



**For  
Special  
Ed**

**The Great Depression  
Middle & High School**

Special Needs for Special Kids





*This unit was created with this guy in mind. He has autism and an intellectual disability. He is a non-reader, and loves the sound of piano keys. With some support he is able to do this unit, and enjoys the challenge. He is my tester!!*

## Table of Contents

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4-28	The Great Depression
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*This unit contains almost 150 pages of material. I have included a detailed lesson plan to help you make the most of everything in this unit including how to add some group activities.*

# Great Depression Lesson Plan

## Preparation

- Print out a vocabulary board for each student to use throughout unit
  - Laminate or place in page protector
- Book (there are 2 versions to choose from; easy and challenging)
  - Print out, laminate, and bind
  - OR your students can listen to the pre-recorded version
- Vocabulary cards
  - Print out a set of cards onto cardstock and laminate
  - Make one set for each student and also one for the teacher to use in I Spy games
- Print the large timeline cards on cardstock and laminate.
  - For additional ideas on how to use these, go to:  
<https://specialneedsforspecialkids.org/2018/06/13/making-a-life-sized-timeline/>

## Preassessment (do day 1 before starting lesson)

- Choose the form of the assessment that best fits the learning level of your students
- Give the assessment to assess what your students may already know
- I cannot emphasize enough how important this step is. If you want to see growth, this preassessment is so important!!

## Teaching Tips

1. *Color Coding:* this is a really easy way to add more structure to a matching activity. Outline or color in an empty box or sorting label. Outline or color in the corresponding picture symbols the same colors. Becomes a color matching task.
  - a. For more info, read more here:  
<https://specialneedsforspecialkids.org/2015/09/05/using-color-coding-for-differentiation/>
  - b. I also have a blog post on differentiating one activity 3 ways:  
<https://specialneedsforspecialkids.org/2018/10/22/differentiating-1-activity-3-ways-easily-and-effectively/>
2. *Make your own copies of the activities:* Every day I review the activity we did yesterday. For that reason:

The lesson plans contain:

Overall tips for teaching  
students with significant  
needs

## Quick Look

Day	Activity		Day	Activity
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Book</li><li>• Vocab cards introduction</li><li>• Circle map</li></ul>		6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Book</li><li>• Vocab cards cut and paste</li></ul>
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Book</li><li>• Vocab cards activity</li><li>• Large timeline cards</li><li>• Cause &amp; Effect worksheet</li></ul>		7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Book</li><li>• Vocab cards cut and paste</li></ul>
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Book</li><li>• Vocab cards activity</li><li>• Large timeline cards</li><li>• Cause &amp; Effect worksheet</li></ul>		8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Book</li><li>• Vocab cards activity</li><li>• Close worksheet 1</li></ul>
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Book</li><li>• Vocab cards activity</li><li>• Large timeline cards</li><li>• Cause &amp; Effect worksheet</li></ul>		9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Book</li><li>• Vocab cards activity</li><li>• Close worksheet 3</li></ul>
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Book</li><li>• Vocab cards activity</li><li>• Large timeline cards</li><li>• Timeline cut and paste</li></ul>		10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Assessment</li></ul>

The lesson plans contain:

A quick look at what you will do each day

## Day 5

Activity	Notes	Materials
Read or listen to a recording of the book (15 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Read through the story, asking lots of questions</li><li>• Continue to make connections between book and vocabulary board</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Book</li><li>• Vocabulary board</li></ul>
Vocabulary cards Speed Matching (10 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• place all the cards in the middle of the table</li><li>• hold up a card, and the students race to find it in the pile in the middle of the table<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ NOTE: for students with physical challenges, allow them to simply find the symbol on their board or communication device</li></ul></li></ul>	Vocabulary cards (extra sets)
Large Timeline Cards (10 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pass the cards out to the students and have them arrange themselves in the correct order<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ You can put index cards with the date on the floor ahead of time, so they just <u>have to</u> find the card that matches the date on their flashcard</li></ul></li><li>• Have each student step forward as you talk about their card</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Large cards</li></ul>
Timeline cut and paste activity (10 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Have students complete the cut and paste timeline activity</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cut and paste timeline</li><li>• Scissors</li><li>• glue</li></ul>
Sharing (10 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Each student shares their finished timeline</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Completed timelines</li><li>• Communication devices</li></ul>

