

# Goldie's HISTORY KITS



## Great Depression and the Dust Bowl

STUDENT MATERIALS

STATE HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY OF IOWA  
IOWA DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS

LIBRARY  
OF CONGRESS  
**TEACHING**  
WITH **PRIMARY**  
**SOURCES**

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## Great Depression and the Dust Bowl

LESSON PLAN FOR SUPPORTING QUESTION

How did people survive the Great Depression when they do not have enough money?

4<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

# Think Like a Geographer

A person who studies the environment and how it impacts people.

- Describe details about this location. What do you notice that can help figure out where this place is located? What is unique?
- Why would people move to or leave this place?
- How would people travel to this location? How has traveling to this location changed over time?
- Describe details about people who live here and how they impact the location? How does the location impact the people who live there?

# Think Like an Economist

A person who studies the way people make decisions about money.

- Describe the people in relation to the location. What jobs or occupations do you think people had? Why do you say that? How do you think they met their needs and wants?
- How do decisions made by individuals affect themselves and the economy?
- How do decisions made by businesses affect people?
- How do jobs impact people and the economy? Describe what happens when jobs are lost.

# Think Like a Historian

A person who explains changes that happened in the past.

- What happened in the past? Why is it important to understand what has happened in the past?
- How did past decisions or actions significantly transform people's lives?
- What has changed or stayed the same over time? Who benefited from the change? Why? Who did not benefit? Why?
- Who or what made changes happen? Who supported the change? Who didn't? Why?

# Think Like a Political Scientist

A person who studies governments and how they work.

- What problems might people have faced in this society?
- What rights do people have? What rights are people missing?
- What might lead to people being treated fairly? What might lead to people being treated unfairly?
- What information can be gathered about trends at this location or time period that might change or impact the future?

Name \_\_\_\_\_



## Think Like...

**A Geographer**

**A Historian**

**An Economist**

**A Political Scientist**

# Source

**Use available citation information to infer something about who, what, when and/or where is represented in the primary source.**

**Consider why someone created this primary source.**

# Observe

**What do you see in the  
primary source?**

# Contextualize

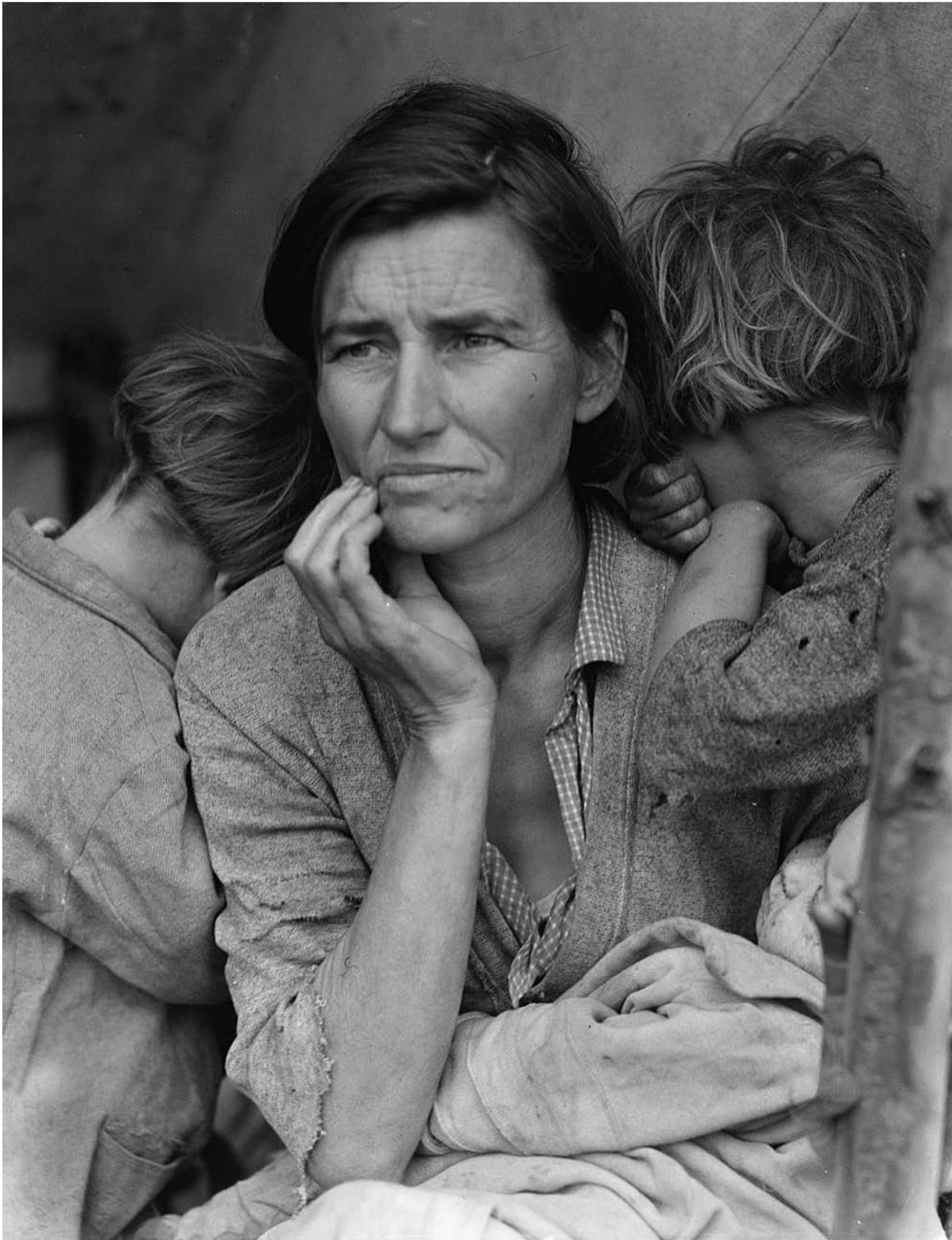
**Use your schema and author's clues to infer who, what, when and/or where (something) about the primary source.**

