GREAT DEPRESSION

Dust Bowl, Hoovervilles, New Deal - Grades 6-8

5 ANSWER KEYS

26 STUDENT PAGES


My name _____ Date _____

Reading 2B: Hard Times

Read the story. Then write the main idea and why it mattered.

1930 to 1935

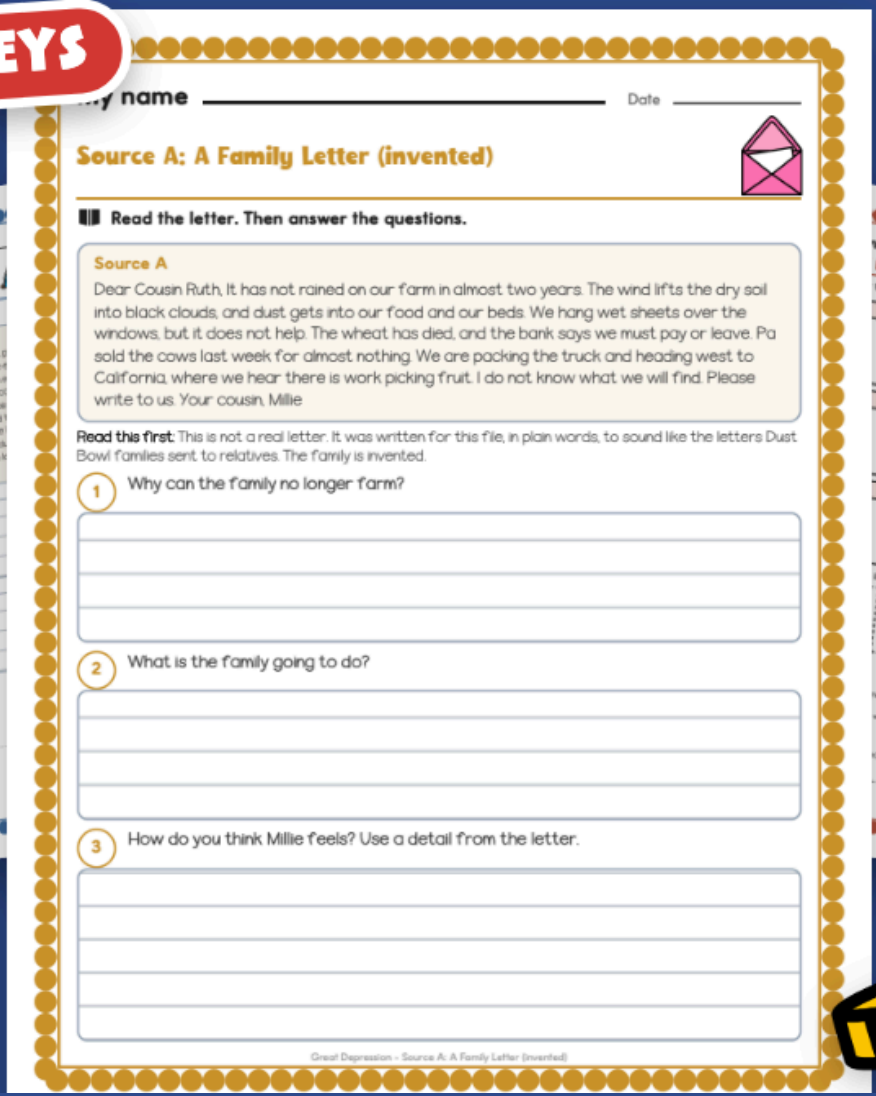
By 1933, about one out of every four workers had no job. Families who could not p... their homes. Many built shacks from scrap wood and metal on empty land at the e... People called these towns Hoovervilles, after President Herbert Hoover, whom m... for the hard times. In the summer of 1932, thousands of World War I veterans, c... Bonus Army, came to Washington, D.C. They asked Congress to pay their service... Congress refused, and Army troops led by General Douglas MacArthur forced t... out of their camp. On the Great Plains, a long drought in the 1930s dried up the ... hot plowed up the grass that held the soil, so strong winds lifted it into huge cl... region became known as the Dust Bowl, and many families left their farms to l... of ten traveling west, to California.

