

Investigating the Effects of the Great Depression

The Great Depression affected nearly every aspect of American life during the 1930s. In this activity, you and your group will examine a collection of photographs, letters and remembrances dealing with the Great Depression. Your goal is to understand the breadth and severity of the impact of the Great Depression on peoples' lives. You will communicate this understanding by putting together the Front page of a Depression era newspaper in which you and your group describe what you agree on to be the most significant ways the Great Depression affected American life.

Step 1: Investigate the evidence

Look over the evidence packet. Then choose ten exhibits from the packet that you and your group feel provide interesting information on how the Great Depression impacted Americans. You must choose at least six written exhibits and at least four photo collections. As a group, read and examine your chosen exhibits and complete your reporter's notebook as thoroughly as you can.

Step 2: Editorial meeting

Brainstorm with your group the four major ways that the Great Depression impacted American life. Have one person in the group note down all of the impacts that your group generates. Then, discuss with the group which four areas are the most significant. Each of these areas should be about a different aspect of how the Depression impacted people, and each impact should be supported by at least two of the exhibits that your group examined. When you have come up with your list of four impacts, show them to Mr. Haydock for his approval. Then, fill out a reporter assignment sheet for each impact and assign and assign that impact to a member of your group

Step 3: Write your article

Individually, each member of your group will write a one paragraph article (using BMP format) about their assigned impact. Paragraphs must be between 8-12 sentences in length and must be supported by a minimum of two sources (from the sources examined in class). Cite your sources parenthetically by using the letter of the source from the packet. Articles must be typed using a normal 14 point font. The title of your article should be creative, centered above your article and in 24 point font. Please include "By (your name) in between the title and the text in 14 point font. Paragraphs will count as a quiz and be assessed on the basis of clarity, format and effective use of the available evidence.

Step 4: Assembling your paper

Your group should assemble their paper on a sheet of poster paper. Newspapers must have a title, and should include at least two relevant photographs. Newspapers will receive a group grade and will be assessed based on neatness, creativity, organization of layout and the absence of white space. Newspapers will be worth 20 points. All members of the group will receive the same grade for the paper.

Reporter Assignment Brief

What will this article be about?
(Which of the impacts of the Great Depression will it describe)

Who is assigned this article?

Which documents are the most relevant to this article:
(list at least three)

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