

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## The Great Depression: America's Struggle in the 1930s



In the early 20th century, the United States experienced a period of profound economic turmoil known as the Great Depression. This era of hardship and suffering left an indelible mark on the nation and reshaped its economic and social landscape.

### The Roaring Twenties

The 1920s were a time of prosperity and excess for many Americans. The stock market was booming, and the economy appeared to be thriving. However, beneath the surface, there were warning signs of an impending crisis. Many people were living beyond their means, and the agricultural sector was already struggling.

### The Stock Market Crash

On October 29, 1929, the stock market crashed in an event known as Black Tuesday. Panic selling ensued, and stock prices plummeted. The crash wiped out the savings of countless investors and marked the beginning of the Great Depression.

### The Breadlines and Dust Bowl

The Great Depression brought widespread unemployment and poverty. People stood in long lines at soup kitchens, hoping for a meal to sustain them. The Dust Bowl, a period of severe drought and dust storms in the Midwest, exacerbated the crisis, forcing many farmers to abandon their land.

### Government Response

In response to the economic crisis, President Franklin D. Roosevelt introduced the New Deal, a series of programs and policies aimed at providing relief, recovery, and reform. These initiatives included the creation of jobs, social security, and financial regulation.

### The Road to Recovery

Although the Great Depression was a long and challenging period, the United States eventually began to recover. World War II played a significant role in stimulating the economy, as the country mobilized for war production, leading to increased employment and economic growth.

### The Legacy

The Great Depression left a lasting legacy, shaping the way Americans viewed the role of government in the economy and society. It also highlighted the importance of financial regulation to prevent economic crises in the future.

