

CHAPTER 26

Boom and Bust

(1920–1939)



Ma Ferguson was a popular governor despite charges of corruption in her administration.

Republican Herbert Hoover won the majority of Texas votes for president in 1928.



1920 Governor William Hobby breaks a dockworkers' strike in Galveston.



TEXAS

1924 Texans elect Miriam A. "Ma" Ferguson as the state's first female governor.

1926 Automobile registrations reach 1 million.

1928 For the first time in the state's history, the majority of Texans vote for a Republican presidential candidate—Herbert Hoover.

1920

U.S. and
WORLD



1920 The Nineteenth Amendment is ratified, giving women the right to vote.

1922

1922 Americans spend some \$60 million on radios.

1924

1924 Jazz music reaches a wider audience with the first public performance of George Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue*.

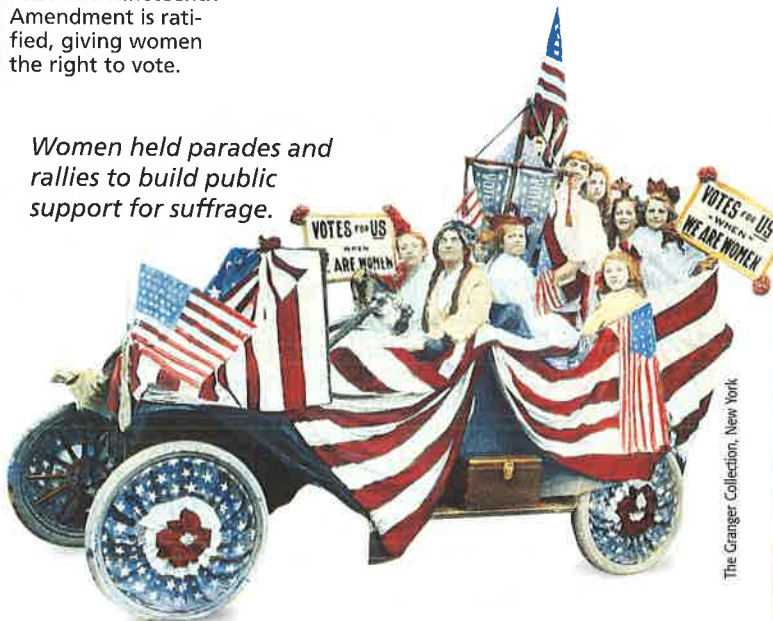
1926

1926 The United States imports some \$4.4 billion worth of goods.

1928

1929 The U.S. stock market crashes, leading to business failures and massive unemployment.

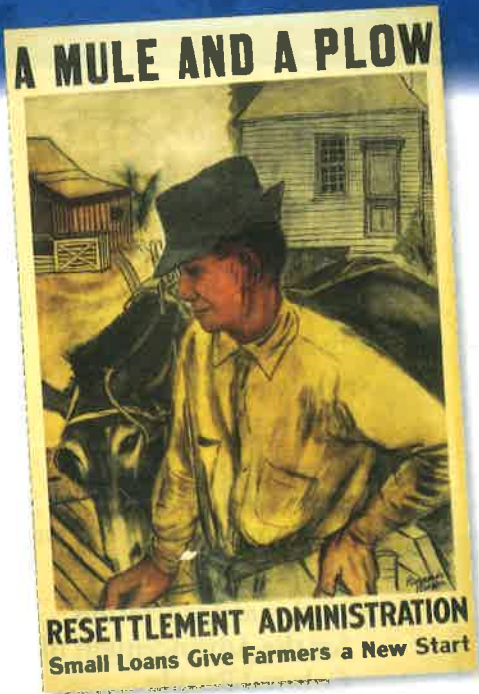
Women held parades and rallies to build public support for suffrage.



The Granger Collection, New York

Build on What You Know


Texas had become increasingly urbanized during the early 1900s. The Texas economy had expanded to meet the military's needs during World War I. But the postwar period brought social unrest and economic troubles. Although some enjoyed boom times in the 1920s, hard times lay ahead.



During the Great Depression the U.S. government established programs to help farmers.



The Texas Centennial was celebrated with a world's fair in Dallas.