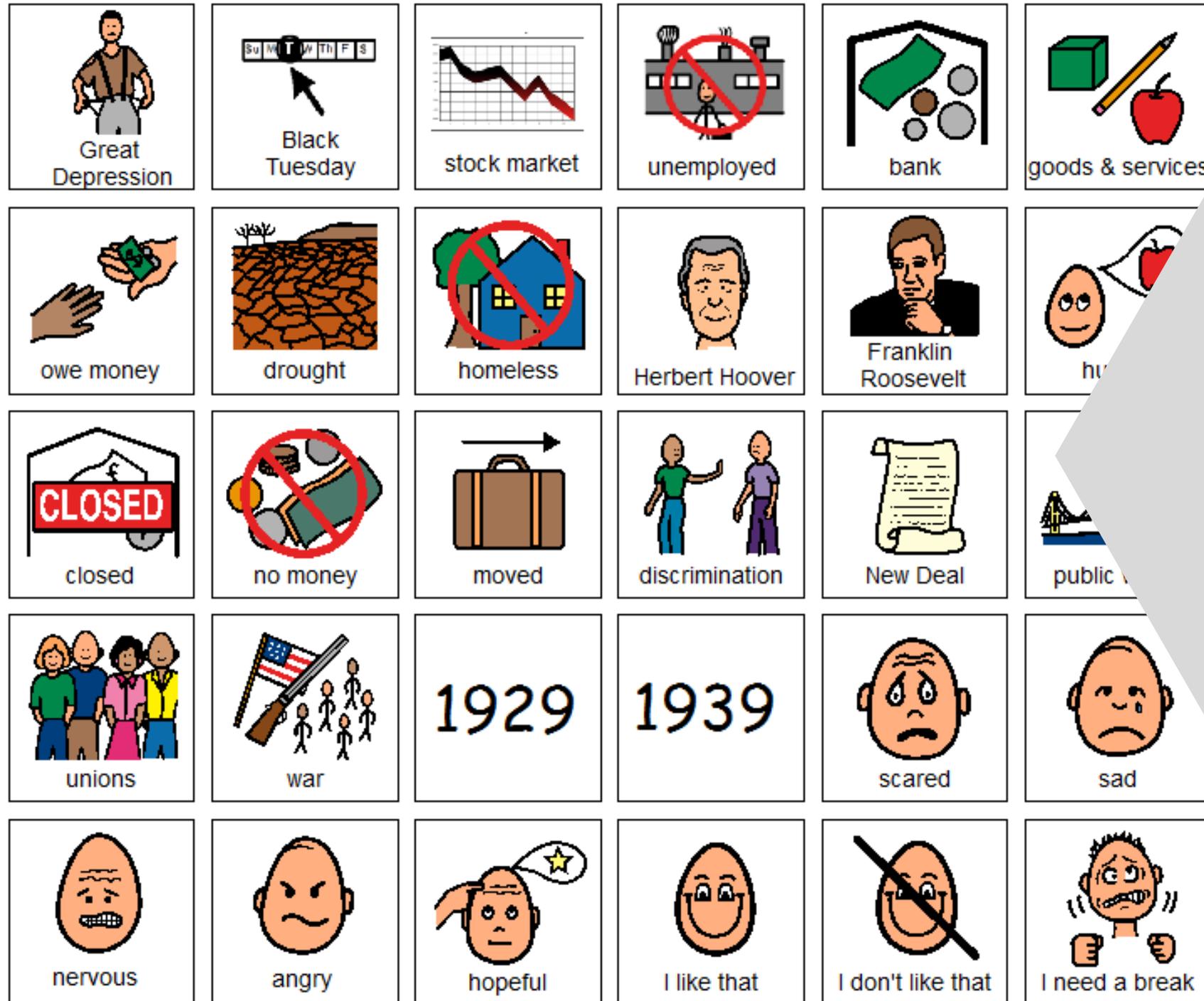
The lesson plans contain:

Detailed instructions on how that day's lesson should run

This unit comes with a vocabulary board.

