

8SS Newsletter – 3.1.21

Hello 8th Grade Families,

The prosperous times of the 1920s had hidden problems. These problems came out in the open in 1929 when the nation's economy crumbled. The New Deal was President Roosevelt's way of dealing with the Depression. The New Deal actively involved the government in social and economic concerns and created programs, such as the Social Security system, which still affects us all today.

Students will begin by exploring the stock market crash and the major causes of the Depression - an unbalanced economy, credit crisis, international depression, and joblessness and poverty. We will then discuss President Hoover's response to the crisis, which was to not have the federal government get involved but instead look to voluntary action by private citizens and local government to help turn things around.

Students will then gain an understanding of Franklin Delano Roosevelt's political career and how he came to be president. We will see how FDR took charge during the First Hundred Days of his administration and was able to pass the first set of New Deal programs to get America working again. We will also look at the second New Deal and FDR's court-packing scandal. The New Deal did not cure all of the nation's problems, but it did start to put America back on to the road to recovery. Ultimately, it would take the second World War to pull us out of the Depression. Students will have a chance to debate the effectiveness of the New Deal.

Students will analyze what life was like for various groups of American people during this time. We will discuss primary source photographs from around the country, and primary source songs. Students will examine the hardships of the Dust Bowl and the new trends in entertainment.

Throughout the chapter, students will be "playing the stock market" and gaining an understanding of how our economy works.

--

Mrs. Esquivel