1930	1932	1934	1936	1938
 <p>1932 U.S. voters choose Democrat Franklin D. Roosevelt to be their next president.</p>	<p>1932 Some 300,000 Texans are unemployed.</p>	<p>1934 James V Allred is elected governor of Texas.</p>	<p>1936 Texas celebrates the 100th anniversary of the Texas Revolution.</p>	<p>1938 Texans elect W. Lee "Pappy" O'Daniel as governor.</p>

Franklin D. Roosevelt won wide support from Americans who were unhappy with President Hoover's policies.

If you were there . . .
How would you help others during an economic depression?

You Be the Historian



What's Your Opinion? Do you **agree** or **disagree** with the following statements? Support your point of view in your journal.

- **Economics** War affects industries but not the agricultural economy.
- **Geography** Farmers change the environment, without any environmental consequences.
- **Citizenship** To fight for equal rights is an act of civic responsibility.



The Transition to Peace

Read to Discover

1. In what ways did World War I affect Texas?
2. What steps were taken to protect the civil rights of Texans following World War I?
3. Why was Miriam A. "Ma" Ferguson a controversial governor?

Why It Matters Today

Civil rights organizations became active in Texas during the 1920s. Use CNNfyi.com or other **current events** sources to learn about civil and human rights organizations today. Record your findings in your journal.

Define

- demobilization
- primary election
- white primary

Identify

- Pat Neff
- Miriam A. "Ma" Ferguson
- Dan Moody
- National Association for the Advancement of Colored People
- Lawrence A. Nixon
- League of United Latin American Citizens

The Story Continues

A crisis hit Galveston on March 19, 1920. A national dockworkers' strike that had swept down the East Coast had reached the Texas port. In the days that followed, Texans anxiously waited as they heard reports of beatings and even shootings. Governor William Hobby took action and declared martial law. National Guard troops shut down the city and watched as workers loaded 8,700 tons of freight that had been sitting on the docks.



Galveston dockworkers used pulleys to lift heavy bales of cotton and other cargo.



Demobilization and Labor Unrest

The dockworkers were struggling to make ends meet in the slowing U.S. economy that followed World War I. During the war, farms and factories had increased production to keep up with the U.S. military's needs. Many Texans had moved from farms to cities to take jobs in industries that were offering high wages to attract workers. When the war ended, the United States began the process of **demobilization**, or moving from a wartime to a peacetime economy. Soldiers returning home needed jobs, often displacing female and African American workers who had taken jobs in industry during the war. As military spending

was cut, the economy slowed and competition for jobs increased. Some businesses laid off workers or reduced wages, creating hardships for many workers.

In 1919 some 4 million American workers went on strike for higher wages and better working conditions. Texas had its share of labor troubles. Two years after the Galveston dockworkers' strike, a railroad strike erupted in Denison and other Texas towns. **Pat Neff**, whom Texans had elected governor in 1920, declared martial law. Order was soon restored, and the railroad workers returned to their jobs.

