

F.D.R AND THE NEW DEAL



Power Point accompaniment for Carolina K-12's lesson "FDR & the New Deal", available in the Database of K-12 Resources

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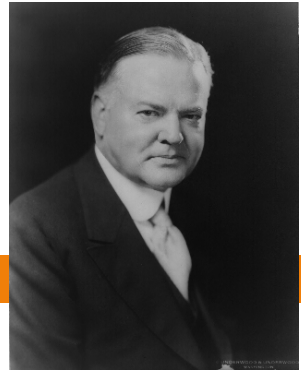
Warm-Up

“‘And then the Depression came.’ This familiar lament more than distinguished one decade from another. Within its meaning are the images and realities of disaster: the crash of the stock market, the howl of the dust storms, the cry of the hungry, the silence of the shamed. Thousands of Americans watched their destinies evaporate. The horizon of prosperity looming ‘just around the corner’ seemed to fade from view. The Depression jolted many out of the American Dream with its pattern of unemployment, frustration, and despair...”



Imagine that you are the President of the United States in 1929 as the Great Depression takes its hold on the economy and society. What would you do? What legislation would you propose to improve life for Americans? What message would you send to citizens to reassure them?

President Herbert Hoover



- Herbert Hoover took office as the 31st president of the United States in 1929.
- Less than eight months after he took office, the Wall Street Crash of 1929 struck.
- Hoover, viewed as having a strong belief in “big business” and “small government”, was considered by some to have a “laissez-faire” viewpoint as the Great Depression took hold.
 - From before his entry to the presidency, he was a proponent of the concept that public-private cooperation was the way to achieve high long-term growth.
 - Hoover feared that too much intervention or coercion by the government would destroy individuality and self-reliance, which he considered to be important American values.

President Herbert Hoover

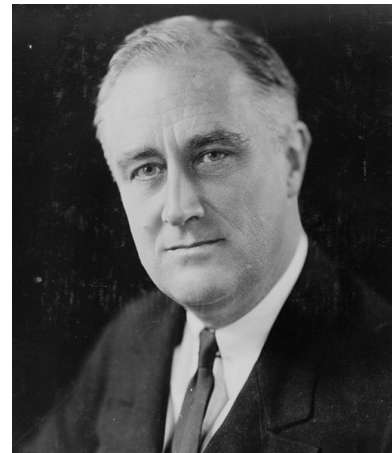
- President Hoover made attempts to stop "the downward spiral" of the Great Depression by hoping that the private sector would recover largely through its own volition. His policies, however, had little or no effect.
- As the economy quickly deteriorated in the early years of the Great Depression, Hoover declined to pursue legislative relief, believing that it would make people dependent on the federal government.
- Instead, he organized a number of voluntary measures with businesses, encouraged state and local government responses, and accelerated federal building projects.
- Only toward the end of his term did he support a series of legislative solutions.
- It seemed that nothing Hoover did reduced the suffering of millions of Americans during the Great Depression.
- In many ways, Americans blamed Hoover himself for the economic crisis.

The 1932 Presidential Election

- Amidst the Great Depression, the presidential election of 1932 took place.
- Franklin D. Roosevelt challenged Republican incumbent Hoover as the Democratic candidate in the 1932 Presidential Election.
- 🔍 Given what you learned about the situation in America during the Great Depression, how do you imagine the public voted and why?



