



# The Great Depression and World War II

## UNIT ADDENDUM

5th Grade Social Studies  
Unit 4  
Suggested Duration: 21 days

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## UNIT SYNOPSIS



*Migrant Mother*, by Dorothea Lange, taken from Wikipedia.

### **Purpose:** Why Study the Great Depression and World War II?

The Great Depression and World War II are two of the most pivotal events of the 20th century, both of which transformed American society. When the stock market crashed in 1929, millions of Americans lost everything and found themselves mired in poverty. In response, President Franklin D. Roosevelt launched a series of monumental reforms, collectively called the New Deal, that sought to provide relief to struggling Americans while establishing government safety nets never seen in American history. Though the New Deal did not end the Depression, many of its core programs remain a fundamental part of American government today. It was most likely a combination of domestic programs and the mobilization efforts for World War II that helped end the Great Depression once and for all. Though the United States initially resisted involvement in what it had deemed Europe's war, after the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, the United States joined the Allies in their global fight against fascist aggression. As soldiers fought on battlefields around the world, Europe's Jewish population faced a fate worse than war. While executing his plan for world domination abroad, at home, Adolf Hitler had begun a massive genocide against the Jewish people (as well as many other marginalized communities) of Germany and all occupied German territories. It was not until the end of the war that U.S. and Soviet forces liberated Jewish prisoners from concentration camps, finally ending the Holocaust. The Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills standards for social studies call for elementary students to understand "important issues, events, and individuals in the United States during the 20th and 21st centuries." In this unit, you will investigate two of these significant events: the Great Depression and World War II. First, you will introduce your students to the Great Depression, including the factors that caused the stock market crash and the Depression's impact on the American people. Students will also study the New Deal and the extent to which it lifted Americans out of the Depression and transformed American society. As you continue to guide students through this unit, they will learn about the origins and outbreak of World War II and the factors that drove the United States' entry into the conflict. Students will explore the

different experiences of Americans during the war at home and on the battlefield—from Navajo code talkers to Japanese Americans imprisoned by the federal government. Finally, students will study the Holocaust, its impact on the Jewish people (and on other marginalized communities of Europe), and the people who fought back, against all odds, to challenge state persecution and genocide. This dual inquiry into the Great Depression and World War II will ensure that your students understand two pivotal moments that shaped the United States during the 20th century and that ultimately fueled the development of the global superpower that the United States is today. Throughout this unit, you will use whole-class Shared Content Reading™ books to introduce and reinforce these key ideas about the Great Depression and World War II. Students will also showcase their knowledge through project work—including journal entries about the Great Depression and a piece of wartime “propaganda” inspired by examples from the period.

## CONTENT STANDARDS

CONTENT STANDARDS	
<p><b>History</b>  <b>5.5A:</b> explain the significance of issues and events of the 20th century such as industrialization, urbanization, the Great Depression, the world wars, the civil rights movement, and military actions.</p> <p><b>5.5C:</b> identify the accomplishments and contributions of individuals and groups such as Susan B. Anthony, Martin Luther King Jr., Rosa Parks, Cesar Chavez, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Ronald Reagan, the Tuskegee Airmen, and the 442nd Regimental Combat Team in the areas of civil rights, women's rights, military actions, and politics.</p> <p><b>Economics</b>            5.11A: explain how supply and demand affects consumers in the United States.</p> <p><b>Culture</b>            5.21B: summarize the contributions of people of various racial, ethnic, and religious groups to our national identity.</p>	<p><b>Social Studies Processing Skills</b>            5.23 The student applies critical-thinking skills to organize and use information acquired from a variety of valid sources, including technology.            (B) analyze information by applying absolute and relative chronology through sequencing, categorizing, identifying cause-and-effect relationships, comparing, contrasting, finding the main idea, summarizing, making generalizations and predictions, and drawing inferences and conclusions.            (D) identify different points of view about an issue, topic, historical event, or current event.            (E) identify the historical context of an event.</p> <p>5.24 The student uses geographic tools to collect, analyze, and interpret data.            (B) interpret geographic data, population distribution, and natural resources into a variety of formats such as graphs and maps.</p> <p>5.25 Social Studies skills. The student communicates in written, oral, and visual forms.            (D) create written and visual material such as journal entries, reports, graphic organizers, outlines, and bibliographies.</p>