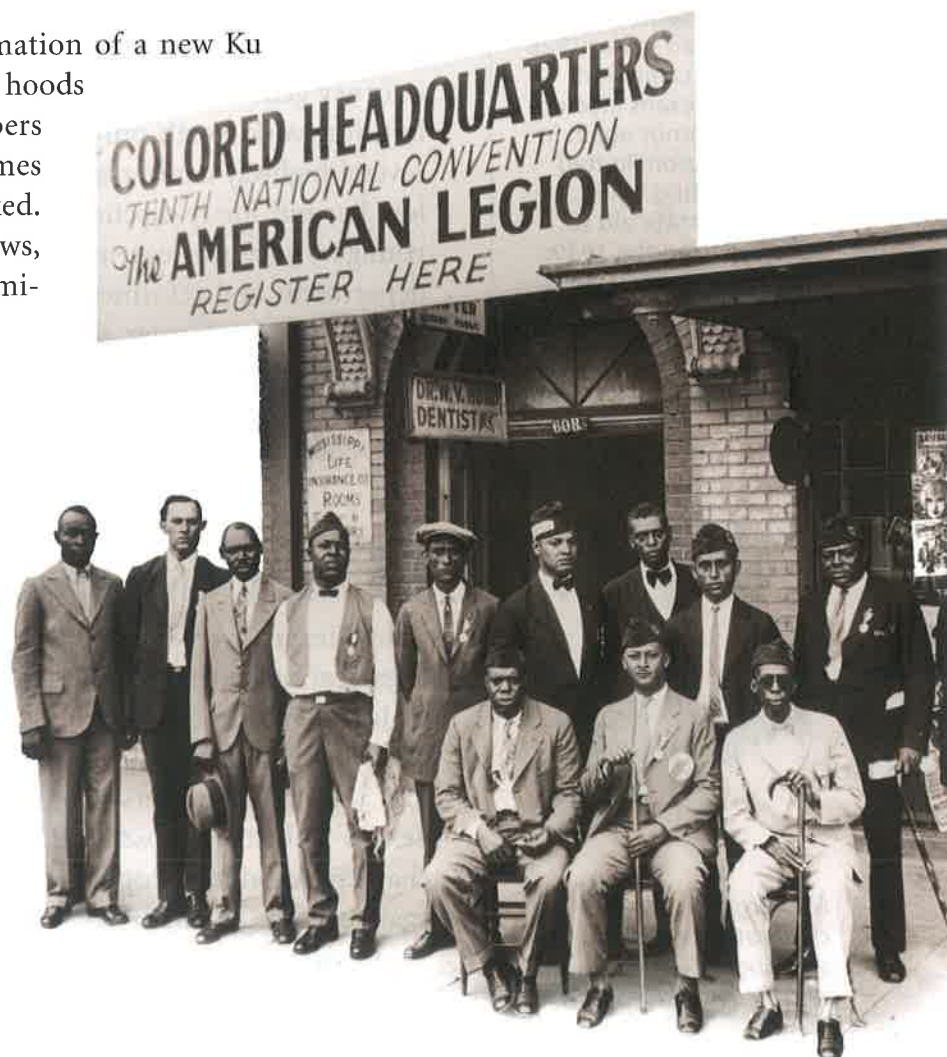
Labor issues were not the only challenges Texans encountered. During World War I various groups had faced discrimination. Because the United States was fighting Germany, some Americans turned against everything German. For example, in 1919 Governor Hobby vetoed a bill to provide money for the German department at the University of Texas. Racial tension had also increased. African Americans made up some 31,000 of the nearly 200,000 Texans who served in the war. When black soldiers who were serving their country began demanding equal rights, many white Texans responded angrily. A riot in Houston involving African American soldiers and local residents resulted in 20 deaths. On questionable evidence, 19 soldiers were hanged for their part in the conflict.

Violence increased with the formation of a new Ku Klux Klan in the early 1920s. Wearing hoods to hide their identities, Klan members threatened, attacked, and sometimes murdered people whom they disliked. They targeted African Americans, Jews, Roman Catholics, and recent immigrants. The Klan became a powerful political force in Texas. It helped elect mayors, members of the legislature, and U.S. senator Earle Mayfield. Many law enforcement officials had Klan connections. As one black Texan recalled, "A person couldn't trust nobody. Even the law was hooked up with them a lot of the time." In the mid-1920s internal disagreements and growing opposition to the Klan led to a decline in its power and influence in Texas.

Reading Check Analyzing Information What challenges did Texans face after World War I?

Interpreting the Visual Record


African American veterans. Some African Americans who served in World War I returned to Texas to find discrimination and a slowing economy. Why might African American veterans join veterans organizations?



Biography



Miriam A. "Ma" Ferguson (1875–1961)

Miriam Amanda Wallace was born in Bell County, Texas. In 1899 she married James Ferguson, who became governor of Texas in 1915. At first, Miriam Ferguson showed little interest in politics. She ran for governor in 1924 only because her husband could not. After a controversial first term, Ferguson was defeated in her 1926 re-election campaign. However, Texans elected her as governor again in 1932. Ferguson limited state spending while increasing state aid to Texans during the 1930s. Ferguson ran for a third term in 1940. **What actions did Ferguson take in her second term?** 



Ma Ferguson's supporters celebrated her election by wearing inauguration pins and other festive items.