Vocabulary boards are great for ALL students to assist with participation and engagement in group discussions.

Tips on how to use in the unit!!



## Black Tuesday

- On October 29, 1929 the stock market “crashed.”
- People who had invested in the stock market lost \$14 billion dollars that day.
- Over the next 4 days, investors lost \$30 billion dollars.
- This was the start of the Great Depression.

# BLACK TUESDAY

NEW YORK, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 29, 1929

## THE STOCK MARKET CRASH OF 1929

BY BARBARA SILBERDICK FEINBERG

NEW YORK, OCTOBER 29 — Another historic day of speculation for the stock market today, as financial uncertainty led to a crash and turned to panic. Frightened investors ordered their brokers to sell at any price, and the stock market crashed. There are



Crowds Gathered On Wall Street As The Market Went Into Historical Decline

Banks, businesses, and farms closed.



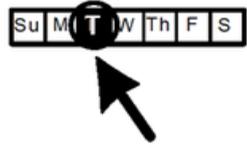
There are 2 versions of the book included. One has much more text and detail. The other is much simpler. You can use either one to complete the related activities.

They come in pdf versions as well as voice recorded powerpoints (so you don't have to print them out.)

## Black Tuesday

October 29, 1929

The biggest one-day loss in the stock market.



## Great Depression

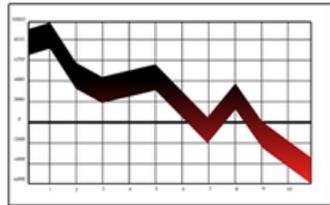
1929-1939

Time in the US when people could not find work and banks and businesses failed.



## Stock Market

Place where people can invest money by buying and selling parts of a company



ChristaJoy, Sp

## unemployed

Not able to find a job



## discrimination

Treat someone unfairly because they are different than you are. Based on the color of their skin, where they were born, or gender.



## Economic recovery

When a company makes more money than it owes or



## union

Group of people meant to protect the right of workers to make sure they are treated and paid fairly.



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## Public works

Businesses and things all people use to live and travel.



There are 18 vocabulary cards that come in color and black and white.

Included are suggestions for group activities to do with these each day.

Match the picture to the definition.

Ver



**Herbert Hoover**

President when the Great Depression started. Did not believe the government should step in and help.



**Franklin Roosevelt**

Became president after Hoover and signed a New Deal that helped end the Great Depression.



**New Deal**

Plan made by Roosevelt to help the country recover from the Great Depression.



**Goods and services**

Things made by businesses and things businesses can do.



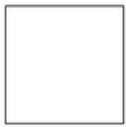
**debt**

When you owe someone money.



**investor**

Someone who uses his/her own money to help build a business.



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Match the picture to the definition.

Version 2

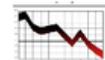
**Black Tuesday**



**Great Depression**



**Stock market**



**unemployed**



**drought**

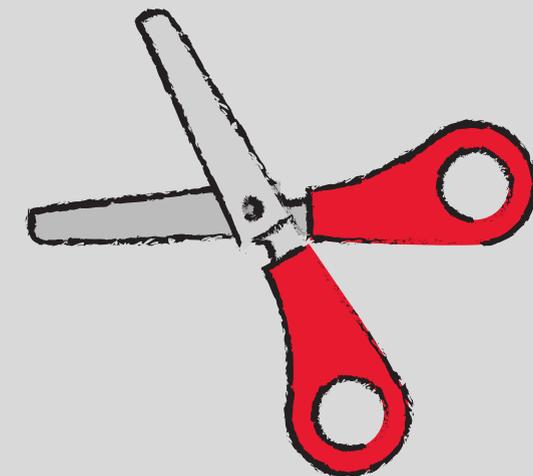


**Hooverville**



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On days 6 & 7 there is an activity where students will match either the picture to the definition or the definition to the picture (harder).



