

Common Core Weekly Reading Homework

Monday: Read the passage. Underline any words you don't know. Use the context clues to define them.

Tuesday: Re-read the passage. Determine the main idea for each paragraph.

Wednesday: Use your main idea statements to summarize the text. Re-read the passage to ensure you have not left off any key details.

Thursday: Answer the questions about the text. Use evidence from the text to support your thinking.

Common Core Weekly Reading Homework

Record your written responses under the correct day.

Monday:

Tuesday:

Wednesday:

The Great Depression 1929 - 1939

by Dana Tuffelmire

The Problem

Picture a large cardboard box. What could you do with it? Perhaps hide in it or turn it into a fort. About 80 years ago, in the early 1930s, some families actually lived in cardboard boxes. Why? Many families lost their homes, jobs and most of their money during a period called the Great Depression. It was a time of hardship for Americans that lasted for about 10 years. The Great Depression was caused by a number of different factors. After many years, things got better.

One of the problems leading up to the Great Depression involved banks. Banks lent money to farmers and businesses to help them grow. Soon the banks didn't have enough money coming in to fund all the loans. People who kept their life savings in the bank lost it all and banks began to close.

Many believe the Great Depression began on October 29, 1929. That was the day the stock market crashed. This day is sometimes referred to as "Black Tuesday." Millions of stock holders lost all of their money. People spent less money because they had less money.

Another reason for the Great Depression was weather-related. Southern states in the Mississippi Valley experienced months without rain. Drought conditions caused the soil to turn to dust. Many farmers could not produce crops and lost a lot of money.

The Solution

Towards the end of the Great Depression the United States elected a new president. Franklin Delano Roosevelt was elected because he proposed a plan to get the U.S. back on its feet. His plan was called the "New Deal." The New Deal created jobs, agriculture programs and new banking laws. These government programs helped get people back to work and money back in the banks.

In 1941, American troops entered World War II. Entering the war created a need for weapons, ammunition, aircraft and vehicles. The U.S. government created factories to make what was necessary for the war. The new factories created new jobs. People with jobs began spending again and the Great Depression ended.

The Great Depression 1929 - 1939

1. According to the author, what caused the Great Depression? Use evidence from the text to support your thinking.

2. What is the meaning of *proposed* as used in paragraph 5? Use evidence from the text to support your thinking.

3. What is the connection between the weather in the South and the Great Depression? Use evidence from the text to support your thinking.

4. How were the New Deal and World War II connected? Use evidence from the text to support your thinking.

5. Determine the overall text structure of this text. Use evidence from the text to support your thinking.