# Corroborate

**Generate questions and use other sources to research and find evidence related to the primary source.**

## “Migrant Mother” Florence Thompson with Children in Nipomo, California, 1936

PART 1



This photograph by Dorothea Lange is part of a well-known collection taken of Florence Thompson with several of her children during the Dust Bowl. The photo collection, known as the “Migrant Mother” series, shows Thompson with her children in a tent shelter in Nipomo, California. Lange was concluding a month’s trip photographing migratory farm labor around the state for what was then the Resettlement Administration. *Courtesy of Library of Congress, Lange, Dorothea, “Migrant agricultural worker’s family. Seven hungry children. Mother aged thirty-two. Father is native Californian. Nipomo, California,” February/March 1936*

## President Franklin Delano Roosevelt and First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt in Denver, Colorado, ca. 1936

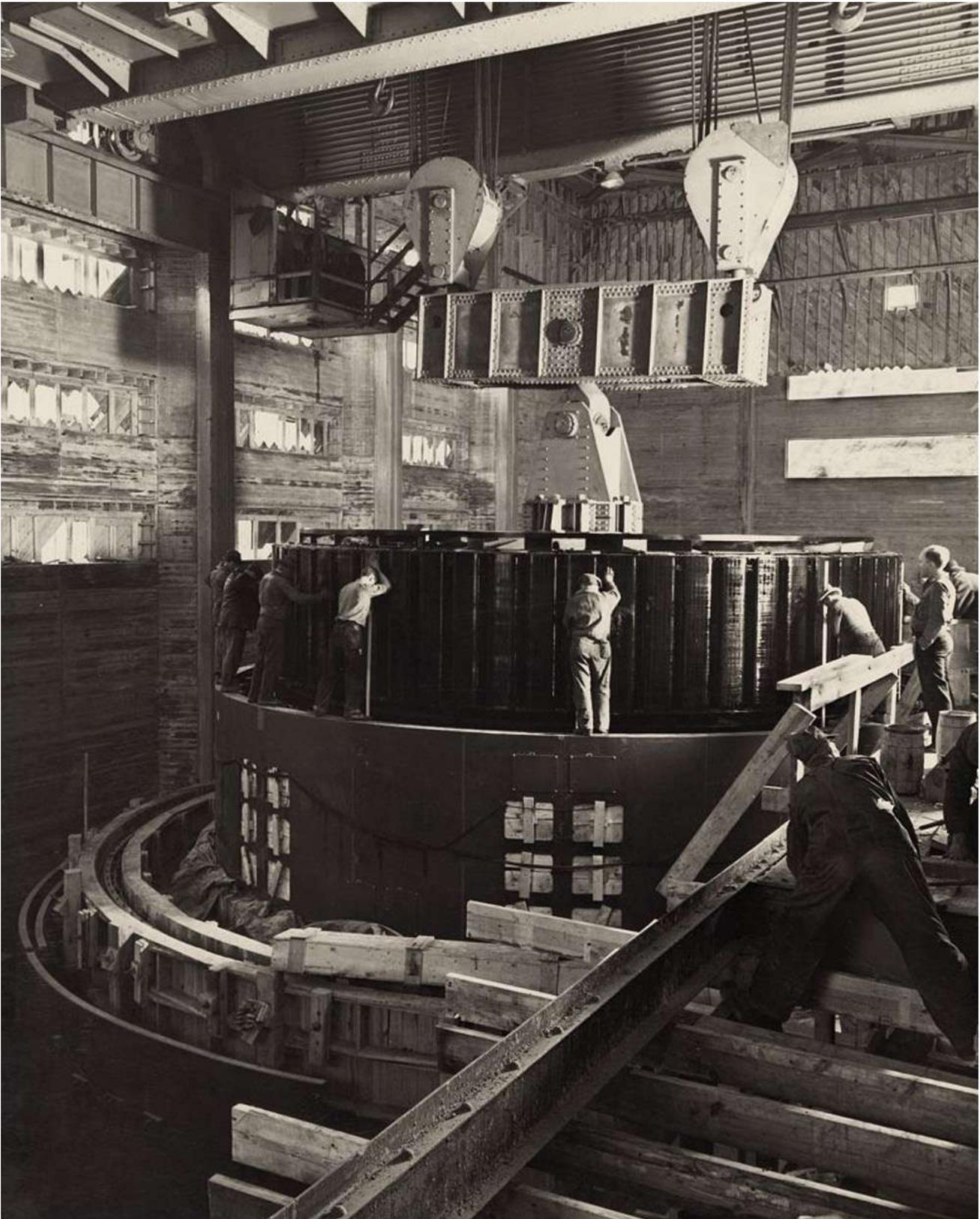
PART 2



This photo is of Roosevelt and First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt as they pose on a train near Denver, Colorado, about a year into his first term. *Courtesy of Library of Congress, Rhoads, Harry M., "Franklin Delano and Eleanor Roosevelt," ca. 1936*

## Workmen at the Norris Dam in Tennessee, between 1935 and 1940

PART 2



This photograph shows workmen in the Norris Dam powerhouse as they are installing a generator. The Tennessee Valley Authority Act of 1933 was created during the Great Depression to hire people to build dams and power plants. *Courtesy of Library of Congress, "Norris Dam, Tenn. 1935-40, Workmen in the dam powerhouse installing a generator," between 1935 and 1940*

Letter from Martha Fast to First Lady Lou Henry Hoover, January 2, 1931 (Pg. 1)