Not able to find a job

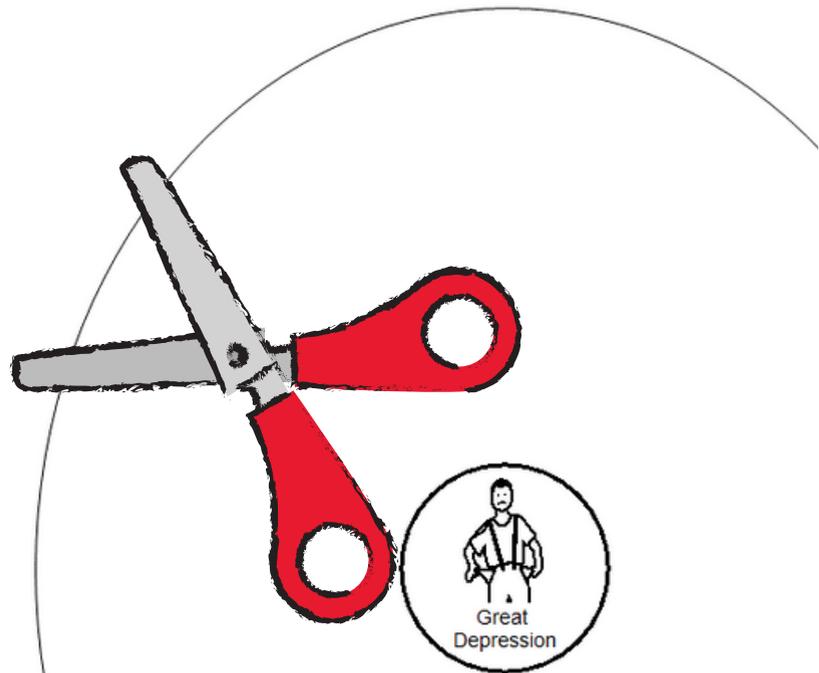
Someone who uses his/her own money to help build a business.

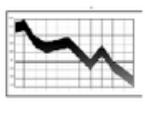
Businesses and things all people use to live and travel.

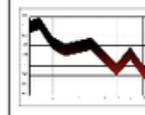
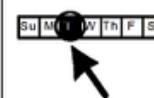
Long period of time with little or no rain.

When you owe someone money.

When a company makes more money than it owes or spends.



 poor	 no jobs	 homeless	 stock market
 President Hoover	1929 - 1939	 black Tuesday	 President Roosevelt
 drought	 banks fail	 New Deal	 World War II

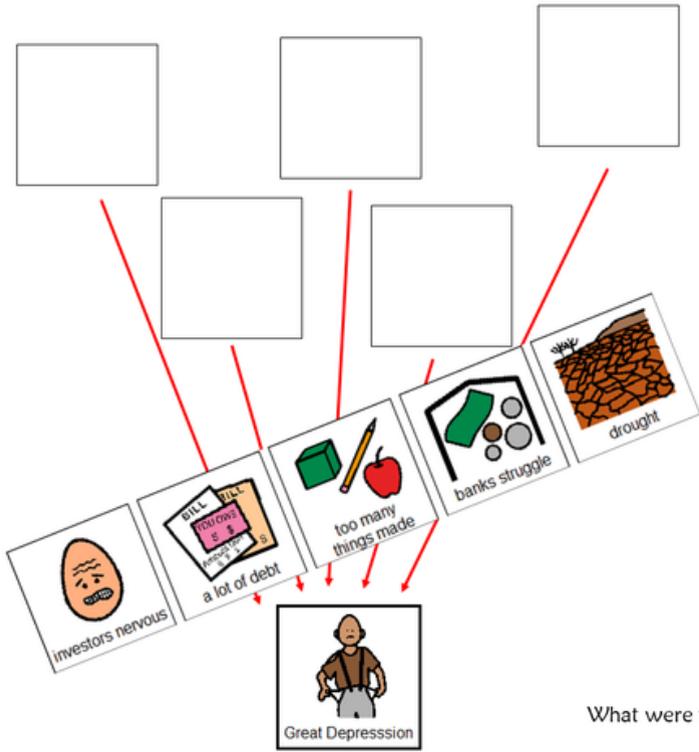
 poor	 no jobs	 homeless	 stock market
 President Hoover	1929 - 1939	 black Tuesday	 President Roosevelt
 drought	 rich	 New Deal	 World War II
 cruise	 banks fail	 easy life	 Lincoln

There is a circle map.

