problems? Summarize one result and one limit of each.

2. Summarize what the WPA and CCC tried to accomplish through paid work. How was each program limited?

3. What problems did the TVA target? Summarize one sign that it worked and one cost or limit.

4. Choose one agency that offered immediate help and one that aimed at longer-term security or development. Summarize each goal and one result.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

A town has unemployed workers, worried bank depositors, and older residents with little income. Write a short recommendation choosing two agencies to address different needs, explain how well each could help, and identify one need your choices would leave unmet.

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PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each agency's goal, circle evidence of what it accomplished, and number any limits you find. Use your marks to judge how well the agencies addressed the Depression. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the FDIC and the old-age insurance system address different problems? Summarize one result and one limit of each.	**The FDIC insured bank deposits and helped restore trust, but it could not replace lost jobs. Old-age insurance gave eligible retirees steadier income, but many workers were initially excluded.**
2	Summarize what the WPA and CCC tried to accomplish through paid work. How was each program limited?	**The WPA paid unemployed people to create public works and complete arts projects, but its jobs were temporary and did not reach everyone. The CCC paid mainly young men for conservation work, but offered few places for women and often segregated camps.**
3	What problems did the TVA target? Summarize one sign that it worked and one cost or limit.	**The TVA targeted flooding and lack of electricity. Its dams brought power to more communities, but they displaced some residents and could not prevent every flood.**
4	Choose one agency that offered immediate help and one that aimed at longer-term security or development. Summarize each goal and one result.	**For example, the WPA sought to provide wages quickly and paid unemployed people to build roads and schools. The FDIC sought to protect savings and helped restore trust in banks.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I recommend the WPA and the FDIC. The WPA could hire unemployed residents for public projects, providing wages while improving the town, though its jobs would be temporary. The FDIC could protect deposits at participating banks and help residents trust their banks again, but it would not provide income. These choices would leave older residents with little income in need of support. Old-age insurance could help eligible residents later, but its monthly payments did not begin until 1940.

Accept other agency pairings when the response explains distinct needs, accurately evaluates each agency, and identifies a need the pair does not meet. For question 4, several choices can fit each category if the stated goal and result match the passage.