★ The Ferguson Administration

The influence of the Ku Klux Klan was a major issue in the 1924 governor's election. Candidate **Miriam A. "Ma" Ferguson** took a strong stand against the Klan. During the campaign she also promised Texans "two governors for the price of one." James E. Ferguson, her husband and campaign manager, had been governor from 1915 to 1917. Because he had been impeached and removed from office, he could not run for governor again. Nonetheless, the Fergusons were popular among many Texans. Reporters referred to Miriam Ferguson as Ma, and James Ferguson as Pa. Miriam Ferguson won the election, becoming the first female governor of Texas and the second female governor in U.S. history.

Miriam Ferguson was a controversial governor. Critics accused her husband of using his wife's influence to sell pardons to raise money. She pardoned more than 1,000 prisoners, many more than other Texas governors had pardoned. Unlike other governors of the 1920s, Ferguson did little to help education. For example, William Hobby's administration had led the effort to have the state provide students with free textbooks. Governor Neff had signed a bill creating Texas Technological College, now Texas Tech University, which opened in Lubbock in 1925.

Critics also accused the Fergusons of giving Highway Department contracts to friends instead of to the lowest bidder. In one lawsuit, Texas attorney general **Dan Moody** charged that the state was paying \$7 million for work worth only \$2 million. As a result of Moody's actions, several highway contracts were changed or canceled. In 1926 Ferguson lost her bid for re-election to Moody. At age 33, Moody became the youngest governor ever elected in Texas. He reorganized the highway department and reformed the prison system. He also appointed Jane McCallum, a reformer active in child care, education, and women's rights, as secretary of state. Moody easily won re-election in 1928.

 **Reading Check Finding the Main Idea** How was the election of Miriam Ferguson a first in Texas history?

★ Early Civil Rights Efforts

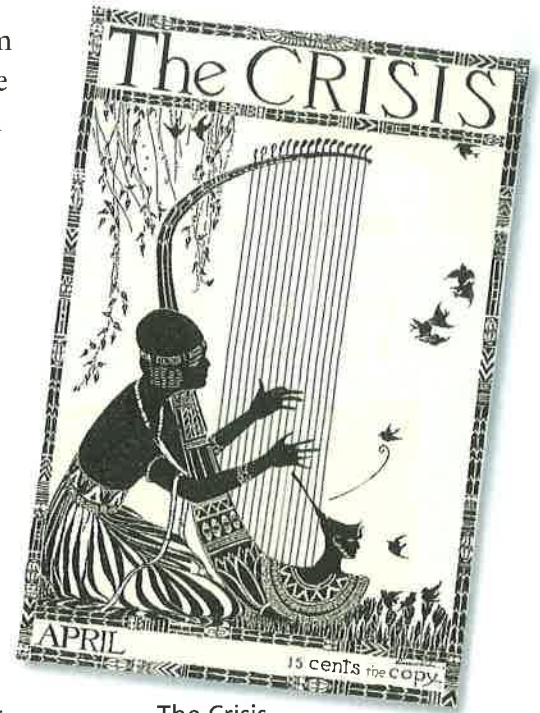
Many Texans were becoming politically active by joining civil rights organizations such as the **National Association for the Advancement of Colored People** (NAACP). Founded in New York City in 1909, the NAACP opened its first Texas chapter in El Paso in 1915. The state soon had 31 NAACP chapters claiming some 7,000 members. However, many Texans violently opposed the NAACP's efforts. By 1923 only five Texas chapters remained in operation. Only in the late 1930s did the NAACP again become an important force in Texas.

In the 1920s many politically active African Americans centered their efforts on gaining voting rights. Texas had used a variety of

methods—including a poll tax—to stop African Americans from voting. In 1923 a new law barred black Texans from voting in the Democratic **primary election**, which selected candidates to run in the later general election. Because the Republican Party was weak in Texas, this **white primary** effectively prevented African Americans from voting. When **Lawrence A. Nixon**, a black doctor from El Paso, was not allowed to vote in a Democratic primary in 1924, he filed suit against the state. The U.S. Supreme Court struck down the Texas law in 1927. The Texas legislature then gave the Democratic State Committee the power to exclude African Americans from primary elections. This move barred black Texans from voting for years to come.

African Americans faced discrimination in other areas. Teacher Lula Byars described her school. “I remember . . . nailing a piece of cardboard over the window to keep the cold wind out.” African American newspapers such as the *Dallas Express* and the *San Antonio Register* called for an end to discrimination. Clifford Richardson of the *Houston Informer and Texas Freeman* and other black editors wrote editorials attacking racial violence.