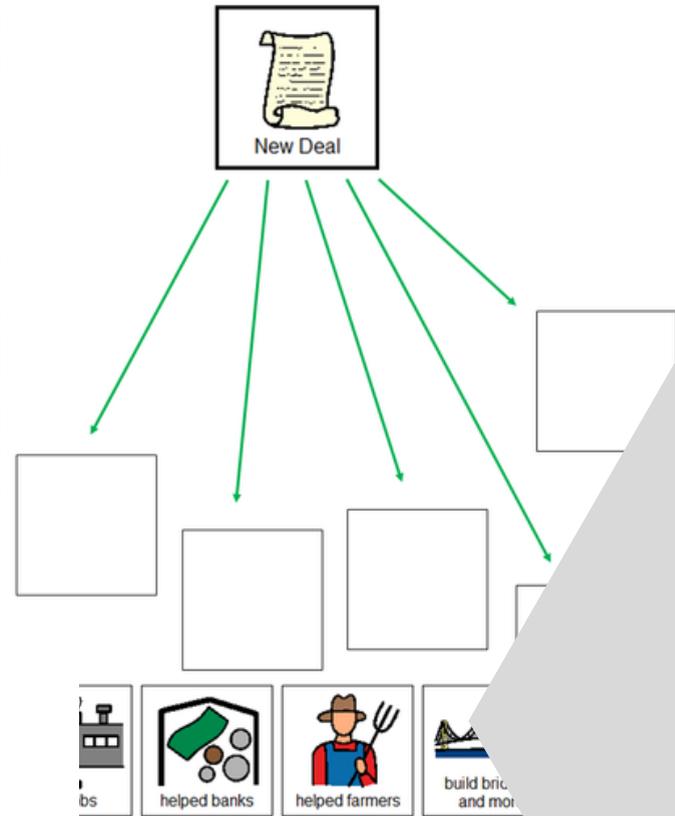
Circle maps are a great way for students to see the concept at a glance. There are 2 versions:

- One is errorless
- One has wrong answers mixed in students will have to set aside

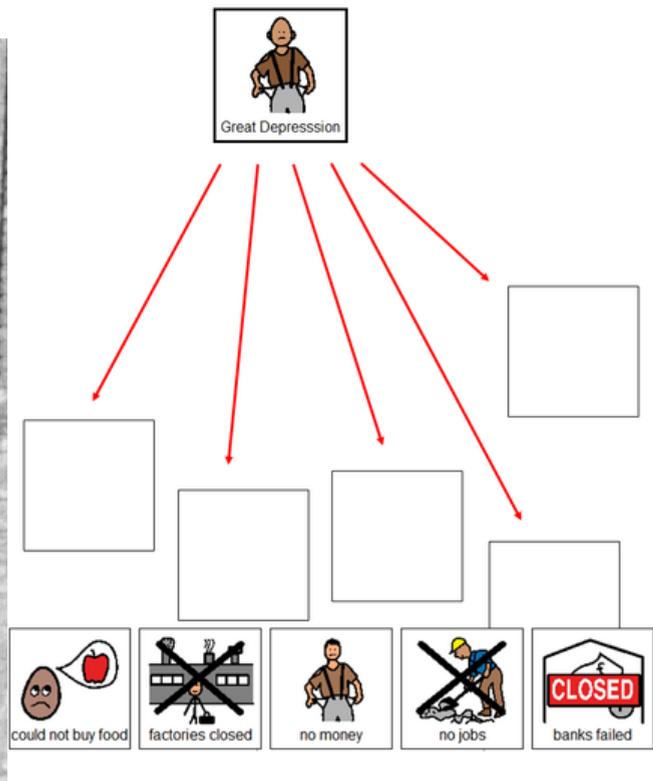
What were the **causes** of the Great Depression?



