

# Great Depression



**A Time of Poverty and Despair**

By: Cammie's Corner

The United States was booming and many people invested money in the stock market.



- In October, stocks began to lose their value in the stock market crash of 1929.
- Over two days, the stock market fell 23%.
- It was the beginning of a recession that became the Great depression by 1932.
- By that time, stocks had lost 89% of their value.

A **recession** is a decline in the economy.



- A **depression** is a long and very bad recession.
- The Great Depression lasted almost 10 years and stock prices did not fully recover until 1954.
- By 1932, almost one in every four workers in the U.S. was **unemployed**, or did not have a job.

# Economic Weakness

1920's, people bought many things by promising them later.

- This system is called credit.
- Few people had savings, but almost everyone had debt. Debt is money that is owed.
- During the Great Depression, people could not pay back their debt to banks.
- When loans were not paid back, the banks lost money.

The background of the slide is a collage of US dollar bills, including a prominent \$100 bill in the center. The bills are slightly out of focus, creating a textured, financial backdrop.

Also, the banks had invested in the stock market, just like people had.

- When the stock market crashed, the banks lost more money.
- The banking system collapsed by 1932.



By 1933, 15 million people were unemployed.

- With no money, people couldn't afford houses.
- So people lived in Shantytowns- places where people lived in tents and shacks.
- Many Americans blamed President Hoover for the Great Depression. They called shantytowns "Hoovervilles"



Charities started soup kitchens to give people hot food.



# Rural Migration

Due to the Depression, the Farmers also suffered.

The Dust Bowl was a problem with farmland, when the topsoil of fields dried up and blew in huge storms throughout the Great Plains.

- Lower crop prices made farmers overplant.
- Not enough rain= drought
- The topsoil, the upper layer of dirt in the fields, blew away.
- Homes were buried up the roof after dust storms.



# Dust Bowl



# Families lost their farms and moved from the Midwest to California.





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# President Roosevelt

Franklin Delano Roosevelt (FDR) was president.

- Was crippled by polio and used a wheelchair and crutches.
- Elected 4 times in a row.
- Started the New Deal programs- a series of government programs to help the country



## New Deal Programs

# Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC)

hired single, unemployed men ages 18-25 to  
build and maintain state and national parks





# Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA)

- Supplied electricity in the Tennessee River basin and nearby areas.
- Also control of floods



