



Triumph Over Tragedy: The Great Depression and New Deal Era in North Louisiana

Louisiana State Exhibit Museum
3015 Greenwood Rd
Shreveport LA 71109
318-632-2020

Grades: 5-8

Subject: Louisiana History & American History

Time: One to two days of introduction to the 1930's, what the students will be viewing, one day for a field trip to LSEM, one day of follow up in class and to do class activity

Students in grades 5-8 are invited to the Louisiana State Exhibit Museum to take a step back in time and learn about Louisiana life in the 1930's. The 1930's were a significant decade for all of America including North Louisiana. Exhibits will highlight the Great Depression, Huey P. Long, the opening of Barksdale Airfield, as well as life and style of this significant era.

Benchmarks

Comparing historical and contemporary patterns of economic interdependence (G-1C-M6)

Determining the economics, political, and social factors that contribute to human migration and settlement patterns and evaluating their impact on physical and human systems (G-1C-H2)

Identifying government leaders and representatives at the local, state, and national levels and explaining their powers and the limits on their powers (C-1A-M6)

Identifying and describing the historical experiences and the geographic, social, and economic factors that have helped to shape American political culture (C-1B-M2)

Analyzing democratic processes used to institute change (C-1B-M5)

Describing the many ways by which citizens can organize, monitor, and help to shape politics and government at local, state, and national levels (G-1D-M4)

Describing how the scarcity of resources necessitates decision making at both person and societal levels (E-1A-M1)

Analyzing consequences of economic decisions in terms of additional benefits and additional costs (E-1A-M2)

Analyzing the consequences and opportunity cost of economic decisions (E-1A-M3)
Describing the various institutions, such as business firms and government agencies, that makes up economic systems (E-1A-M7)

Using economic concepts to help explain historic and contemporary events and developments (E-1A-M9)

Describing the influences of inflation, unemployment, and underemployment on different groups of people (E-1C-M2)

Demonstrating historical perspective through the political, social, and economic context in which an event or idea occurred (H-1A-M2)

Analyzing the impact that specific individuals, ideas, events, and decisions had on the course of history (H-1A-M3)

Describing the impact of the Great Depression and World War II on American society (H-1B-M17)

Discussing significant developments and issues in contemporary United States history (H-1B-M18)

Describing the contributions of people, events, movements, and ideas that have been significant in the history of Louisiana (H-1D-M1)

Tracing the development and growth of Louisiana's economy throughout history (H-1D-M5)

Describing and explaining how personal interests, culture, and technology affect people's perceptions and uses of places and regions (G-1B-M4)

Identifying key demographic concepts and using these concepts to analyze the population characteristics of a country or region (G-1C-M2)

Pre Visit Activity

Introduce students to the 1930's; highlighting the Great Depression, the Dust Bowl, and Huey P. Long.

Explain to the students that the class will be visiting the Louisiana State Exhibit Museum to view an exhibit on the 1930's and the era of the Great Depression. Tell the students

they will examine exhibits that depict North Louisiana in the 1930's and explain how these exhibits reveal information by providing a glimpse into the past.

Explain to students that after they visit the LSEM they will be discussing what they have toured and given a follow up activity. Go over proper etiquette students should use during their museum visit.

Museum Etiquette

- Have your students use their “library” voice when in a museum or gallery.
- No running in a museum or gallery.
- Please keep your feet off the ledge and on the red tile (floor) when standing around the center contour map.
- Students need to stay with your group, class, or teacher.
- If you have any questions, please ask one of the museum tour guides.
- When entering the auditorium for a program, please keep your class in a single-file line separate from other classes and schools near the Exit sign over the exit doors entering the breezeway.
- Wait for a tour guide to give you instructions.

Museum Field Trip Activity

Make copies of the LSEM Viewing Journal, one per student

Explain to students that they will be filling out these journals as they view the exhibits

Post Visit Activity

Discuss student impressions of the LSEM exhibit on the 1930's. Ask students to describe differences between the time period viewed and the present.

Ask students to write a short journal entry on one of the following topics:

- Who was Huey P. Long?
- What life would have been like growing up in the 1930's in Louisiana
- Things that helped keep Caddo Parish and Bossier Parish from feeling the extreme effects of the Great Depression

Students may refer back to their Exhibit Viewing Journal for additional help in writing the journal entry.

Optional Research Assignment:

Divide students into groups of 3 or 4 and explain that students will be investigating the different types of occupations and businesses that existed in Louisiana during the 1930's. Each group will select a topic and report their findings to the class. Topics should coincide with what students viewed as dioramas at LSEM and may include Fish and Game (types of fishing and hunting for profit), Agriculture (different types of crops grown for profit), Protection Industries (turning raw materials into finished products), and Service Industries (restaurants, maintenance, clothing stores, etc.) Students may also explore ways in which the WPA relates to their topics. Allow students to give presentations to the class based on their research.

Use student's findings to form a classroom discussion of the 1930-era economy. A Venn diagram may be used to compare and contrast the 1930 economy to the present economy in Louisiana.

Museum Follow Up Activity:

Distribute copies of the Then and Now activity sheet. Break into groups of 3-4 students and using copies of sale papers complete the sheet. Once completed discuss as a class the difference in prices from the 1930's to the present.

Then and Now: Prices

Study the column below. In the left column there is a list of items, in the middle column the price of each of the items is listed based on its price from 1932-1934, in the last column students should fill in the cost of modern day items and then make comparisons.

Then and Now: Prices		
WOMEN'S CLOTHES	THEN	NOW
Winter Coat	\$28.00	
Leather or Suede Bag	\$2.25	
Bathrobe	\$1.00	
Sweater	\$1.00	
MEN'S CLOTHES	THEN	NOW
Silk Neck Tie	\$0.55	
Wool Sweater	\$1.00	
Bathrobe	\$4.90	
Overcoat	\$18.50	
GAMES AND TOYS	THEN	NOW
Tricycle	\$3.98	
Catcher's Mitt	\$1.19	
BB Air Rifle	\$0.79	
Doll	\$1.95	
ITEMS FOR THE HOME	THEN	NOW
Vacuum Cleaner	\$44.00	
Sewing Machine	\$23.95	
Electric Washing Machine	\$33.50	
Waffle Iron	\$17.95	

Louisiana State Exhibit Museum
Triumph Over Tragedy Viewing Journal

Name _____

Date _____

School _____

Use information you gain from the exhibit at the LSEM to complete this viewing journal.

Part One: Introduction to the 1930's in North Louisiana

1. Walk through the *Triumph over Tragedy Exhibit* to get an overview on major themes that the exhibit illustrates about the 1930's. List two themes in the blanks below.

2. What are some examples of clothing popular in the 1930's?
3. How do these examples of clothing differ from clothes today?
4. What are some noticeable differences between the 1930's living room and a living room today?
5. What is one thing you can learn about Huey P. Long from his exhibit?

Part Two: Select one part of the exhibit to examine in detail

6. I chose to examine _____

7. List some things you have learned just from studying this particular part of the exhibit

8. How does this part of the exhibit help you identify with this period in time?

9. Write 2-3 sentences on why you feel the LSEM exhibit on North Louisiana in the 1930's is important and useful.