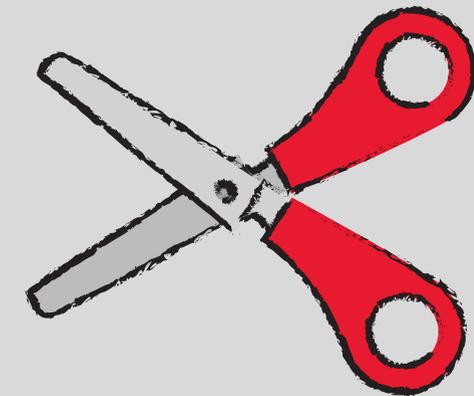
What were the **effects** of the New Deal?



What were the **effects** of the Great Depression?



There are 3 cause and effect activities. These are a great way for students to visualize the relationships of events. They are errorless.

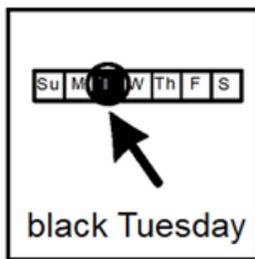




October 29, 1929

Black Tuesday

The day the stock market crashed.

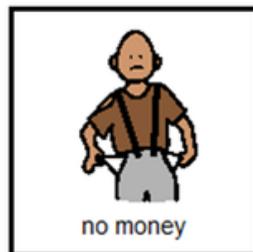


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1930-1932

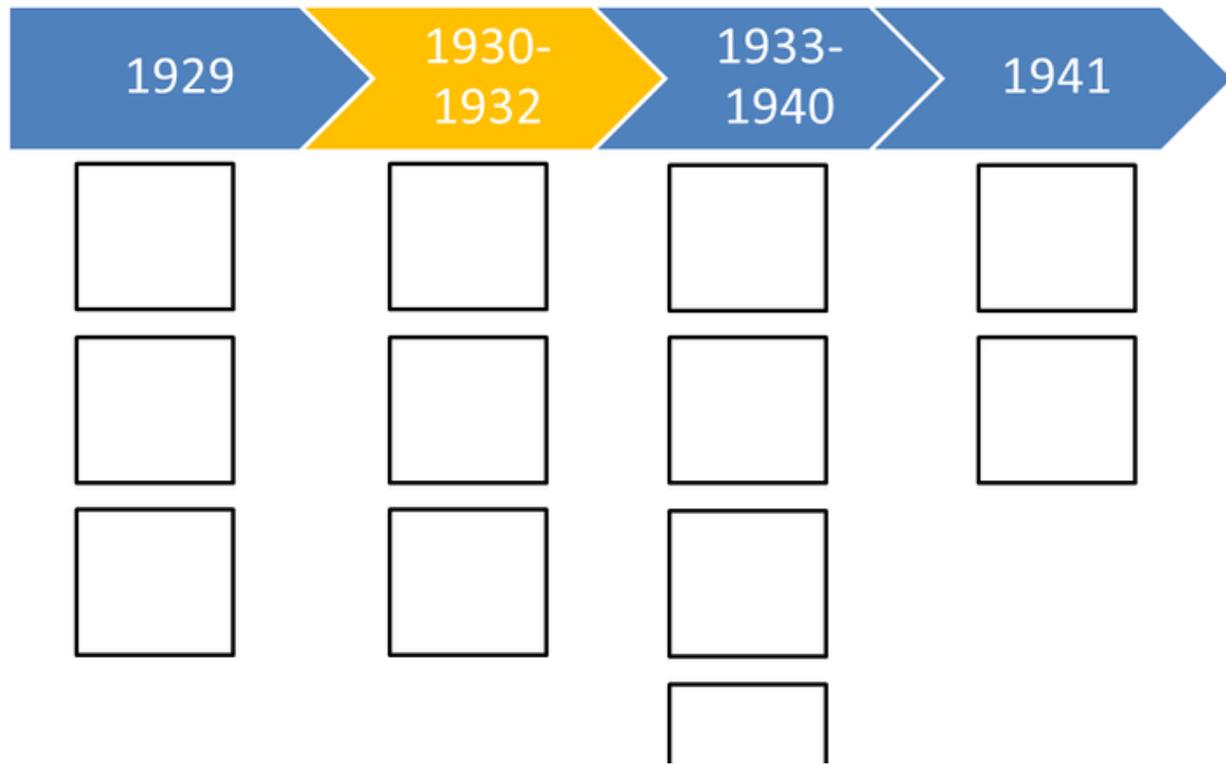
Great Depression begins.  
People have no jobs or money.



