

Name _____

Riding the Economic Roller Coaster: Key Industries Affected by the Great Depression

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. The lasting impact of the Great Depression on various industries has influenced their future development and resilience in times of economic crisis. Lessons learned during this period emphasized the importance of diversification, financial stability, and adaptability in industries. For example, the banking sector has since implemented strict regulations and deposit insurance to ensure financial stability. The manufacturing industry has learned to adapt to changing consumer demands and global economic fluctuations. Government intervention during crises, as seen in the New Deal programs, has also shaped the role of government in economic recovery.
2. Different industries experienced varying degrees of challenges during the Great Depression. While the banking and manufacturing sectors faced severe difficulties, the entertainment industry showed greater resilience as people sought solace and distraction in movies, music, and other forms of entertainment. The agricultural sector faced environmental challenges like the Dust Bowl in addition to economic woes. The construction and government sectors benefited from New Deal programs, which helped stimulate job creation and infrastructure development.
3. As a worker in an industry heavily affected by the Great Depression, my experiences would likely include job loss, reduced wages, and financial hardships. I might have faced difficulty in finding employment and providing for my family. Coping strategies might have included seeking government relief programs, community support, or finding temporary work opportunities created by public works projects.
4. Government intervention through New Deal programs played a crucial role in helping industries recover during the Great Depression. These programs provided employment opportunities, injected money into the economy, and stimulated economic activity. The Works Progress Administration (WPA) and Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), for example, created jobs in construction, infrastructure development, and conservation. These initiatives not only helped industries rebound but also improved the overall economic landscape.

