

The New Deal

*The Great Depression and
World War II (1929–1945)*



The New Deal

The Second New Deal

Consequences

Thematic Icons



Economics and business



Geography and environment



Historical concepts and questions



Politics, government and citizenship



Society and culture



War, diplomacy and foreign policy

Icons: For more detailed instructions, see the *User Guide*



Flash activity (these activities are not editable)



Teacher notes included in the Notes page



By the end of this section, you will be able to answer the following key questions about the New Deal:

- When and why did the New Deal era end?
- What were some major achievements of the New Deal?
- What were some of the New Deal's flaws?
- What is the New Deal's legacy?



A Third New Deal?



Following his re-election in 1936, FDR prepared to launch a Third New Deal.

However, by 1937, the economy had improved enough that he deemed it unnecessary. Eager to reduce deficit spending, the government scaled back several New Deal programs.



The result was another dip in the economy as unemployment rose from 7.7 million in 1937 to 10.4 million in 1938.



Roosevelt's New Deal accomplished many of its goals. It:

- gave relief in the form of employment, food and shelter
- strengthened infrastructure with public construction works
- helped strengthen a national identity by funding arts projects that celebrated the American experience
- provided pensions for the elderly
- developed and protected workers' rights
- made the government responsible for the well-being of its citizens.



How were these changes to previous systems?



Yet there were some problems the New Deal did not solve.

- The New Deal did not end the Depression. Only the industrial boom of World War II did that.
- Racism kept programs from aiding minority groups as much as whites.
- Some aid projects had negative effects on the people they were intended to help.
- Social Security initially reduced spending power. In order to build up a base of funds, taxes had to be collected for several years before benefits were paid out.





Many conservatives felt the New Deal gave the government too much power and damaged American enterprise.

Some liberals argued that the New Deal did not go far enough to evenly distribute prosperity in the U.S.

Supporters of the New Deal point out that it reduced the Depression's effects for millions of Americans. They argue that the New Deal struck a good balance between free market capitalism and socialism to create a system that could better cope with the economic crisis.



Was the New Deal a success or failure?



Several New Deal programs
continue to affect the way
Americans live today. Press on the
folder tabs to see how they have
changed over time
Press **start** to begin.

start



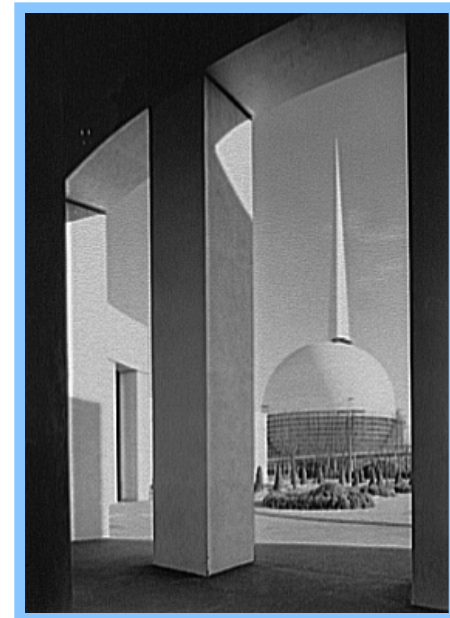


Looking back at the 1930s



While the 1930s is often characterized by images of poverty, it was also a time of technological and cultural development.

Hydroelectric dams and the REA brought the luxury of electricity into thousands of homes. The decade saw the first commercial transatlantic flights, as well as the increasing use of television.



While Hollywood provided a glamorous escape from reality, art and literature of the time tended to celebrate the dignity of average Americans persevering in the face of hardship.



Test your knowledge of the New Deal with the following quiz. Choose the correct answer to each question to see how much you can remember.

Press **start** to begin.

start





Test your understanding of the New Deal
by recapping key terms and important
people using this glossary.
Press on the tabs and then each term to
see a definition.
Press **start** to begin.

start