Main idea: What is this reading mostly about?

Why it mattered: Why is this important to the story?

Check what you read. Write the letter in the box.

1. Why were the shack towns called Hoovervilles?
   - A They were built by Hoover's army.
   - B Hoover paid for every shack.
   - C Many people blamed President Hoover for the hard times.
2. What caused the dust storms of the Dust Bowl?
   - A A long drought and loose soil blown by strong winds
   - B Too much rain on the Great Plains
   - C A volcano in Oklahoma


My name _____ Date _____

Source A: A Family Letter (invented)

Read the letter. Then answer the questions.

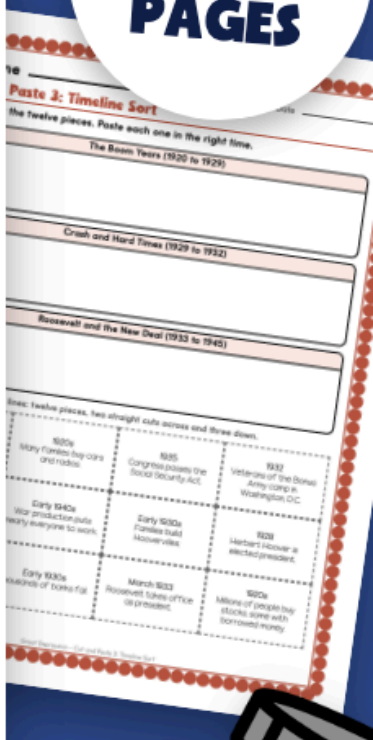
Source A

Dear Cousin Ruth, It has not rained on our farm in almost two years. The wind lifts the dry soil into black clouds, and dust gets into our food and our beds. We hang wet sheets over the windows, but it does not help. The wheat has died, and the bank says we must pay or leave. Pa sold the cows last week for almost nothing. We are packing the truck and heading west to California, where we hear there is work picking fruit. I do not know what we will find. Please write to us. Your cousin, Millie

Read this first: This is not a real letter. It was written for this file, in plain words, to sound like the letters Dust Bowl families sent to relatives. The family is invented.

1. Why can the family no longer farm?
2. What is the family going to do?
3. How do you think Millie feels? Use a detail from the letter.

Great Depression - Source A: A Family Letter (invented)


Paste 3: Timeline Sort

the twelve pieces. Paste each one in the right time.

The Boom Years (1920 to 1929)

Crash and Hard Times (1929 to 1932)

Roosevelt and the New Deal (1933 to 1945)

lines: twelve pieces, two straight cuts across and three down.

1920s Many families buy cars and radios.

1935 Congress passes the Social Security Act.

1932 Veterans of the Bonus Army camp in Washington, D.C.

Early 1940s War production puts nearly everyone to work.

Early 1930s Families build Hoovervilles.

1928 Herbert Hoover is elected president.

Early 1930s ...sands of banks fail.

March 1933 Roosevelt takes office as president.

1920s Millions of people buy stocks, some with borrowed money.



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This is a fillable PDF

- Open it in a PDF reader (Adobe Acrobat Reader, Preview, or your browser), click into a line or a box, type, and Save As.
- The name line, every answer box, every ruled work box and every check box on the student pages are type-in fields, and so are the tracker, class grid, team note and family page. You can also print any page and write by hand.
- It works offline. No account, no subscription, no internet connection needed after you download it.

Print at 100 percent

Turn off fit to page and shrink to fit so the ruled lines stay 0.34 inch apart. Every student page is black and white inside a colored border, so it still reads when copied in black and white.

Student work

A filled-in tracker, class grid or team note carries a real student's name. Keep it in the data folder, and use a first name only on any page that leaves your hands.

