

# Georgia's History: Great Depression

SS8H8ab



# Standards

**SS8H8 The student will analyze the important events that occurred after World War I and their impact on Georgia.**

- a. Describe the impact of the boll weevil and drought on Georgia.
- b. Explain economic factors that resulted in the Great Depression.

# Teacher Info – Who's & What's

- Print off the Who's & What's handout for each student.
- BEFORE the unit, have students fill in the squares with what they *think* each term means.
- AFTER the presentation, the students will write down new (factual) information about each term.
- Check the answers as a class.

# Great Depression: Who's & What's

**Directions:** BEFORE the unit, write what you *think* each term means. AFTER the presentation, you will write down new information about each term.

<p><b>Boll Weevil</b></p> <p>What I think this means:</p> <p>Definition:</p>	<p><b>Drought</b></p> <p>What I think this is:</p> <p>Definition:</p>
<p><b>Black Tuesday</b></p> <p>What I think this means:</p> <p>Definition:</p>	<p><b>Great Depression</b></p> <p>What I think this means:</p> <p>Definition:</p>
<p><b>Herbert Hoover</b></p> <p>Who I think this is:</p> <p>Definition:</p>	<p><b>Franklin D. Roosevelt</b></p> <p>Who I think this is:</p> <p>Definition:</p>

# Teacher Directions – CLOZE Notes

- The next pages are handouts for the students to use for note-taking during the presentation. (Print front to back to save paper and ink.)
- Check the answers as a class after the presentation.

# Great Depression CLOZE Notes 1

## After World War I

- After WWI, many people enjoyed \_\_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_\_\_ left many Americans wealthy.
- Unfortunately, farmers, like the majority of Georgians, still faced \_\_\_\_\_.

## A Call to Diversify

- In addition to calling for more industry in Georgia, agriculture experts and New South promoters urged farmers to \_\_\_\_\_.
- Georgia's farmers relied \_\_\_\_\_ and refused to take the advice.
- They kept growing cotton (and only cotton) because it was the \_\_\_\_\_.

## Boll Weevil

- A \_\_\_\_\_ known as a boll weevil made its way \_\_\_\_\_ and reached Georgia's farms in 1915.
- The boll weevil was devastating to the South because it laid its eggs in cotton plants and the larvae \_\_\_\_\_.
- By the 1920s, many Georgia farmers had lost their \_\_\_\_\_ due to the insects' destruction.
- The total cotton crop dropped from 1.75 million bales a year to \_\_\_\_\_ in 1923.

## Severe Drought

- A \_\_\_\_\_ soon followed the boll weevil catastrophe from \_\_\_\_\_.
- The U.S. Weather Bureau said that rivers in many places reached the \_\_\_\_\_.
- Without enough rain, farmers \_\_\_\_\_ as they normally did.

## Economic Hardship

- Both the \_\_\_\_\_ had a severe impact on Georgia's agriculture.
- More and more people left farms to work in factories in \_\_\_\_\_.
- By the 1930s, at least half of all workers in the state worked in \_\_\_\_\_.
- The farmers who remained tended to be very poor—most were sharecroppers or tenants and were \_\_\_\_\_.

# Great Depression CLOZE Notes 2

## Consumerism

- While farmers suffered, the majority of the rest of the nation \_\_\_\_\_ during the 1920s.
- The war led to \_\_\_\_\_ and more money.
- People's spending habits changed as lot as consumerism became normal and they focused \_\_\_\_\_
- Buying things on credit also became more common, which allowed people to \_\_\_\_\_ rather than having to save to afford them.

## Overproduction

- Meanwhile, industries and businesses \_\_\_\_\_
- Farmers were also producing \_\_\_\_\_
- With the war over, \_\_\_\_\_ making it hard for them to earn a profit.
- Many farmers had to \_\_\_\_\_ to buy new equipment and grow more crops.

