Essential Questions & Online Resources

1. **African Americans in the 1930s**

- What was life like for African Americans during the 1930s?

- What occupations (jobs) were available for black Americans in the North and South?

- What educational opportunities were there for African Americans?

- How did the Great Depression affect African Americans the most?

- What discrimination and racism did Africans Americans face during this time period?

Online Resources:

**Encyclopedia Britannica**: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/African-American/African-American-life-during-the-Great-Depression-and-the-New-Deal>

**History.com**: <https://www.history.com/news/last-hired-first-fired-how-the-great-depression-affected-african-americans>

2. **Jim Crow Laws & African American Discrimination**

- What are Jim Crow Laws?

- When did they begin?

- What does the name mean? Who was Jim Crow?

- Provide examples of different types of Jim Crow laws.

- How did the law police these? What punishments were given?

- How did private citizens take it upon themselves to enforce these laws?

- What was the Klu Klux Klan and how did it involve itself?

Online Resource:

**Ferris State University:** [https://www.ferris.edu/jimcrow/what.htm\](https://www.ferris.edu/jimcrow/what.htm%5C)

3. **Plessy vs. Ferguson discrimination**

- What is the case about?

- When did the case take place and how long did it last?

- Who was involved in the case: Who was the *plaintiff*? Who was the *defendant*?

- What was the argument? What was the final judgement?

- Why is this case significant in terms of its impact on African Americans’ daily life?

- What did this mean for the education of black children?

- What type of education did black children receive as opposed to white children?

Online Resource:

**PBS:** <https://www.thirteen.org/wnet/supremecourt/antebellum/landmark_plessy.html>

4. **Education in the 1930s**

- During the 1930s what was the required level of education by state laws?

- Statistically, how many Americans could read?

- What was the average American classroom like during the 1930s?

- How was education affected by the Great Depression?

- What were rural or small town schools like during the Great Depression?

- How did students get to school?

- What was African-American education like because of Plessy vs. Ferguson?

Online Resources:

<https://www.encyclopedia.com/social-sciences/culture-magazines/1930s-education-topics-news>

<http://scalar.usc.edu/nehvectors/stakeman/school-segregation-in-the-1930s>

**5. The Stock Market Crash & Great Depression**

- What was the Great Stock Market Crash? What was Black Tuesday?

- What caused the stock market to crash?

- Could the stock market crash have been prevented? How?

- The day the market crash how did citizens react? What extreme things did people do?

- What impact did the stock market have on Americans and American life?

- Give an overview of what occurred because of the crash.

Online Resources:

**Encyclopedia Britannica:** https://www.britannica.com/event/stock-market-crash-of-1929

**History.com:**  <https://www.history.com/topics/great-depression/1929-stock-market-crash>

**PBS:** <http://www.pbs.org/fmc/timeline/estockmktcrash.htm>

**6. The Great Depression**

- What was the Great Depression and *how* did it occur?

- When did it occur and how long did it last?

- What was life like for Americans during the Great Depression?

- Which Americans were hit the hardest?

- Provide examples that reveal just how hard life was.

- What did Americans do to survive this very rough period in history?

Online Resources:

**PBS:** <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/features/dustbowl-great-depression/>

**Illinois.edu:** <http://www.english.illinois.edu/maps/depression/overview.htm>

7. **The Dust Bowl**

- What was the Dust Bowl?

- Where did it take place and when? For how long did it last?

- Who was directly affected by the Dust Bowl?

- What impact did the Dust Bowl have on these people and on America?

- How is the Dust Bowl connected to the Great Depression?

- What were people forced to do?

-Who were Okies? Where did many travel? How did this affect places like California?

- What did President Herbert Hoover do to help? What were Hoovervilles?

- Could the Dust Bowl have been prevented? How?

Online Resources:

**History .com:** <https://www.history.com/topics/great-depression/dust-bowl>

**Mental Floss:** <http://mentalfloss.com/article/86501/5-strange-suggestions-about-how-fight-dust-bowl>

8. **Recovering from the Great Depression**

- How did president Herbert Hoover attempt to help America?

- What was Franklin Delano Roosevelt’s New Deal?

- Provide an overview of the New Deal Polices that helped America.

- Name a few public works projects and how these helped: Hoover Dam, Golden Gate Bridge, and

the CCCs? What jobs were provided and what works were created?

- Social Security Act

Online Resources:

**History.com:** <https://www.history.com/news/new-deal-effects-great-depression>

**The Library of Economics & Liberty**: <https://www.econlib.org/library/Enc/GreatDepression.html>

9. **Treatment of the Mentally Ill in the 1930s**

- Discuss society’s view of the mentally handicapped and its social stigma.

- What was done with the mentally ill?

- What were asylums like?

- What treatments were used during the time period:

\*lobotomies, electroshock therapy, hydrotherapy baths, use of restraints and isolation.

Online Resources:

**ABC News:** <https://www.abc.net.au/news/health/2016-08-02/mental-illness-and-insanity-a-short-cultural-history/7677906>

10. **Franklin D. Roosevelt: presidency**

- Provide an overview of FDR’s presidency.

- What happened during his first 100 days in office?

- Describe his greatest achievements as president.

- How did he try to help the country during the Great Depression?

- What was the public’s opinion of him?

- How does history remember him?

Online Resources:

**Biography.com**: <https://www.biography.com/people/franklin-d-roosevelt-9463381>

**Whitehouse.gov:** <https://www.whitehouse.gov/about-the-white-house/presidents/franklin-d-roosevelt/>

11. **Eleanor Roosevelt: America’s First Lady**

- How was Eleanor Roosevelt different than any other first lady before her?

- What role did Mrs. Roosevelt play in politics?

- How did Mrs. Roosevelt feel about civil rights, equality for African Americans?

- What did Mrs. Roosevelt do to help Americans during the Great Depression?

- How is Mrs. Roosevelt viewed by Americans in the 1930 and today?

Online Resource

**Biography.com:**  <https://www.biography.com/people/eleanor-roosevelt-9463366#us-first-lady>

**12. 1930s American Culture**

**-** What was life like during the 1930s due to the depression?

- What forms of entertainment did Americans enjoy?

\*radio, movies, games, literature

- What sports were popular during the era?

- What type of music was popular during the time?

- Describe the current fashions for both men and women.

- Who were iconic or notable figures during the time period?

Online Resources

<https://www.retrowaste.com/1930s/>

**13. Women & Women’s Rights during the 1930s**

-What was the typical role of women during the 1930s as opposed to men?

- What roles were women expected to fulfill based on gender?

- What professions were available to women during the 1930s?

- Describe how women were expected to behave and dress.

- Provide an example of at least two women who broke these gender expectations. Who were they,

and what did they do that made them different for the time period?

Online Resources:

**Challenging Gender Stereotypes during the Depression**: <http://depts.washington.edu/depress/women_uw_changing_roles.shtml>