Need help?

If a field will not behave or a page will not print the way you expect, use Ask a Question on the product page. Every question is read, and a fix ships as a free update.

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PREVIEW

How To Read a Page

The parts of a student page, then the page types in the order they come.

The parts of a page

- **The answer box.** A bordered box for a letter or a number. Click it to type, or print and write in it.
- **The ruled work box.** Lines 0.34 inch apart. A short answer gets 4 lines; the main idea and why-it-mattered boxes get 3 and the paragraph page gets 18. It types and prints.
- **The check box.** True or false: click or mark one.
- **The reading.** A short passage with the years at the top, a main idea box, a why-it-mattered box (Reading 2) and the checks.
- **The source page.** A short source written for this file, in a box. A note says if it is invented or a paraphrase. It is never a long quote.
- **The cut line.** Two sorts have six pieces in a 3 by 2 grid, each 2.4 by 1.25 inches. The timeline sort has twelve pieces in a 4 by 3 grid, each 1.85 by 1.12 inches. All touch edge to edge.

Page type	What it looks like	What the student does
Check, Before You Read, Words to Know	3 pages, 17 items	A five-question check for before and after; true or false on the big picture; match eight words to their meanings.
Reading 1 and Reading 2 (A to D)	11 checks	Read, write the main idea (and why it mattered), answer the checks with a letter.
Source analysis, pages A and B	2 pages, 6 questions	Read a short source, then answer questions in ruled boxes.
Timeline, New Deal match, cause and effect, chart	4 pages, 12 items	Write the date for each event; match each New Deal program; write the effect of each cause; fill in who thought what.
Comic strip, Think It Through, claim-evidence-reasoning	8 panels, 6 questions	Draw 8 panels; 4 lines per question; a plan and an 18-line paragraph.
Quiz, Cut and Paste, Exit Tickets	12 items, 24 pieces, 4 tickets	A quiz in two parts, three cut-and-paste mats (cause or effect, Hoover or Roosevelt, a twelve-piece timeline) and four exit tickets.

Untimed, unscored on the page

No student page has a timer or a score on it. The keys and the tracker are for you. The answer keys are on pages 31 to 35.

A short account, not a full textbook

Each reading is a summary in plain words. It is not a complete history, and it is not tied to any particular standard. Add your own textbook, map or source for more depth.

Printing and the type-in fields

Every page prints clean in black and white. The name line, every answer box, every ruled box and every check box are type-in fields in any PDF reader: click one, type, then save. This is a fillable PDF, not a slideshow or a word-processor file.

Open answers

Sources, the chart, cause and effect, the comic strip, short answers, the exit tickets and the paragraph are open. The keys give a sample and what to look for. Accept any answer that is true to the readings and explains its reason.

PREVIEW

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My name _____ Date _____



Before and After Check

Write a letter in the Before box now and the After box when you finish.

Write the letter of the best answer. Guess if you are not sure. Fill in **Before** now, and **After** when you finish the unit.

1. In which year did the stock market crash?
   - A 1929
   - B 1865
   - C 1990

   Before ☐ After ☐

2. What were Hoovervilles?
   - A Banks owned by Hoover
   - B Towns of shacks built by homeless families
   - C Army camps for veterans

   Before ☐ After ☐

3. Which president started the New Deal?
   - A Herbert Hoover
   - B Abraham Lincoln
   - C Franklin D. Roosevelt

   Before ☐ After ☐

4. Which problem hit farms on the Great Plains?
   - A Drought and dust storms
   - B Floods from a hurricane
   - C Too many workers

   Before ☐ After ☐

5. What helped end the Depression?
   - A A new gold rush
   - B Making goods for World War II
   - C Closing all the banks

   Before ☐ After ☐

One thing I already know about the Great Depression is...

PREVIEW

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My name _____ Date _____

Words to Know



Write the letter of each meaning.