## Stock Market

- More and more people began \_\_\_\_\_ as well.
- When people buy stock they purchase \_\_\_\_\_ that they believe will make money.
- When the companies do well, the \_\_\_\_\_
- During the 1920s, people often paid for part of a stock and then \_\_\_\_\_
- Millions of Americans \_\_\_\_\_
- That meant they made \_\_\_\_\_ and hoped the price of shares in companies would go up.
- This sent the price of stocks up \_\_\_\_\_

## Black Tuesday

- When stocks began to drop to their true worth, \_\_\_\_\_ and sold their stocks for cheaper prices.
- This caused the \_\_\_\_\_
- On \_\_\_\_\_, the stock market crashed.
- This is known as \_\_\_\_\_, and is generally considered the beginning of the Great Depression.

# Great Depression CLOZE Notes 3

## Great Depression

- Many banks went out of business, unemployment rose sky high, and thousands of people \_\_\_\_\_.
- The depression that followed the stock market crash \_\_\_\_\_.

## Dust Bowl

- During the Depression, more than \_\_\_\_\_.
- On top of that, farmers in the Great Plains were hit with \_\_\_\_\_.
- Without rain, crops could not grow or \_\_\_\_\_ in place.
- Much of it blew away in \_\_\_\_\_.
- This part of the nation became known as the Dust Bowl because dust literally \_\_\_\_\_.
- The \_\_\_\_\_ with dry, blowing dust. \_\_\_\_\_ were especially hard hit.
- Many farm families packed all they owned into their cars and headed west to California to \_\_\_\_\_.

## Georgia

- The \_\_\_\_\_ especially hard.
- Cotton dropped to 5 cents per pound and within a year, many farmers lost their land and \_\_\_\_\_.
- Between 1900 and 1940, Atlanta's population grew by \_\_\_\_\_.
- Others, including many African Americans, left Georgia altogether and headed for \_\_\_\_\_.
- Those who remained on the farms were illiterate and \_\_\_\_\_.
- Many farm families lived in shacks without plumbing or electricity, went hungry, and were \_\_\_\_\_ and other basic necessities. \_\_\_\_\_ and the ones that remained open saw a drop in students as children had to work to support their families.

## Herbert Hoover

- \_\_\_\_\_ was president when the Depression began.
- He believed that private charities and local communities should help the needy; it \_\_\_\_\_ to help.
- Many people believed \_\_\_\_\_.
- Americans during the Depression. \_\_\_\_\_.

# Great Depression CLOZE Notes 4

## Hoovervilles

- Thousands of Americans could not pay their mortgages and \_\_\_\_\_.
- Many were forced to live in \_\_\_\_\_ that they built in public parks.
- These shacks were known as “\_\_\_\_\_”.
- Empty pockets were “Hoover Flags” and newspapers were “\_\_\_\_\_”.

## Soup Kitchens

- Millions of Americans were out of work and \_\_\_\_\_ for their families.
- Thousands of people lined up for food \_\_\_\_\_ that were run by charities.
- \_\_\_\_\_, they received bread and a bowl of soup.
- This was usually the \_\_\_\_\_ that they would eat all day.

## F.D. Roosevelt

- A new president, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, was \_\_\_\_\_.
- He \_\_\_\_\_ for the American people.
- Hoover believed that the government should not interfere with the economy, but \_\_\_\_\_.
- FDR’s government took an active role in trying to \_\_\_\_\_.

# Great Depression CLOZE Notes 1

## KEY

### After World War I

- After WWI, many people enjoyed **good economic times**.
- **Increased industrialization** left many Americans wealthy.
- Unfortunately, farmers, like the majority of Georgians, still faced **many challenges**.

### A Call to Diversify

- In addition to calling for more industry in Georgia, agriculture experts and New South promoters urged farmers to **diversify their crops**.
- Georgia's farmers relied **heavily on cotton** and refused to take the advice.
- They kept growing cotton (and only cotton) because it was the **most profitable**.

### Boll Weevil

- A **tiny insect** known as a boll weevil made its way **north from Mexico** and reached Georgia's farms in 1915.
- The boll weevil was devastating to the South because it laid its eggs in cotton plants and the larvae **destroyed the cotton bolls**.
- By the 1920s, many Georgia farmers had lost their **crops, money, and their land** due to the insects' destruction.
- The total cotton crop dropped from 1.75 million bales a year to **588,000** in 1923.