PART 2

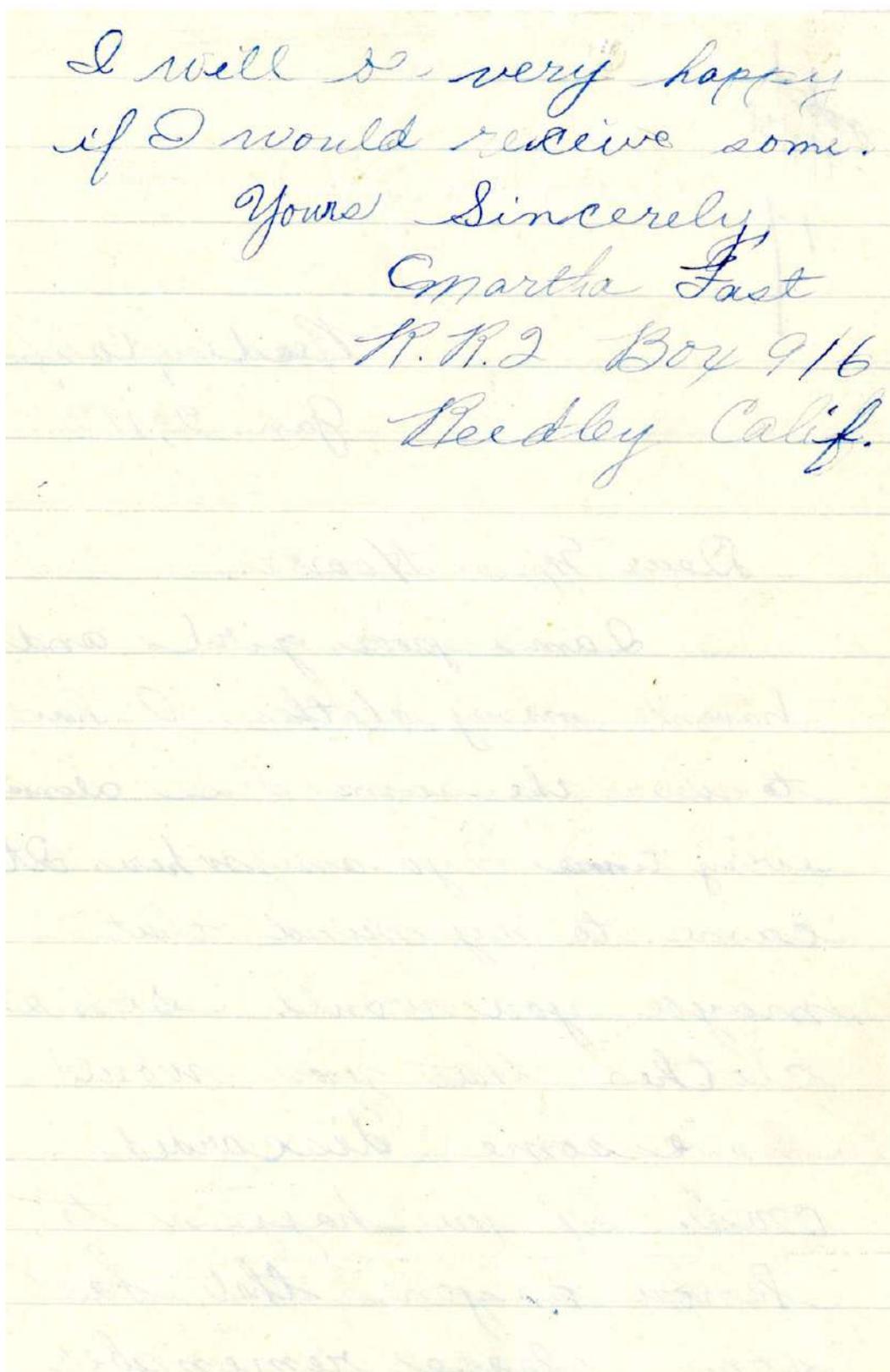
add  
1/19/31  
M

Redley Calif.  
Jan. 2, 1931

Dear Mrs. Hoover,

I am a poor girl and  
haven't many clothes. I have  
to wear the same dress almost  
every time I go anywhere. It  
came to my mind that  
maybe you would have  
some clothes that you would  
have some discarded  
ones. If you happen to  
know anyone that has  
some, please remember  
me.

This 1931 letter is from a girl, Martha Fast, to First Lady Lou Henry Hoover. In the letter, Martha, who is writing from California, asks for clothing from the First Lady as she says she has to wear the same dress every day because of the poverty her family is facing during the Great Depression. *Courtesy of Herbert Hoover Presidential Library and Museum, Fast, Martha, 2 January 1931*

A photograph of a handwritten letter on yellowed, lined paper. The handwriting is in cursive and appears to be from a young girl. The text is written in blue ink. The letter is partially legible, showing the beginning of a sentence and a signature. The paper has horizontal lines and some faint, illegible ghosting of text from the reverse side.

I will be very happy  
if I would receive some.  
Yours Sincerely,  
Martha Fast  
R.R. 2 Box 916  
Reddy Calif.