1	drought		A	A town of shacks built by homeless families in the early 1930s.
2	unemployment		B	A long time when business is very slow and many people have no jobs.
3	relief		C	Help, such as food, money or jobs, for people in need.
4	depression		D	Not having a job when you want to work.
5	New Deal		E	President Roosevelt's plan of programs for relief, recovery and reform.
6	Hooverville		F	A place where people buy and sell small pieces of companies, called shares.
7	veteran		G	A long time with very little rain.
8	stock market		H	A person who served in the armed forces.

Use two of the words in one sentence about the Great Depression.

PREVIEW

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My name _____ Date _____

Reading 2B: Hard Times



Read the story. Then write the main idea and why it mattered.

1930 to 1935

By 1933, about one out of every four workers had no job. Families who could not pay rent lost their homes. Many built shacks from scrap wood and metal on empty land at the edge of cities. People called these towns Hoovervilles, after President Herbert Hoover, whom many blamed for the hard times. In the summer of 1932, thousands of World War I veterans, called the Bonus Army, came to Washington, D.C. They asked Congress to pay their service bonus early. Congress refused, and Army troops led by General Douglas MacArthur forced the veterans out of their camp. On the Great Plains, a long drought in the 1930s dried up the land. Farmers had plowed up the grass that held the soil, so strong winds lifted it into huge dust storms. The region became known as the Dust Bowl, and many families left their farms to look for work, often traveling west to California.

Main idea: What is this reading mostly about?

Why it mattered: Why is this important to the story?

Check what you read. Write the letter in the box.

1. Why were the shack towns called Hoovervilles?
   - **A** They were built by Hoover's army.
   - **B** Hoover paid for every shack.
   - **C** Many people blamed President Hoover for the hard times.

2. What caused the dust storms of the Dust Bowl?
   - **A** A long drought and loose soil blown by strong winds
   - **B** Too much rain on the Great Plains
   - **C** A volcano in Oklahoma

PREVIEW

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My name _____ Date _____

Reading 2D: The End of the Depression



Read the story. Then write the main idea and why it mattered.

1939 to the early 1940s

The New Deal gave many people jobs and hope, but the Depression did not end quickly. In the late 1930s, unemployment was still high. In 1939, World War II began in Europe. The United States sold weapons and supplies to its allies, and factories began to hire more workers. After the United States entered the war in December 1941, the government ordered ships, planes, tanks and uniforms in huge numbers. Millions of men joined the armed forces, and millions of men and women took jobs in war factories. By the early 1940s, nearly everyone who wanted a job could find one. Many historians say that war production, more than the New Deal alone, finally ended the Great Depression. The New Deal did leave lasting changes, such as Social Security and bank insurance.

Main idea: What is this reading mostly about?

Why it mattered: Why is this important to the story?

Check what you read. Write the letter in the box.

1. Why did factories hire more workers after 1939?
   - **A** The nation needed war goods and supplies.
   - **B** The stock market crashed again.
   - **C** The CCC closed.

2. Which two changes from the New Deal lasted after the Depression?
   - **A** Hoovervilles and dust storms
   - **B** Social Security and bank insurance
   - **C** The Bonus Army and the crash

PREVIEW

My name _____ Date _____

Source B: A Radio Talk (paraphrase)



Read about the radio talk. Then answer the questions.

Source B

On March 12, 1933, a few days after he took office, President Roosevelt spoke to the nation by radio. It was the first Fireside Chat. The banks had been closed for several days, and many people were afraid to trust them. In plain words, he explained how banks work and said that the banks that were reopening had been checked and were safe. He asked people to stay calm and to work together. Many families listened around the radio.

Read this first: This is a paraphrase in modern words, not Roosevelt's own wording. Your textbook may show part of a real Fireside Chat.

1. Why did President Roosevelt speak to the nation by radio?

2. Why might people have been afraid to trust the banks?

3. How is a radio talk different from a newspaper story? Why might it reach more people?

PREVIEW

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My name _____ Date _____

Cause and Effect

Read each cause. Write what happened because of it.