### Severe Drought

- A **severe drought** soon followed the boll weevil catastrophe from **1924 to 1927**.
- The U.S. Weather Bureau said that rivers in many places reached the **lowest stages ever known**.
- Without enough rain, farmers **could not grow as much** as they normally did.

### Economic Hardship

- Both the **boll weevil** and the **drought** had a severe impact on Georgia's agriculture.
- More and more people left farms to work in factories in **Georgia's cities**.
- By the 1930s, at least half of all workers in the state worked in **non-farming jobs**.
- The farmers who remained tended to be very poor—most were sharecroppers or tenants and were **drowning in debt**.

# Great Depression CLOZE Notes 2

## KEY

### Consumerism

- While farmers suffered, the majority of the rest of the nation **enjoyed prosperity** during the 1920s.
- The war led to **increased production** and more money.
- People's spending habits changed as lot as consumerism became normal and they focused **more on buying things rather than on saving**.
- Buying things on credit also became more common, which allowed people to **buy things right away** rather than having to save to afford them.

### Overproduction

- Meanwhile, industries and businesses **were producing more than people could buy**.
- Farmers were also producing **more than people could use**.
- With the war over, **prices for crops fell drastically**, making it hard for them to earn a profit.
- Many farmers had to **borrow money** to buy new equipment and grow more crops.

### Stock Market

- More and more people began **buying stocks** as well.
- When people buy stock they purchase **part ownership in companies** that they believe will make money.
- When the companies do well, the **stockholders grow wealthy**.
- During the 1920s, people often paid for part of a stock and then **borrowed money to buy the rest**.
- Millions of Americans **bought stocks on speculation**.
- That meant they made **high-risk investments** and hoped the price of shares in companies would go up.
- This sent the price of stocks up **more than they were really worth**.

### Black Tuesday

- When stocks began to drop to their true worth, **people panicked** and sold their stocks for cheaper prices.
- This caused the **stock prices to drop rapidly**.
- On **October 29<sup>th</sup>, 1929**, the stock market crashed.
- This is known as **Black Tuesday**, and is generally considered the beginning of the Great Depression.

# Great Depression CLOZE Notes 3

## KEY

### Great Depression

- Many banks went out of business, unemployment rose sky high, and thousands of people **lost their life savings and their homes**.
- The depression that followed the stock market crash **hurt many Americans**.

### Dust Bowl

- During the Depression, more than **750,000 farmers lost their farms**.
- On top of that, farmers in the Great Plains were hit with **severe droughts**.
- Without rain, crops could not grow or **hold the fertile topsoil** in place.
- Much of it blew away in **powerful dust storms**.
- This part of the nation became known as the Dust Bowl because dust literally **covered everything**.
- The **skies would turn black** with dry, blowing dust.
- **Oklahoma and Kansas** were especially hard hit.
- Many farm families packed all they owned into their cars and headed west to California to **make a new start**.

### Georgia

- The **Depression hit Georgia** especially hard.
- Cotton dropped to 5 cents per pound and within a year, many farmers lost their land and **moved to cities to find work**.
- Between 1900 and 1940, Atlanta's population grew by **200,000**.
- Others, including many African Americans, left Georgia altogether and headed for **northern cities**.
- Those who remained on the farms were illiterate and **trapped in poverty**.
- Many farm families lived in shacks without plumbing or electricity, went hungry, and were **unable to buy food** and other basic necessities.
- **Rural schools closed** and the ones that remained open saw a drop in students as children had to work to support their families.

### Herbert Hoover

- **Herbert Hoover** was president when the Depression began.
- He believed that private charities and local communities should help the needy; it **wasn't the government's job** to help.
- Many people believed **he did not do enough to help** Americans during the Depression.

# Great Depression CLOZE Notes 4

## KEY

### Hoovervilles

- Thousands of Americans could not pay their mortgages and **lost their homes**.
- Many were forced to live in **cardboard shacks** that they built in public parks.
- These shacks were known as "**Hoovervilles**".
- Empty pockets were "Hoover Flags" and newspapers were "**Hoover Blankets**".