This 1931 letter is from a girl, Martha Fast, to First Lady Lou Henry Hoover. In the letter, Martha, who is writing from California, asks for clothing from the First Lady as she says she has to wear the same dress every day because of the poverty her family is facing during the Great Depression. *Courtesy of Herbert Hoover Presidential Library and Museum, Fast, Martha, 2 January 1931*

150.1

January 7, 1931.

My dear Miss Fast:

Mrs. Hoover receives so many requests more or less like yours every day that she finds it impossible to be of any help at all.

I am sorry I do not know of any clothing just now which she does not need.

However, Mrs. Hoover often asks a friend or a representative of some organization such as the Red Cross to call on those needing aid to see if they can help. Would you like her to do this for you?

Yours sincerely,

Secretary to Mrs. Hoover.

Miss Martha Fast,  
Route 2, Box 916,  
Reedley,  
California.

## **Letter from Martha Fast to First Lady Lou Henry Hoover, January 2, 1931**

Reedley, Calif.

Jan. 2, 1931

Dear Mrs. Hoover,

I am a poor girl and haven't many clothes. I have to wear the same dress almost every time I go somewhere. It came to my mind that maybe you would (have) some clothes that you would have some discarded ones. If you happen to know anyone that has some, please remember me. I will be very happy if I would receive some.

Yours Sincerely,

Martha Fast  
R.R.2 Box 916  
Reedley Calif.

