Business & Brunswick School Department Computer Science Dynamics of the Stock Market Where Did All the Money Go? The Great Depression Mystery

Essential Understandings	 During the 1920s, the United States enjoyed prosperity. The affluence of the Roaring Twenties began to evaporate in 1929. By 1932, twelve million people were out of work.
Essential Questions	 Why did the American economy go from unprecedented economic growth in the 1920s to unprecedented misery in the 1930s? What groups were most negatively affected? What was the trend in unemployment? What events might explain government spending patterns in the 1920s?
Essential Knowledge	 The lower the unemployment rate, the higher the level of income; when unemployment increases, total income drops. Total demand for food decreased while the supply remained relatively stable, causing food prices to fall and farm income to become lower than everyone else's. Jobs related to the production of public goods and services declined. Low prices forced businesses to close.
Vocabulary	 Terms: Depression, income, multiplier, money supply, federal reserve, savings, public debt
Essential Skills	 Identify conditions in the economy during the period 1920-1933 that led to the Great Depression. Analyze the relationship between increases and decreases in employment and consumer spending. Trace the ripple effect in the economy that occurs when workers lose jobs.
Related Maine Learning Results	
Sample Lessons And Activities	 Read "How Did the Great Depression Happen?" Gather clues using the internet to investigate the mystery using a series of clue sheets.
Sample Classroom Assessment Methods	Teacher generated quiz
Sample Resources	 Other Materials: Stock Market Simulation