### Soup Kitchens

- Millions of Americans were out of work and **could not provide food** for their families.
- Thousands of people lined up for food **at soup kitchens** that were run by charities.
- **After waiting in line for hours**, they received bread and a bowl of soup.
- This was usually the **only meal** that they would eat all day.

### F.D. Roosevelt

- A new president, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, was **elected in 1932**.
- He **promised a "New Deal"** for the American people.
- Hoover believed that the government should not interfere with the economy, but **Roosevelt felt the opposite**.
- FDR's government took an active role in trying to **help the economy recover**.

Georgia's History:

# Great Depression

SS8H8ab

# After World War I

- After WWI, many people enjoyed good economic times.
- Increased industrialization left many Americans wealthy.
- Unfortunately, farmers, like the majority of Georgians, still faced many challenges.

# A Call to Diversify

- In addition to calling for more industry in Georgia, agriculture experts and New South promoters urged farmers to diversify their crops.
- Georgia's farmers relied heavily on cotton and refused to take the advice.
- They kept growing cotton (and only cotton) because it was the most profitable.

# Picking Cotton Near Marietta – 1930s



# Boll Weevil

- A tiny insect known as a boll weevil made its way north from Mexico and reached Georgia's farms in 1915.
- The boll weevil was devastating to the South because it laid its eggs in cotton plants and the larvae destroyed the cotton bolls.
- By the 1920s, many Georgia farmers had lost their crops, money, and their land due to the insects' destruction.
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Boll Weevil

# Severe Drought

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- The U.S. Weather Bureau said that rivers in many places reached the lowest stages ever known.
- Without enough rain, farmers could not grow as much as they normally did.



# Economic Hardship

- Both the boll weevil and the drought had a severe impact on Georgia's agriculture.
- More and more people left farms to work in factories in Georgia's cities.
- By the 1930s, at least half of all workers in the state worked in non-farming jobs.
- The farmers who remained tended to be very poor—most were sharecroppers or tenants and were drowning in debt.

# Consumerism

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# Overproduction

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# Stock Market

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- When the companies do well, the stockholders grow wealthy.
- During the 1920s, people often paid for part of a stock and then borrowed money to buy the rest.



New York Stock  
Exchange Floor – 1920s

# Stock Market

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- That meant they made high-risk investments and hoped the price of shares in companies would go up.
  - This sent the price of stocks up more than they were really worth.

# Black Tuesday

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  - This is known as Black Tuesday, and is generally considered the beginning of the Great Depression.

Crowd Gathering Outside  
the NYSE after the Crash  
in 1929.