## **Response from First Lady Lou Henry Hoover's Secretary to Martha Fast, January 7, 1931**

January 7, 1931

My dear Miss Fast:

Mrs. Hoover receives so many requests more or less like yours every day that she finds it impossible to be of any help at all.

I am sorry I do not know of any clothing just now which she does not need.

However, Mrs. Hoover often asks a friend or a representative of some organization such as the Red Cross to call on those needing aid to see if they can help. Would you like her to do this for you?

Yours sincerely,

Secretary to Mrs. Hoover

Miss Martha Fast  
Route 2, Box 916,  
Reedley, California.



This photograph shows a dispossessed Arkansas farmer who is working on a small shack for his family to live in. These people resettled themselves at the dump outside of Bakersfield, California. *Courtesy of Library of Congress, Lange, Dorothea, "Dispossessed Arkansas farmers. Bakersfield, California," 1935*



This Dorothea Lange photograph shows squatters along a highway near Bakersfield, California. They are penniless refugees from Dust Bowl. The photograph's description reads that 22 are in this family and they are without water and looking for work in cotton. *Courtesy of Library of Congress, Lange, Dorothea, "Squatters along highway near Bakersfield, California. Penniless refugees from dust bowl..." November 1935*

## Oklahoma Farm Family on Highway between Blythe and Indio, California, August 1936

PART 2



This photograph is an example of self-resettlement in California. This Oklahoma farm family is waiting along a highway between Blythe and Indio. Forced by the drought of 1936 to abandon their farm, they set out with their children to drive to California. *Courtesy of Library of Congress, Lange, Dorothea, "Example of self-resettlement in California. Oklahoma farm family on highway between Blythe and Indio," August 1936*



This photograph shows an automobile makeshift camp north of Calipatria, California. Approximately 80 families from the Dust Bowl were camped here. They paid 50 cents a week, and the only available work to them was agricultural labor. *Courtesy of Library of Congress, Lange, Dorothea, "Auto camp north of Calipatria, California. Approximately eighty families from the Dust Bowl are camped here. They pay fifty cents a week. The only available work now is agricultural labor," March 1937*

## Rehabilitation Client Repays his Loan in Smithfield, North Carolina, October 1936

PART 2



The Farm Security Administration (FSA) was created in 1935 as an effort to overcome poverty in rural areas. Under the Department of Agriculture, the FSA helped with rural rehabilitation, farm loans and subsistence homestead programs. This photograph shows a man who is a rehabilitation client and is in the process of repaying his loan with a young boy at his side. *Courtesy of Library of Congress, Rothstein, Arthur, "Rehabilitation client repays loan. Smithfield, North Carolina," October 1936*

## Swimming Pool Created by Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Dam in Huntingdon, Pennsylvania, July 1941

PART 2



The Reforestation Relief Act, gave jobs to 250,000 young men in the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). This swimming pool in the photograph was created by a CCC dam in Huntingdon, Pennsylvania. *Courtesy of Library of Congress, Roskam, Edwin, "Swimming pool created by CCC (Civilian Conservation Corps) dam, Huntingdon, Pennsylvania," July 1941*



# Analyze an Image

## 1. Stop and Source

## 2. Examine each image closely.

Who is in the images? Describe the person(s) you see.

Image 1:

Image 2:

What do the images tell us about the people in them? What are they doing?

Image 1:

Image 2:

When were the images taken?

Image 1:

Image 2:

Where were the images taken?

Image 1:

Image 2:

Why do you think the images were taken?

Image 1:

Image 2:

**3. What questions do you have about each image?**

Image 1:

Image 2:

**4. From which image did you generate more questions?**

Image 1

Image 2

**5. Where could we go to investigate/research our questions?**



# Analyze a Document

## 1. Stop and Source

## 2. Examine the document closely.

Who is the document about? Who is the author? Describe the author.

Document 1:

Document 2:

What do the documents tell us about the people in them? What are they doing?

Document 1:

Document 2:

When were the documents written? How can you tell from what is in them?

Document 1:

Document 2:

Where are both the documents written from? How do you know? Why does that matter?

Document 1:

Document 2:

Why do you think the documents were written?