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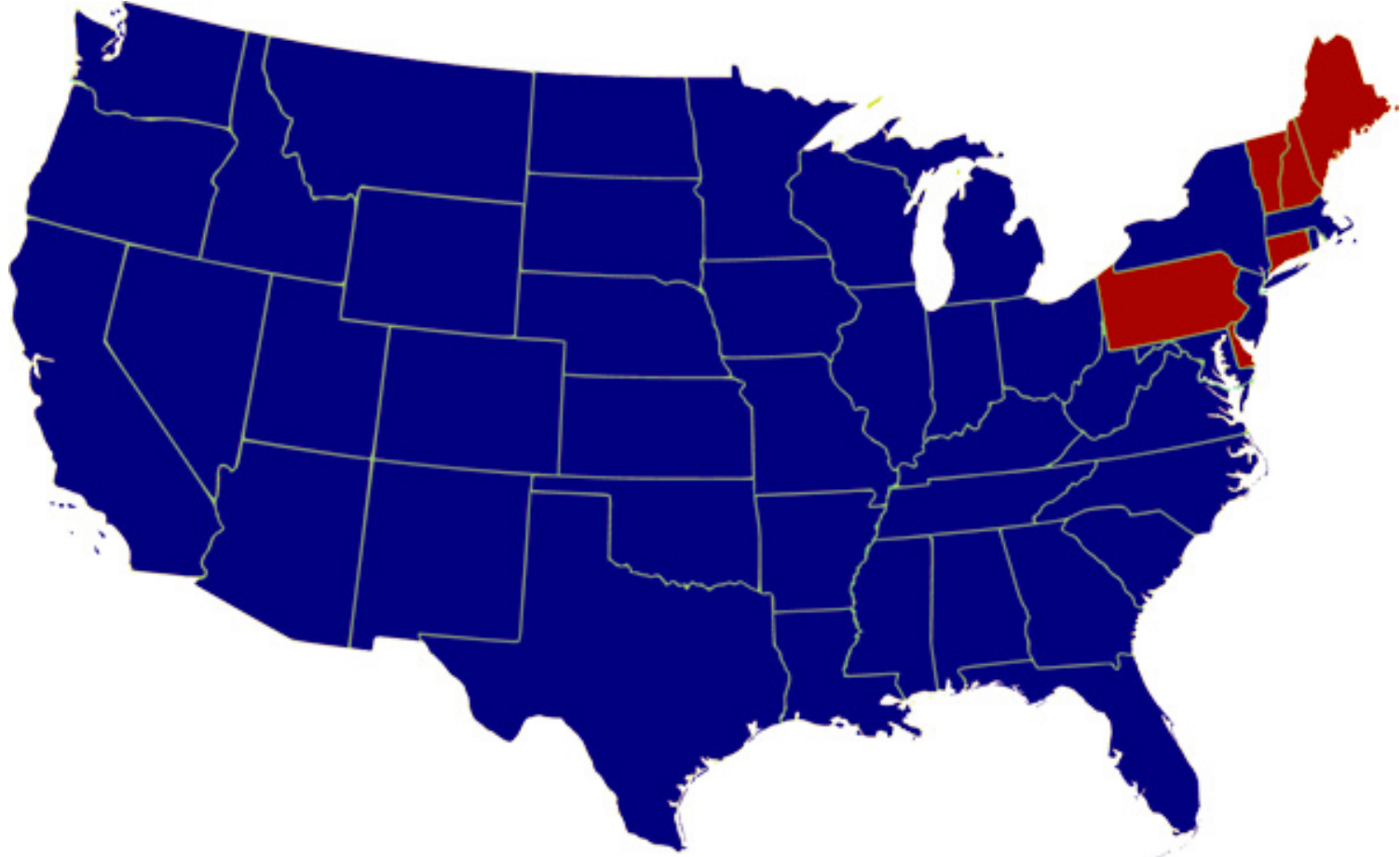


The 1932 Election



- ❑ President Herbert Hoover's popularity was falling as voters felt he was unable to reverse the economic collapse, or deal with prohibition.
- ❑ Other electoral liabilities were Hoover's lack of charisma in relating to voters, and his poor skills in working with politicians.
- ❑ Franklin D. Roosevelt used what he called Hoover's failure to deal with these problems as a platform for his own election, promising reform in his policy called the New Deal.
- ❑ Roosevelt won by a landslide, and this "critical election" marked the end of the Progressive Era.
- ❑ Hoover is typically ranked very poorly among former U.S. presidents.