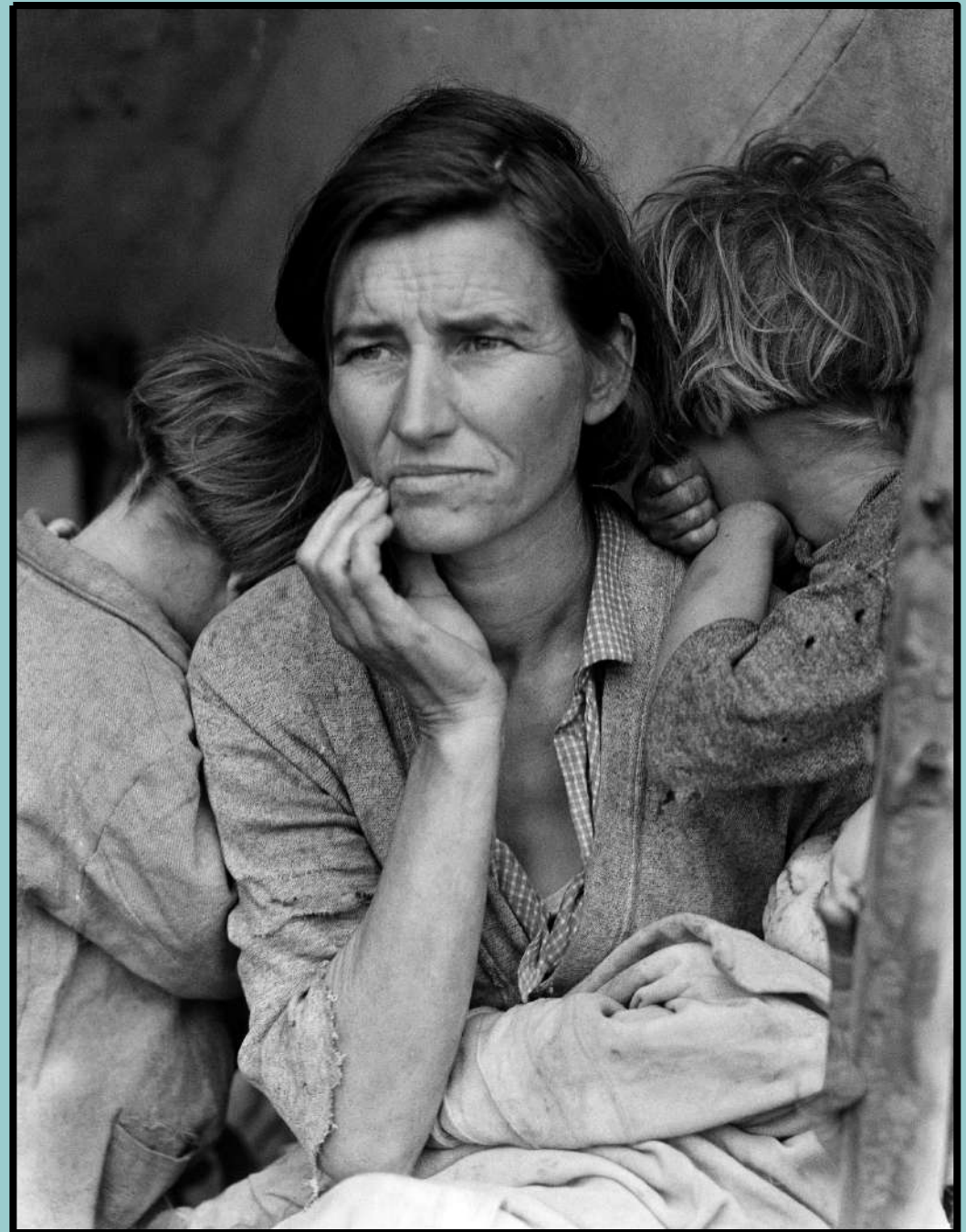
# Great Depression

- Many banks went out of business, unemployment rose sky high, and thousands of people lost their life savings and their homes.
- The depression that followed the stock market crash hurt many Americans.

# Crowds Outside of the Bank of the United States in NYC after its Failure in 1931.



Dorothea Lange's *Migrant Mother* depicts poor pea pickers in California. This is Florence Owens Thompson, age 32, a mother of seven children, in March 1936.



Impoverished American  
Family Living in a Shanty  
– Oklahoma, 1936



# Dust Bowl

- During the Depression, more than 750,000 farmers lost their farms.
- On top of that, farmers in the Great Plains were hit with severe droughts.
- Without rain, crops could not grow or hold the fertile topsoil in place.
- Much of it blew away in powerful dust storms.



# Dust Bowl

- This part of the nation became known as the Dust Bowl because dust literally covered everything.
  - The skies would turn black with dry, blowing dust.
- Oklahoma and Kansas were especially hard hit.
- Many farm families packed all they owned into their cars and headed west to California to make a new start.



Buried  
Machinery in a  
Barn Lot --  
South Dakota,  
1936



# Georgia

- The Depression hit Georgia especially hard.
- Cotton dropped to 5 cents per pound and within a year, many farmers lost their land and moved to cities to find work.
  - Between 1900 and 1940, Atlanta's population grew by 200,000.
- Others, including many African Americans, left Georgia altogether and headed for northern cities.

