



History & Geography

In this session, we have included selections from *Home Geography* for your family to read through, as well as a study on the history of the Great Depression.

Due to the size of *Home Geography* by C. C. Long, we have NOT included it in this PDF. However, the full book is available for download in the geography section of the webpage.

If you have not done the previous lessons and wish to begin at the beginning of *Home Geography*, that is fine! *Home Geography* is geared toward elementary and early middle-grade students. Geography for older students is done through their history and literature studies.

“Courage is not the absence of fear, but rather the assessment that something else is more important than fear.”

~ Franklin D. Roosevelt

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The Great Depression Facts

The Great Depression was a worldwide economic depression that took place during the 1930s, starting in the US before spreading to other parts of the world. There were multiple causes, such as overproduction, lack of purchasing power among consumers, large-scale debt in the US, and restricted international trade.

The effects of the Great Depression were far-reaching, causing extreme poverty and mass unemployment. Jobs became increasingly scarce as businesses closed their doors, and investments plummeted as wages began to decline. It's estimated that 40 million people were affected by the Great Depression, with 1 out of every 4 people facing unemployment.

Additionally, in the Midwest region of the United States, the crisis was worsened by an environmental disaster known as the Dust Bowl. A severe drought came over the land, which caused sweeping dust storms that devastated farmlands and caused the farmers to lose their livelihoods. As a result, many families migrated further west in a mass exodus, settling in California.

Despite the challenging time, it sparked a period of innovation and creativity as people learned to make the most of their limited resources, and many new ideas, such as soup kitchens, food stamps, and public works projects were put in place.

There is an excellent documentary on The Great Depression called 1929 on Curiosity Stream (a streaming documentary service). The Dust Bowl by Ken Burns is another documentary option and is available on Prime Video.

Interesting Facts About the Great Depression:

- The Great Depression was at its worst between 1932 and 1933, when unemployment was at an all-time high.
- The government began to ration many items during the Great Depression, including coffee and sugar.
- President Roosevelt's New Deal programs helped create jobs for over 8 million Americans who had been unemployed at the time.
- The Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco opened in 1937 as a symbol of hope for many folks during the Great Depression.
- Baseball was a pastime that grew in popularity during the Great Depression, with teams such as the Yankees becoming household names.
- The Great Depression was eventually ended by the US entry into World War II in 1941, as the US government launched major economic programs to create jobs and expand industry.
- Despite its difficult times, the Great Depression witnessed some great advances in technology, such as the invention of color television and the first military jets.