A cause is why something happens. An effect is what happens because of it. The cause is already written for you.

Cause
Factories made more goods than people could afford to buy.

→ **Effect**

Cause
Many people bought stocks with borrowed money.

→ **Effect**

Cause
Thousands of banks failed in the early 1930s.

→ **Effect**

Cause
Drought and strong winds hit the Great Plains.

→ **Effect**

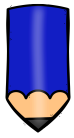
Which cause do you think mattered most? Why?

PREVIEW

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My name _____ Date _____

Comic Strip, Part A



Draw each part of the story. Write what people say.

Tell the story in pictures. Use the readings to help you.

1 The boom, 1920s

Draw a family with a new car or radio.

What people say:

2 The crash, 1929

Draw worried people reading a newspaper.

What people say:

3 A bank closes

Draw people at a locked bank door.

What people say:

4 A Hooverville

Draw shacks built from scrap wood.

What people say:

PREVIEW

My name _____ Date _____

Think It Through A

Answer each question in full sentences.

Use facts from the readings to answer.

1. Why did the stock market crash of 1929 lead to so many other problems?

2. What was life like in a Hooverville? Why did people live there?

3. What did the Bonus Army ask for, and how did the government answer?

PREVIEW

My name _____ Date _____

My Paragraph

Write your paragraph. Use your plan.

Check your plan first: ☐ **claim** ☐ **evidence** ☐ **reasoning**

Write one paragraph. Start with your claim. Add your evidence. Then explain it. End with a sentence that ties back to the question.

PREVIEW

Preview - Bright Path Sped

My name _____ Date _____

Quiz, Part B

Read each one. Write the letter of the best answer.

Take your time. Guess if you are not sure.

7 Who won the presidential election of 1932?

A Herbert Hoover
B Franklin D. Roosevelt
C Woodrow Wilson

8 What were Fireside Chats?

A Radio talks by President Roosevelt
B Parties at the White House
C Army orders

9 Which program built dams and brought electricity to the Tennessee Valley?

A CCC
B WPA
C TVA

10 Which law set up pensions for older workers in 1935?

A The Social Security Act
B The Bonus Act
C The Stock Market Act

11 What did the WPA do?

A Insured bank savings
B Hired workers to build roads, bridges and schools
C Sold shares of stock

12 What finally brought nearly full employment?

A A new stock market boom
B Closing the Hoovervilles
C War production in World War II

PREVIEW

Preview - Bright Path Sped

My name _____ Date _____

Cut and Paste 2

Cut out the six pieces. Paste each one in the right box.

These ideas are not real quotes. Paste each one in the box for the president who would agree with it.

Herbert Hoover (president 1929 to 1933)	Franklin D. Roosevelt (president 1933 to 1945)

PREVIEW

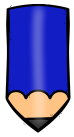
Cut on the dashed lines: six pieces, two straight cuts across and two down.

The government should create jobs for people who cannot find work.	Businesses, charities and local groups should do most of the helping.	Talk to the people on the radio and explain the plan.
People should help themselves and each other before the government steps in.	Try many programs for relief, recovery and reform.	Try to keep the federal budget balanced.

Which idea was hardest to place? Why?

My name _____ Date _____

Exit Tickets



Answer the exit tickets before you leave.

Each ticket takes about two minutes. Your teacher may collect them at the door.

1. One thing I learned about the Great Depression today is...

2. Name one cause of the Great Depression and tell how it hurt people.

3. One question I still have about the 1930s is...

4. The New Deal program that helped people most was ___ because ___.

PREVIEW

Answer Key: Cut and Paste

The three cut-and-paste mats. Pieces are named by row and column in the cut grid.