The 1932 Election



Democratic Party- FDR

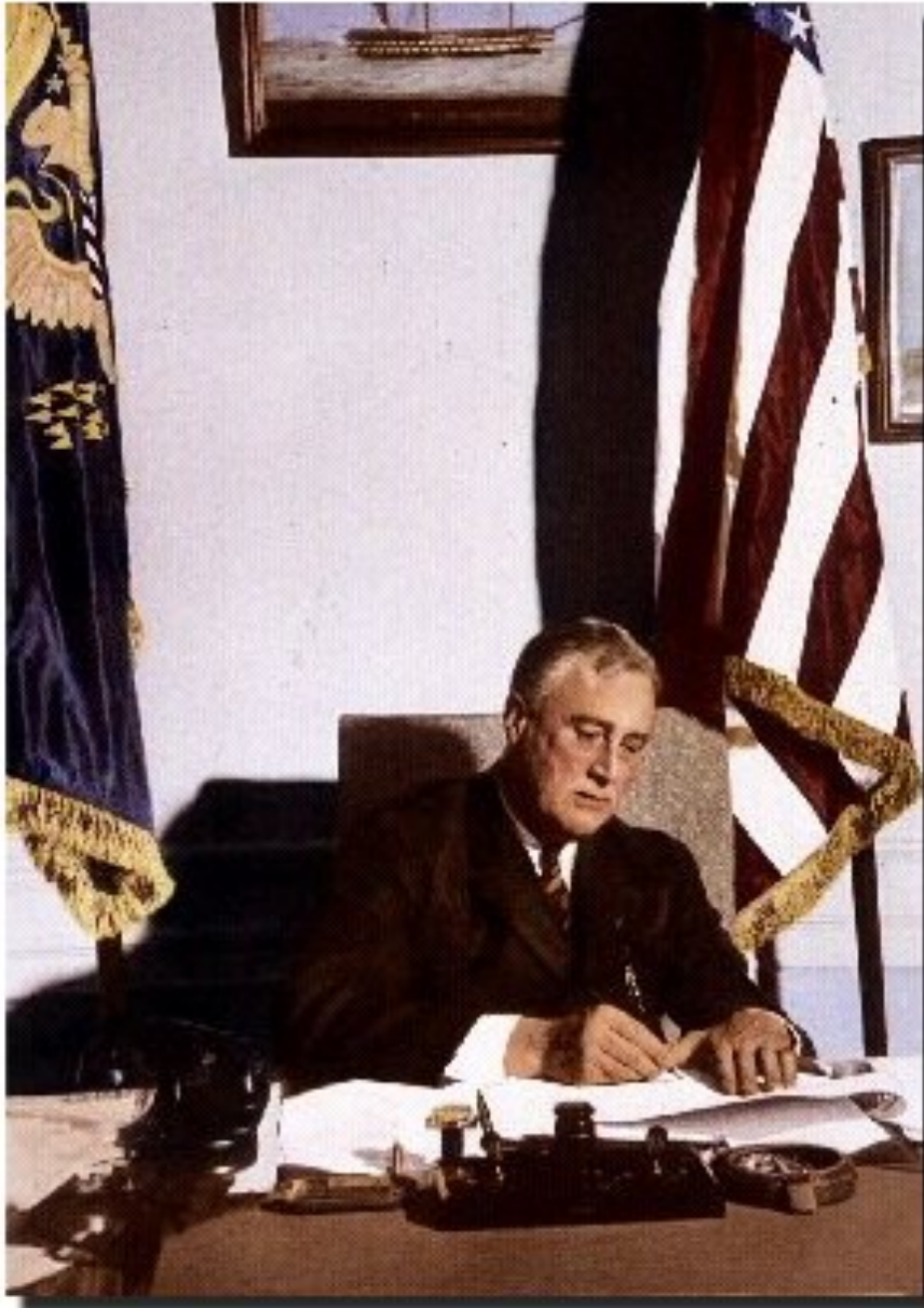
472 electoral votes (88.9%)

Republican party- Herbert Hoover

59 electoral votes (11.1%)

What should FDR do?

- FDR was swept into office over Hoover, with North Carolina's voters giving him 497,566 votes to Hoover's 208,344.
- ❓ How would you feel in this moment, coming into the presidency in the middle of the terrible economic crisis of the Great Depression?

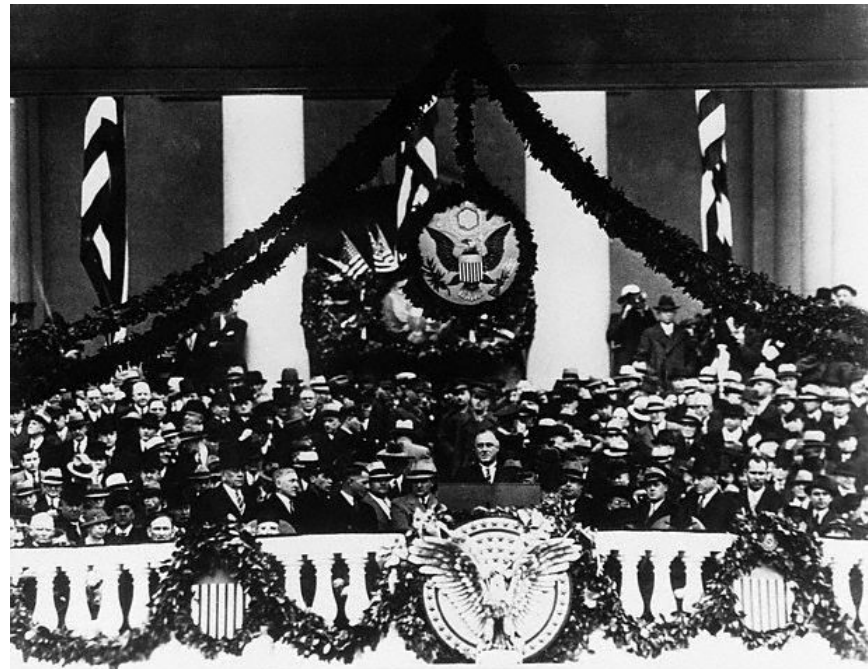


“The country needs...bold, persistent experimentation. It is common sense to take a method and try it. If it fails, admit it frankly and try another. But above all try something.”