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There are 11 large timeline cards. Included are suggestions of how to use these as a daily group activity.

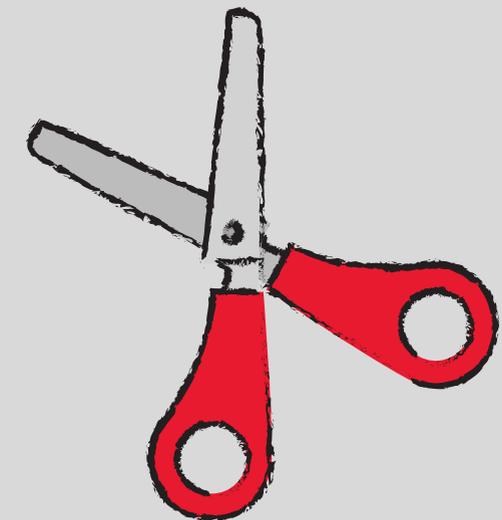
# Timeline



## Timeline symbols



There is a cut and paste timeline with the major events that occurred during the Great Depression. Directions are included on how to add color coding. Answer key included.



## Great Depression

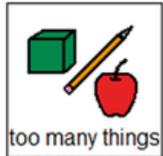
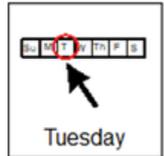
1. Prior to the Great Depression, companies were making

2. The stock market crashed on a

3. When the stock market crashed, many people lost

4. As investors got nervous, the banks

5. When the banks closed, people could not get their



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## The New Deal

1. The New Deal was written by

2. The New Deal promised to reopen the

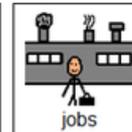
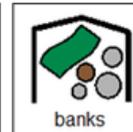
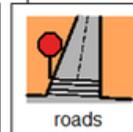
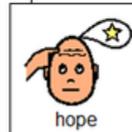
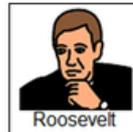
3. The New Deal also created many

4. People were busy building

and

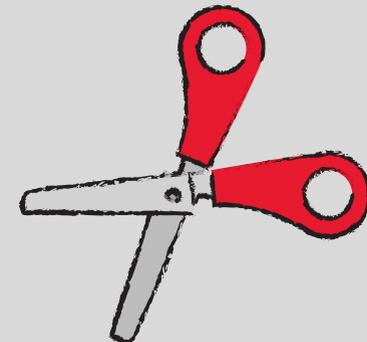
5. The New Deal brought

back to America.

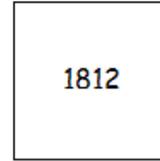


Close worksheets are a great informal assessment. This unit has 2 worksheets that review the main facts of the Great Depression, and 1 worksheet that reviews the New Deal.

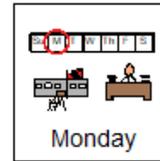
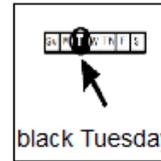
Answer key included.



