



# The Great Depression

**Objective:** Students will gain a better insight into the economic conditions that existed in West Virginia during the Great Depression. Students will learn about programs instituted by the federal and state government to deal with the crisis.

## GRADE LEVEL

Eighth Grade

## TIME REQUIRED

50 minutes

## GUIDING QUESTIONS

1. What were the economic conditions that led to the Great Depression in the 1930s?
2. What steps did the federal and state governments take to combat unemployment?
3. How did the political landscape change in West Virginia as a result of the Great Depression?

## STRATEGIC VOCABULARY

depression  
mechanization  
New Deal  
shantytowns

## LESSON ACTIVITY

Provide students with copies of the Scavenger Hunt. Have them go to the following articles in *e-WV* to find the answers:

- The Great Depression: <http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/2155>
- William Gustavus Conley: <http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/1506>
- Herman Guy Kump: <http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/1262>
- New Deal: <http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/2265>
- Civilian Conservation Corp: <http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/1195>
- Works Progress Administration: <http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/1350>
- County Poor Farms: <http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/1649>
- Matthew Mansfield Neely: <http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/1628>
- Tygart Valley Homesteads: <http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/804>
- National Recovery Administration: <http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/2264>



- Arthurdale: <http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/298>
- Eleanor: <http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/2177>
- Tax Limitation Amendment: <http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/688>

## **WEST VIRGINIA NEXT GENERATION CONTENT STANDARDS AND OBJECTIVES**

### **SOCIAL STUDIES**

SS.8.24: Demonstrate an understanding of West Virginia’s development during the early twentieth century.

- Analyze the evolution of the labor movement in West Virginia.
- Summarize the progressive reform movement in West Virginia (e.g., child labor laws, Prohibition, improvements to roads, hospitals, libraries, tax reforms, changes to local government systems and the roles of significant individuals and groups).
- Summarize the political, social and economic situation in West Virginia following World War I, including progress in suffrage for women, improvements in daily life in urban/rural areas, Roaring 20’s and developments in industry.

Explain the effects of the Great Depression and the lasting impact of New Deal programs on West Virginia, including the Homestead Projects.

SS.8.8: Analyze the impact of absentee ownership, renewable and nonrenewable natural resources, labor unionization and the development of infrastructure on the economic growth of West Virginia (e.g. railroad, major highways, Internet, and cellular service).

*Lesson plan created by Jason Villers, Charleston Catholic High School, [jasonvillers28@yahoo.com](mailto:jasonvillers28@yahoo.com).*



# Scavenger Hunt



**Directions:** Select the letter of the person that best matches the description.

- |   |                          |
|---|--------------------------|
| _____ 1. Governor during the early dark days of the Great Depression.   | A. Matthew Neely         |
| _____ 2. Led conservative “Statehouse Democrats” against the New Dealers.   | B. William Conley        |
| _____ 3. President that implemented his programs called the New Deal to help pull the country out of the Great Depression.                                | C. Herman Kump           |
| _____ 4. Credited with being the architect of the Democratic-labor alliance that dominated West Virginia politics for many years.                         | D. Franklin D. Roosevelt |
| _____ 5. Governor that labored to maintain the state’s financial integrity during the Great Depression. Labeled as mistrustful of labor union leadership. | E. Homer Holt            |

**Directions:** Write your answers to the following questions in the blanks or space provided.

6. The \_\_\_\_\_ was designed to put the nation’s unemployed youth to work on reforestation and similar projects throughout the country.
7. The \_\_\_\_\_ were a group of programs to help those hit hardest by the Great Depression.



8. Before the welfare reforms of the New Deal, \_\_\_\_\_ played a major role in the care of people who because of poverty, infirmity, or old age were unable to care for themselves.
  
9. \_\_\_\_\_, built 10 miles south of Elkins, called for the construction of 198 houses, built by homesteaders. They were paid 30 cents an hour plus work credit, which could be applied to the purchase of their houses.
  
10. How much money did a CCC participant receive per month? How much of that money did he get to keep?
  
11. Which reservoir area was cleared with CCC labor?
  
12. True/False: The New Deal led the state toward prosperity and helped end the state's basic economic dilemmas.
  
13. List three facilities or places that were improved through programs implemented by government agencies during the Great Depression.
  
14. What led to increased mechanization of the mines during the Great Depression?
  
15. Which federal agency organized public projects to provide income to the unemployed?
  
16. In order to bring relief to people losing their farms or homes to tax sales, West Virginians added the \_\_\_\_\_ to the state constitution by a vote of 335,482 to 43,931 in November 1932.



## Answer Sheet

1. B
2. C
3. D
4. A
5. E
  
6. Civilian Conservation Corp (CCC)
7. New Deal
8. County Farms
9. Tygart Valley Homesteads
10. \$30; \$5
11. Bluestone
12. False
13. Students' answers will vary. (Answers include the Huntington flood wall, Kanawha Boulevard in Charleston, airports, roads, bridges, schools, health care facilities, etc.)
14. Higher labor costs and competition from other energy sources.
15. Works Progress Administration
16. Tax Limitation Amendment

