SS5H5 Historical Understandings: The Great Depression Study Guide:

Test will be on Thursday, December 15th

* Fun loving times of the 1920s are over.
* Things came apart when the Stock Market Crash of 1929 hit the U.S. economy.
* Stocks lost their value dramatically.
* Herbert Hoover was President during the beginning of The Great Depression.
* Hoover did very little to help poor people during this time.
* President Roosevelt defeated Hoover in the 1932 Presidential Election.
* People who were rich one day, were poor the next.
* The Stock Market Crash triggered the GREAT DEPRESSION.
* The Great Depression began in 1929 and lasted into the 1930s.
* This was the longest period of unemployment and low economic activity in modern times.
* Hungry and homeless people roamed city streets.
* Thousands of people lined up at Soup Kitchens run by charities.
* A bowl of soup and a piece of bread might be the only meal people would have each day.
* The Depression years were difficult for farmers in the Midwestern U.S.
* A long period of drought in the Great Plains caused severe soil erosion.
* The soil blew away and formed large clouds of dust. The dust covered everything: house, barns, roads, and even fences! The area became known as the **Dust Bowl**.
* These poor farmers packed up everything and moved to find work in farmlands of California.
* Roosevelt created **THE NEW DEAL,** This was a plan to use government programs to help the nation recover from the Depression. This is in sharp contrast to Hoover’s administration where people actually lived in poverty stricken Hoovervilles (Shanty Towns).
* Roosevelt’s **New Deal** created several agencies that helped create jobs, and had long lasting effects in the U.S.
* Main Features of the **New Deal**:
1. Social Security
2. Federal Works Programs (created jobs to build parks, schools, courthouses, bridges, dams, and other useful public works projects).
3. Farm assistance programs.
4. Increased rights for labor.
* **Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC)**- The CCC put young American men back to work preserving the nation’s natural resources. Workers signed up for a term of service and lived in camps. Most corps projects involved soil conservation, tree planting, and flood control. Projects in Georgia included planting trees in the Chattahoochee National Forest and helping to construct the Appalachian Trail.
* **Works Progress Administration (WPA)-** This enormous program put unemployed people to work building highways, bridges, public buildings, public parks, and airports. The WPA also paid artists to paint murals and create the sculptures that decorate public buildings across the country.
* **Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA)-** The TVA helped transform the Tennessee River Valley from poverty to productivity. For years, flooding had caused massive problems and made farming difficult. The TVA built dams throughout a seven-state region to control floods and generate electricity to homes and farms. Residents were thrilled to have electricity, and it attracted industries and jobs to the very poor. The TVA still provides power to the region today.
* **Important People during the 1930s**
1. Margaret Mitchell- Won the Pulitzer Prize in 1937 for her novel, *Gone With the Wind.* This novel told about life in the South during the Civil War and Reconstruction.
2. Jesse Owens- Won four gold medals at the 1936 Olympics. He became a hero for struggling African Americans during the Great Depression.
3. Duke Ellington: Very famous composer and pianist during the 1930’s.