	5.26 Social Studies skills. The student uses problem-solving and decision-making skills, working independently and with others.
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**VERTICAL STANDARDS**

4th Grade Social Studies	5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Social Studies	6th Grade Social Studies
Students will engage in a course about Texas history and how the communities have changed over the history of Texas.	<b>Students will engage in a course about US history and how the United States was colonized and the change over the course of time.</b>	Students will engage in a course about geography, government, and culture throughout the world.

**VOCABULARY GLOSSARY**

<p><b>Unit Vocabulary</b>  Links are provided for more in-depth study of some vocabulary in this unit.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stock Market – a system for buying and selling securities, stocks, or bonds. A stock is a share in the ownership of a company. A bond is an agreement to lend money to a company for a certain amount of time.</li> <li>• Speculation – to make a guess about something.</li> </ul>
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- Black Tuesday – October 29th, 1929, the United States stock market crashed in an event called Black Tuesday. This began the chain of events that led into the Great Depression.
- Great Depression – during the 1930's America's economy was not working properly. Banks failed, many people lost their homes, farmers lost their farms resulting in many people out of work, hungry or homeless.
- President Franklin D. Roosevelt – served 12 years as the 32nd president of the United States. He led the country through two of the greatest crises of the 20th century, the Great Depression and WWII.
- New Deal – a US economic program by the administration of President Franklin Roosevelt between 1933 and 1939. The Program aimed to bring economic relief to the country through agriculture, industry, and service.
- Jim Crow – laws in the South that enforced segregation in public places, schools, hospitals, and other places in the community. It also prevented Black Americans from living in certain neighborhoods.
- World War I - a global conflict that took place from 1914 to 1918. Known as one of the deadliest wars until WWII.
- Treaty of Versailles – signed document by Germany and the Allied Nations formally ending WWI. The treaty resulted in Germany losing money and territory.
- Fascism - form of government in which most of the country's power is held by one ruler and heavily controls the lives of the people in which it governs.
- Adolf Hitler – leader of Germany from 1933 to 1945. He was the leader of the Nazi party and became a dictator. He started WWII by invading Poland and known for Holocaust.
- Isolationism - a policy that avoids becoming involved with political or economic disputes in other countries that could lead to war.
- [Japanese internment](#) – during WWII the US government forced about 120,000 Japanese Americans to leave their homes and moved them into internment centers where they were confined until the war was over.
- Hiroshima and Nagasaki – Due to Japan not surrendering after WWII was over, president made the decision to drop two atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan. The events are known by the city names that the bomb destroyed.
- Anti-Semitism – anti – Semitism is discrimination and deep hatred against Jewish people. Anti means against and Semite refers to people in the middle east, including Jewish people.
- [Holocaust](#)- one of the most terrible events in human history that occurred during WWII when Hitler was the leader of Germany. Over 17 million people (Jewish, Catholic, Polish, and others) were murdered by the Nazis party due to Hitler blaming the Jewish people for losing WWI.
- Concentration Camp – Jewish people were brought to concentration camps during the Holocaust. They were told they were relocating to a better place but instead were taken to prison camps. In the campus the people were forced to do labor and died from starvation, sickness, or murdered in gas chambers.
- [The Warsaw Ghetto Uprising](#) - was an armed rebellion of Jews in [Warsaw](#), Poland, against [Nazis](#) in 1943, to keep the Nazis from sending more Jews to be killed at the Treblinka death camp. The revolt lasted from April 19 until it was crushed by the Germans on May 16.