# Georgia

- Those who remained on the farms were illiterate and trapped in poverty.
- Many farm families lived in shacks without plumbing or electricity, went hungry, and were unable to buy food and other basic necessities.
- Rural schools closed and the ones that remained open saw a drop in students as children had to work to support their families.

# Herbert Hoover

- Herbert Hoover was president when the Depression began.
- He believed that private charities and local communities should help the needy; it wasn't the government's job to help.
- Many people believed he did not do enough to help Americans during the Depression.



# Hoovervilles

- Thousands of Americans could not pay their mortgages and lost their homes.
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- These shacks were known as “Hoovervilles”.
  - Empty pockets were “Hoover Flags” and newspapers were “Hoover Blankets”.



# Soup Kitchens

- Millions of Americans were out of work and could not provide food for their families.
- Thousands of people lined up for food at soup kitchens that were run by charities.
- After waiting in line for hours, they received bread and a bowl of soup.
  - This was usually the only meal that they would eat all day.

# Unemployed Men Outside of a Soup Kitchen in Chicago, 1933







# F.D. Roosevelt

- A new president, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, was elected in 1932.
- He promised a “New Deal” for the American people.
- Hoover believed that the government should not interfere with the economy, but Roosevelt felt the opposite.
- FDR’s government took an active role in trying to help the economy recover.



32<sup>nd</sup> President  
Franklin D. Roosevelt in  
1933

# Teacher Info – Great Depression Questions

- Print off the WWI Questions handout for each student.
- They should answer the questions after discussing the presentation. Afterwards, check and share answers as a class.
- \*You can also use this as a quiz!

# Great Depression Questions

1. What impact did the boll weevil have on the South's economy?
2. How did drought impact Georgia's farms in the 1920s?
3. What happened on October 29, 1929?
4. What was the severe downturn of the US economy during the 1930s called?
5. What was the Dust Bowl?
6. Where did many Georgia farmers go to find work?
7. What was life like for Georgians who remained on their farms during the Depression?
8. Which president was in office during the beginning of the Great Depression but didn't do much to help Americans?
9. What were soup kitchens?
10. Which president was elected in 1932 with promises to pull America out of the Depression?

# Great Depression

## Questions - KEY

1. What impact did the boll weevil have on the South's economy? It destroyed the South's cotton crop and devastated cotton production.
2. How did drought impact Georgia's farms? There wasn't enough rain for the crops to grow.
3. What happened on October 29, 1929? The Stock Market crashed (Black Tuesday).
4. What was the severe downturn of the US economy during the 1930s called?

### The Great Depression

5. What was the Dust Bowl? Severe drought struck the Great Plains and prairie winds picked up the dust and it covered everything.
6. Where did many Georgia farmers go to find work? Atlanta or other cities up north
7. What was life like for Georgians who remained on their farms during the Depression? Lived in shacks, little education available, unable to buy food and other necessities
8. Which president was in office during the beginning of the Great Depression but didn't do much to help Americans? Herbert Hoover
9. What were soup kitchens? Charities that provided food to unemployed and homeless.
10. Which president was elected in 1932 with promises to pull America out of the Depression? Franklin D. Roosevelt

# Teacher Directions – Extra! Extra!

- The students will write a news article about one of the major events from this lesson as if they were alive during the time period. (Ideas = boll weevil's destruction, Black Friday, Great Depression, etc.)
- They will write a catchy headline at the top.
- They will draw an illustration and a caption in the photograph section.

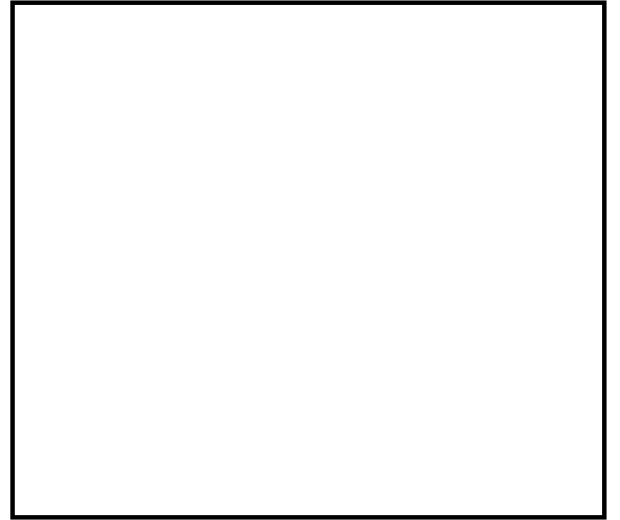
# Extra! Extra!