Cut and Paste 1 page 27

Piece (row, column)	Box
r1 c1: Factories made more goods than …	Why it happened
r1 c2: Thousands of banks failed.	What happened next
r1 c3: Millions of people lost their …	What happened next
r2 c1: People bought stocks with borrowed …	Why it happened
r2 c2: Families built shacks called Hoovervilles.	What happened next
r2 c3: Farmers grew more than they …	Why it happened

Cut and Paste 2 page 28

Piece (row, column)	Box
r1 c1: The government should create jobs …	Franklin D. Roosevelt
r1 c2: Businesses, charities and local groups …	Herbert Hoover
r1 c3: Talk to the people on …	Franklin D. Roosevelt
r2 c1: People should help themselves and …	Herbert Hoover
r2 c2: Try many programs for relief, …	Franklin D. Roosevelt
r2 c3: Try to keep the federal …	Herbert Hoover

Reading the sort keys

Read each strip left to right, top row first. Cut and Paste 2 uses ideas written for this file, not real quotes. On Cut and Paste 3 the three boxes are periods of time, so each piece goes in the box that holds its date.

Cut and Paste 3: Timeline Sort page 29

Piece (row, column)	Box
r1 c1: October 1929: The stock market …	Crash and Hard Times
r1 c2: 1920s: Many families buy cars …	The Boom Years
r1 c3: 1935: Congress passes the Social …	Roosevelt and the New Deal
r1 c4: 1932: Veterans of the Bonus …	Crash and Hard Times
r2 c1: 1920s: Factories make more goods …	The Boom Years
r2 c2: Early 1940s: War production puts …	Roosevelt and the New Deal
r2 c3: Early 1930s: Families build Hoovervilles.	Crash and Hard Times
r2 c4: 1928: Herbert Hoover is elected …	The Boom Years
r3 c1: 1933: The CCC puts young …	Roosevelt and the New Deal
r3 c2: Early 1930s: Thousands of banks …	Crash and Hard Times
r3 c3: March 1933: Roosevelt takes office …	Roosevelt and the New Deal
r3 c4: 1920s: Millions of people buy …	The Boom Years

PREVIEW

Answer Key: Written Answers

Think It Through A and B (pages 21, 22) and the source pages (13, 14). These are samples, not the only right answers.

Think It Through

#	Starts with	A good answer includes
1	Why did the stock market …	Investors lost money and could not repay loans. Banks lost money and failed, people lost their savings, businesses closed and workers lost their jobs.
2	What was life like in …	Families who had lost their homes built shacks from scrap wood and metal at the edge of cities, because they had no money for rent.
3	What did the Bonus Army …	Veterans asked for early payment of their service bonus. Congress refused, and Army troops forced them out of their camp in 1932.
4	What caused the Dust Bowl?	A long drought plus plowed-up prairie grass left loose soil, and strong winds blew it into dust storms.
5	How were the ideas of …	Hoover thought businesses, charities and local groups should do most of the helping. Roosevelt used the federal government to give relief, jobs and reform through the New Deal.
6	Choose one New Deal program. …	Open answer. For example: the CCC gave young men jobs planting trees and building trails; the FDIC protected savings in banks; the WPA hired workers to build roads, bridges and schools.

Sources

#	Starts with	A good answer includes
A1	Why can the family no …	There has been no rain for almost two years, wind blows the dry soil away, the wheat died and the bank wants payment.
A2	What is the family going …	Pack the truck and go west to California to look for work picking fruit.
A3	How do you think Millie …	Open answer. Look for worry or sadness backed by a detail, such as dust in the food, selling the cows or "I do not know what we will find."
B1	Why did President Roosevelt speak …	To explain what was happening with the banks in plain words and to calm people's fears.
B2	Why might people have been …	Open answer. Look for the idea that many banks had failed and people had lost their savings.
B3	How is a radio talk …	Open answer. Look for: radio reached many homes at once, people heard a voice, and it felt personal.