~Franklin Roosevelt, 1932

FDR's 1933 Inauguration

❓ As we listen to the first few minutes of FDR's address, consider what his goals were. What is the tone and purpose of the speech? Why do you think this is the direction he chose to take in his inaugural address?



FDR's 1933 Inauguration

“This is a day of national consecration. And I am certain that on this day my fellow Americans expect that on my induction into the Presidency I will address them with a candor and a decision which the present situation of our people impels. This is preeminently the time to speak the truth, the whole truth, frankly and boldly. Nor need we shrink from honestly facing conditions in our country today. This great Nation will endure as it has endured, will revive and will prosper. So, first of all, let me assert my firm belief that the only thing we have to fear is fear itself—nameless, unreasoning, unjustified terror which paralyzes needed efforts to convert retreat into advance. In every dark hour of our national life a leadership of frankness and vigor has met with that understanding and support of the people themselves which is essential to victory. And I am convinced that you will again give that support to leadership in these critical days.”

FDR's 1933 Inauguration

“In such a spirit on my part and on yours we face our common difficulties. They concern, thank God, only material things. Values have shrunk to fantastic levels; taxes have risen; our ability to pay has fallen; government of all kinds is faced by serious curtailment of income; the means of exchange are frozen in the currents of trade; the withered leaves of industrial enterprise lie on every side; farmers find no markets for their produce; the savings of many years in thousands of families are gone.

More important, a host of unemployed citizens face the grim problem of existence, and an equally great number toil with little return. Only a foolish optimist can deny the dark realities of the moment.”

FDR's 1933 Inauguration

“Yet our distress comes from no failure of substance. We are stricken by no plague of locusts. Compared with the perils which our forefathers conquered because they believed and were not afraid, we have still much to be thankful for. Nature still offers her bounty and human efforts have multiplied it. Plenty is at our doorstep, but a generous use of it languishes in the very sight of the supply. Primarily this is because rulers of the exchange of mankind's goods have failed through their own stubbornness and their own incompetence, have admitted their failure, and have abdicated. Practices of the unscrupulous money changers stand indicted in the court of public opinion, rejected by the hearts and minds of men.”

The First 100 Days



“...in the event that Congress shall fail to take these courses and in the event that the national emergency is still critical I shall not evade the clear course or duty that will then confront me. I shall ask the Congress for the one remaining instrument to meet the crisis—broad executive power to wage a war against the emergency, as great as the power that would be given to me if we were in fact to be invaded by a foreign foe.”

~FDR, 1933 Inauguration

The First 100 Days



- ❑ Roosevelt's overwhelming victory in the 1932 election, coupled with the urgency of the worst economic collapse in U.S. history, opened the way for a flood of legislation.
- ❑ Immediately after taking office, Roosevelt called on Congress to convene and begin responding to the economic crisis.
- ❑ Congress met for 100 days, granting every request Roosevelt asked, and even passed a few programs (such as the FDIC to insure bank accounts) that he opposed.
- ❑ From March 4, 1933 to June 16, 1933, 16 major pieces of legislation (the New Deal) were enacted to improve American life and economics.

The New Deal



- ❑ Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal was the political response to the Great Depression.
- ❑ Historians distinguish a "First New Deal" (1933) and a "Second New Deal" (1934-36).
- ❑ The New Deal established the foundation of the modern welfare state while preserving the capitalist system.
- ❑ Legislation passed as part of the New Deal experimented with a new level of governmental activism in an attempt to relieve social and economic suffering of Americans.
- ❑ Federal New Deal programs addressed areas such as business, agriculture, labor, the arts, and even people's daily lives.
- ❑ Despite a mixed legacy with respect to recovery and reform, the political response under Roosevelt proved that the economic crisis did not require Americans to abandon democracy.

Fast Worker



That Grand and Glorious Feelin'—By Hungerford





Homework

- Research a New Deal program and create a poster advertising the program.
- Posters must contain
 - ▣ the name of the program,
 - ▣ a catchy slogan,
 - ▣ visual aids that symbolize the program,
 - ▣ and a brief summary of the purpose of the program.

Poster Examples