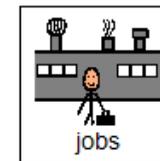
1. When did the Great Depression occur:



2. When did the Great Depression start?



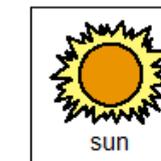
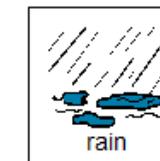
3. During the Great Depression many people had NO:



4. During the Great Depression many people had NO:



5. During the Great Depression there was a long time with no:



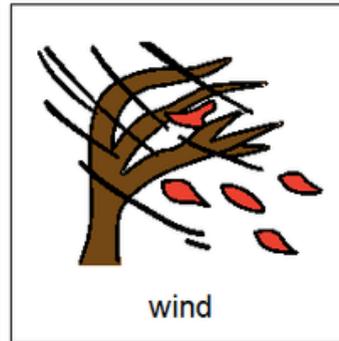
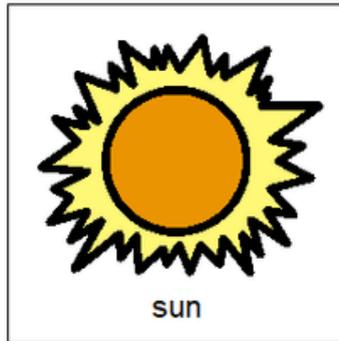
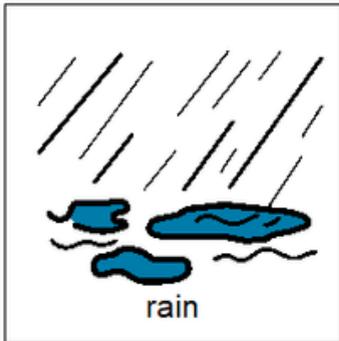
FINALLY the assessment!! There are 3 versions. This version has 10 questions with 3 picture choices for each question.

Answer key included.

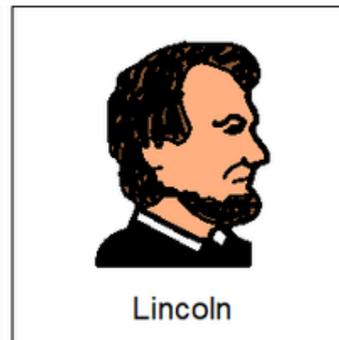
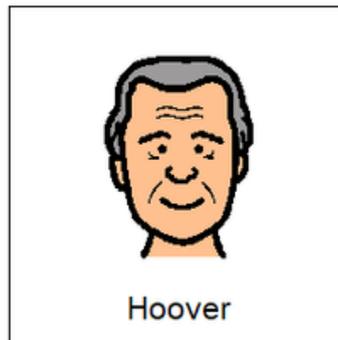
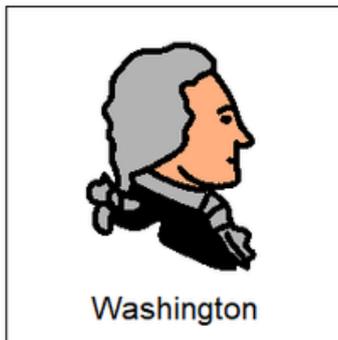
Version 2

Print onto cardstock or mount on index cards. Cut pictures apart and show student answer choices for each question.

Q 5



Q 6



With this version, you cut out the answer choices and glue them on index cards. Ask the student the question, and they point to the correct answer.

6. Who was president during the Great Depression?
  - A. Washington
  - B. Hoover
  - C. Lincoln
  
7. What did President Roosevelt create to help end the Great Depression?
  - A. Television
  - B. Computers
  - C. New Deal
  
8. What was built to help bring jobs back to America?
  - A. Bridges
  - B. Jails
  - C. Toys
  
9. What helped end the Great Depression?
  - A. Hooverville
  - B. Drought
  - C. World War II
  
10. What do you think we learned from the Great Depression?
  - A. Save money
  - B. Celebrate
  - C. Go in debt

*This is your traditional multiple choice version. It can also be used as a recording sheet if your students are using the version with index cards.*



I realize there will be some students out there unable to do cutting activities. I have a blog post with ways to complete activities without a pair of scissors!!

*All of the activities (except the books and timeline cards) come in color and black and white.*

**[Click Here to read more!!](#)**