Sample: Claim, Evidence, Reasoning (page 23)

- **Claim:** The failure of thousands of banks made the Great Depression worse.
- **Evidence:** Bank deposits were not insured, so people who had savings in failed banks lost them. With less money to spend, people bought less, and more businesses closed and more workers lost their jobs.
- **Reasoning:** When people cannot spend, businesses earn less and cut jobs, which leaves even less money to spend. This cycle made the hard times last longer, and it is one reason the New Deal started the FDIC to protect savings.
- Any problem named in the readings is a fair claim (overproduction, stocks bought on borrowed money, bank failures, drought) if the evidence is true to the readings and the reasoning explains why.

Comic Strip (pages 19, 20) and Exit Tickets (page 30): what to look for

- **Comic:** eight panels in the order of the story, one detail from the readings in each picture, and words that say who is speaking.
- **Exit tickets:** a fact from the readings, a cause with a way it hurt people, a real question and a New Deal program with a reason.

PREVIEW

Team Note

Use this page between team meetings or when a student moves classes, to hand off what changed without writing a note from scratch. Everything below is observable, with a blank for the number or the wording your team already uses.

Student _____ Team member _____ Date _____

Page type	Covered since last note (Y/N)	Items right	Still blank
Before and After Check			
Readings			
Words to Know			
Timeline			
Quiz			
Cut and paste			

What I saw (observable, not a conclusion)

- Named the main idea of ___ of ___ readings without a prompt.
- Put the events in order on ___ of ___ (page 29).
- Used a fact from a reading or a source in the claim, evidence and reasoning pages (23, 24): yes / no / with a reminder.
- Explained what a Hooverville or a Fireside Chat was in their own words: yes / no.

Next step

- Next page or set: ___, because ___ (what you saw).
- What to try in another class or at home: ___.
- What to keep doing because it is working: ___.
- Anything for the team meeting to decide: ___ (this page records what happened, never a label or a plan).

Summary, in one or two sentences, for whoever reads this next

A filled-in line, for reference

"Matched 6 of 8 words on Words to Know with no prompt on 10/3. Next step: act out relief and veteran with an example from the readings." That is the level of detail this page is built for. It matches the filled example on page 40.

PREVIEW

Jordan's Tracker (Invented Student)

Jordan T. is invented; nothing on this page describes a real student. The blank tracker is on page 36.

Student: Jordan T. (an invented student)

Teacher: Ms. Patel (invented)

Month: September to October

Page	Page type and set	Items	Right	Date	Notes
5	Before and After Check	5	3	9/22	Guessed the first answer
6	Before You Read	4	4	9/23	-
7	Words to Know	8	6	10/3	Mixed up relief and veteran
8	Reading 1: The Short Read	3	3	9/24	-
9	Reading 2A: Boom and Crash	2	2	9/25	-
10	Reading 2B: Hard Times	2	1	9/29	Mixed up the Bonus Army and Hoovervilles
11	Reading 2C: The New Deal	2	2	10/1	-
12	Reading 2D: The End of the Depression	2	-	-	-
15	Timeline: Dates	6	5	10/6	Swapped 1932 and 1933
16	New Deal Alphabet Soup	6	-	-	-
25	Quiz, Part A	6	-	-	-
26	Quiz, Part B	6	-	-	-
27	Cut and Paste 1	6	-	-	-
28	Cut and Paste 2	6	-	-	-
29	Cut and Paste 3: Timeline Sort	12	-	-	-

PREVIEW

How to read it

Jordan T. has done **8 of 15** scored pages and got **26 of 32** items right with no prompt. **4** pages were all right and **4** carry a note. Every number comes from the table.

What the table points to

The lowest page is Reading 2B: Hard Times (1 of 2). That is where the next practice goes. The 7 pages left blank are not tried yet, never wrong.

Binder Cover

Slide this into the front of a binder. Type a name in the two fields or write it by hand. The divider tabs and a spine label to cut out are on the next page (page 43).

Social Studies - U.S. History

THE GREAT DEPRESSION

Readings, Sources and Practice

The Boom | **The Crash** | **Hard Times**

Dust Bowl | **The New Deal**

Teacher _____

Class or student _____

PREVIEW