Document 1:

Document 2:

**3. What questions do you have about each document?**

Document 1:

Document 2:

**4. From which document did you generate more questions?**

Document 1

Document 2

**5. Where could we go to investigate/research our questions?**

Name \_\_\_\_\_



# Answer Questions, Cite Sources

Question	Notes
<b>Source Cited:</b>	

Question	Notes
<b>Source Cited:</b>	

Question	Notes
<b>Source Cited:</b>	

Question	Notes
<b>Source Cited:</b>	

Question	Notes
<b>Source Cited:</b>	

Question	Notes
<b>Source Cited:</b>	

<b>Claim</b>	<b>Evidence</b>	<b>Reasoning</b>
 <p>My claim is... I think... I noticed...</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	 <p>I found...; My evidence is... My proof is... Another example... I know this is true because...</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	 <p>This happened because... The reason for this is... I conclude...</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>

# HISTORY MYSTERY

STUDENT MATERIALS

## Great Depression and the Dust Bowl



4<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

**Goldie's**  
**HISTORY KITS**

**STATE HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY OF IOWA**  
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# Analyze an Object

<b>1</b>	<p><b>1. What does it look like?</b> Think about size, shape and color.</p>	<p><b>4. Do you see any signs of wear?</b> Does it mean anything about how the object was used?</p>
	<p><b>2. What is the object made from?</b> Is it one or more materials combined?</p>	<p><b>5. What year or time period do you think it is from?</b> Why do you think it was from that year?</p>
	<p><b>3. Is there any writing or details?</b> If yes, what does it tell you about the object?</p>	<p><b>6. Who is the owner?</b> Write a brief description of the owner.</p>
<b>2</b>	<p><b>1. What does it look like?</b> Think about size, shape and color.</p>	<p><b>4. Do you see any signs of wear?</b> Does it mean anything about how the object was used?</p>
	<p><b>2. What is the object made from?</b> Is it one or more materials combined?</p>	<p><b>5. What year or time period do you think it is from?</b> Why do you think it was from that year?</p>
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	<p><b>2. What is the object made from?</b> Is it one or more materials combined?</p>	<p><b>5. What year or time period do you think it is from?</b> Why do you think it was from that year?</p>
	<p><b>3. Is there any writing or details?</b> If yes, what does it tell you about the object?</p>	<p><b>6. Who is the owner?</b> Write a brief description of the owner.</p>
<b>4</b>	<p><b>1. What does it look like?</b> Think about size, shape and color.</p>	<p><b>4. Do you see any signs of wear?</b> Does it mean anything about how the object was used?</p>
	<p><b>2. What is the object made from?</b> Is it one or more materials combined?</p>	<p><b>5. What year or time period do you think it is from?</b> Why do you think it was from that year?</p>
	<p><b>3. Is there any writing or details?</b> If yes, what does it tell you about the object?</p>	<p><b>6. Who is the owner?</b> Write a brief description of the owner.</p>
<b>5</b>	<p><b>1. What does it look like?</b> Think about size, shape and color.</p>	<p><b>4. Do you see any signs of wear?</b> Does it mean anything about how the object was used?</p>
	<p><b>2. What is the object made from?</b> Is it one or more materials combined?</p>	<p><b>5. What year or time period do you think it is from?</b> Why do you think it was from that year?</p>
	<p><b>3. Is there any writing or details?</b> If yes, what does it tell you about the object?</p>	<p><b>6. Who is the owner?</b> Write a brief description of the owner.</p>

# Great Depression and the Dust Bowl Vocabulary List

## Great Depression

The Great Depression was a time period during the 1930s when there was a worldwide economic depression and mass unemployment.

## Dust Bowl

The Dust Bowl was an area of the U.S. that suffered from drought during the 1930s. The soil became so dry that it turned to dust. Farmers could no longer grow crops. Areas of Kansas, Colorado, Oklahoma, Texas and New Mexico were part of the Dust Bowl.

## New Deal

The New Deal was a series of programs and projects instituted during the Great Depression by President Franklin D. Roosevelt that focused on restoring a better life for Americans.

## Civilian Conservation Corps. (CCC)

The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) was a work relief program that gave millions of young men employment on environmental projects during the Great Depression. It is considered by many to be one of the most successful of Roosevelt's New Deal programs.

## Farm Security Administration (FSA)

The Farm Security Administration was a New Deal agency created in 1937 to help stop rural poverty during the Great Depression in the United States.

## Tennessee Valley Authority Act of 1933

The Tennessee Valley Authority Act of 1933 was an agency was asked to tackle important problems facing the valley: flooding, providing electricity to homes and businesses, and replanting forests.

## Migrant Worker

A migrant worker is a person who moves to another country or area in order to find employment, in particular seasonal or temporary work.

## Activist

An activist is a person who campaigns for some kind of social change.

## Scarcity

The state of being scarce or in short supply; shortage.