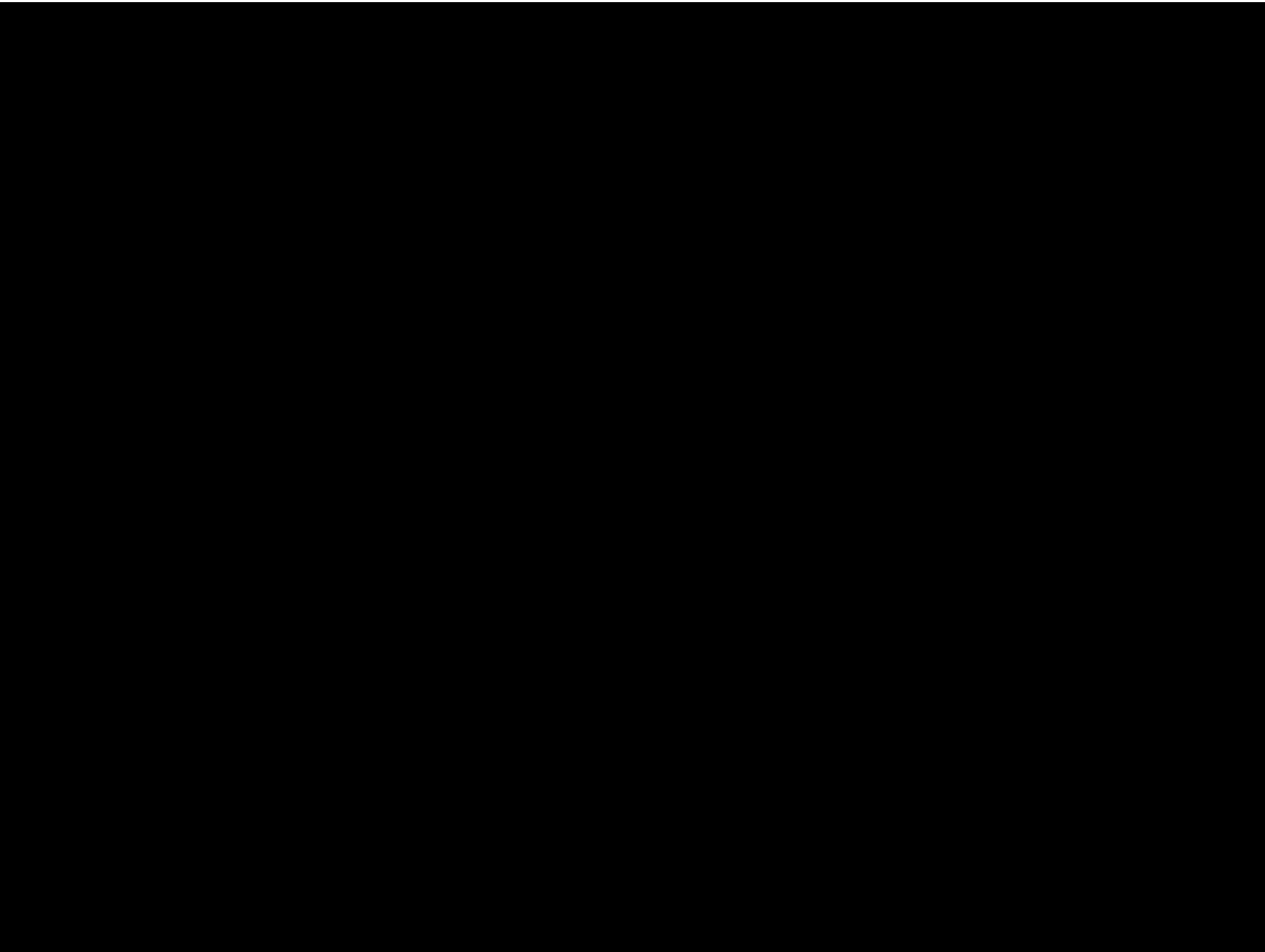
Works Progress

Administration

(WPA)

jobs building bridges, roads, and  
buildings, and in the arts





# Edward “Duke” Ellington

- leader of the new sound in jazz called “big band” music
- won a Pulitzer Prize for his work after he died.



# Margaret Mitchell

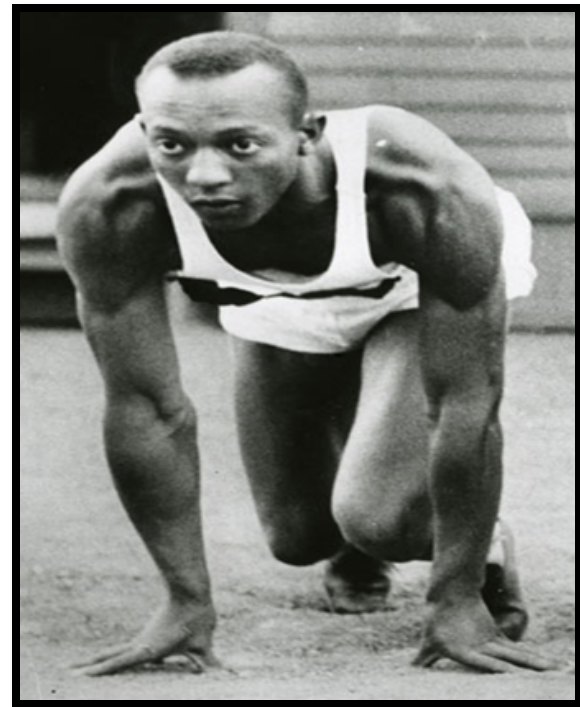
also won Pulitzer Prize for her novel  
Gone with the Wind.





# James “Jesse” Owens

- African American runner
- won 4 gold medals in the 1936 Summer Olympics in Berlin.



## Discussion Question

Choose 3 events that happened during the Great Depression. Then write at least one sentence that explains each event.

# Vocabulary: Words to Know

1. **Stock market crash of 1929**- event on Oct. 29, 1929 when the value of almost every stock in the U.S. lost value, causing the beginning of the recession- the Great Depression
2. **Great Depression**- period of 10 years of business weakness and economic hardship that affected the world.
3. **Recession**- an extended decline in business activity.
4. **Unemployed**- without a job.

5. **Credit**- loan from a bank.

6. **Debt**- money that is owed.

7. **Shantytowns**- town or part of a town of shacks.

8. **Soup kitchens**- place where food is offered for free or for a very low cost to those in need.

9. **Dust Bowl**- Great plains farmland that was destroyed by drought and the overplanting of crops in the 1930's.

10. **Topsoil**- upper part of the soil.

11. **New Deal**- President Franklin D. Roosevelt's programs and policies to help economic recover during the 1930's.

12. **Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC)**- hired single, unemployed men ages 18-25 to build and maintain state and national parks, making \$30 a month.

13. **Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA)**- supply electricity in the Tennessee River basin and nearby areas. Also control of floods.

14. **Works Progress Administration (WPA)** - jobs building bridges, roads, and buildings, and in the arts.



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