**Directions:** Write a news article that describes one of the major events from this time period. Add a catchy headline and an action shot.

Date:

\$

Article By:



# Teacher Info – Great Depression Prescription

- The students will write a prescription to solve the US' problems during the Great Depression.
- First they should write a list of the ailments (problems) that many Americans faced during the Great Depression.
- Next, they will write their own prescription (solution) for solving the problem.

# Sharecropping Prescription

**Directions:** You are the doctor! Write a prescription to cure the “ailments” of the Great Depression.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

MD Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**Ailment:**

**Prescription:**




# Teacher Info – Great Depression Song Playlist

- Have the students create a song playlist about the topics discussed during the Great Depression lesson. (These should be actual songs, not ones that they make up.)
- Next, they will write a brief explanation as to why they chose those particular songs (how the songs relate to the topics).

# Great Depression Song Playlist

**Directions:** Create a song playlist about the topics discussed during the Great Depression lesson. Also, write a brief explanation of how the song relates to the topic.

Songs	Explanations
	

# Teacher – Ticket Out the Door #Summary

- Have the students write short (2-3 words) hashtag summaries about the topic.
- Collect at the end of class, quickly read their summaries, and share a few during the next class.

# #Summaries

**#Topic: Great  
Depression**

**#Description:**

**#KeyPeople:**

**#ImportantFacts:**

**#Questions:**

# #Summaries

**#Topic: Great  
Depression**

**#Description:**

**#KeyPeople:**

**#ImportantFacts:**

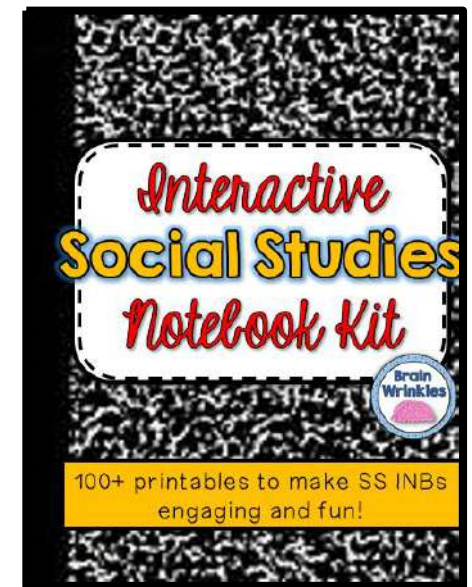
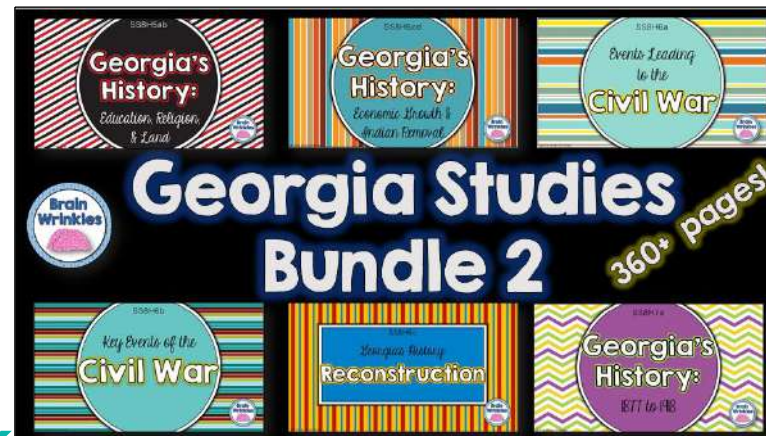
**#Questions:**

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Ansley at Brain Wrinkles

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