Mexican Americans also struggled for equal rights. They were discriminated against in hotels, restaurants, and schools. In some counties, Mexican Americans could not vote in the Democratic primary. As one woman later recalled, “We Mexicanos had to fight for everything we ever had, even the right to go to school.” To fight for their rights, Mexican Americans organized the **League of United Latin American Citizens** (LULAC) in Corpus Christi in 1929. It soon became the best-known Mexican American civil rights organization in the nation.



The Crisis, a monthly magazine published by the NAACP, documented cases of racial inequality and discrimination.

★ Reading Check Summarizing Describe the civil rights efforts of various groups in Texas during the 1920s.

Section 1 Review **TEKS** Questions 3, 4a, 5 **go.hrw.com Homework Practice Online** keyword: ST3 HP26

1 Define and explain:

- demobilization
- primary election
- white primary

2 Identify and explain:

- Pat Neff
- Miriam A. “Ma” Ferguson
- Dan Moody
- National Association for the Advancement of Colored People
- Lawrence A. Nixon
- League of United Latin American Citizens

3 Sequencing

Copy the chart below. Use it to discuss some of the significant actions Texas governors took during the 1920s, and the order in which they occurred.



4 Finding the Main Idea

- Describe civil rights efforts in Texas after World War I.
- What problems arose during Miriam Ferguson’s administration?

5 Writing and Critical Thinking **TAKS**

Summarizing Write a paragraph explaining how World War I affected Texans economically, socially, and politically.

Consider the following:

- the wartime boom and demobilization
- civil rights efforts

Economic and Cultural Change

Read to Discover

1. What Texas industries boomed during the 1920s?
2. How did the boom-and-bust cycle affect Texas farmers?
3. How did life change in Texas during the Jazz Age?

Why It Matters Today

Consumer goods became an important part of the Texas and U.S. economies during the 1920s. Use CNfyi.com or other **current events** sources to learn about how a consumer item affects people today. Record your findings in your journal.

Define

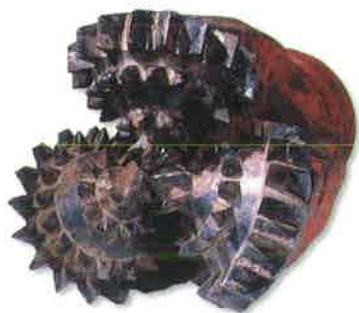
- blues
- consumer goods

Identify

- C. M. “Dad” Joiner

The Story Continues

The oil workers could not decide where to place the old, worn-out rig to begin drilling. Mrs. Daisy Bradford, who owned the land, had suggested they move the rig downhill. When the rig reached the bottom of the hill, Mrs. Bradford shouted, “Stop boys. Drill right there.” Although she did not know it at the time, Mrs. Bradford had chosen a spot that would yield one of the greatest oil strikes in Texas history.



Oil workers used rotary drill bits to drill hundreds of feet to reach oil deposits.

★ Economic Growth

The oil boom that had boosted the Texas economy since the Spindletop strike in 1901 continued into the 1920s. New fields were discovered during and just after World War I at Ranger and Burkburnett. Other fields opened at Big Spring, Borger, and Mexia, and a discovery in Nueces County led Corpus Christi to become a major port for oil products. One of the biggest oil discoveries in Texas history was made by a wild-catter named **C. M. “Dad” Joiner**. He had leased land in East Texas from Daisy Bradford. In October 1930 his third well—the Daisy Bradford No. 3—“blew in,” opening one of the largest oil fields in the world. The East Texas oil field extended from Henderson and Kilgore to Longview and Gladewater. By midsummer 1931 this oil field produced some 900,000 barrels of oil per day. In 1933 it produced more than 216 million barrels, accounting for more than 20 percent of U.S. oil production.

Oil discoveries made fortunes for a number of other Texans, including Howard Hughes, H. L. Hunt, Clint Murchison, and Sid Richardson. Hughes had developed a drill bit that could drill through very hard rock, allowing producers to reach previously unavailable oil reserves. Oil production in Texas increased as a result of this technological innovation. His son, Howard Hughes Jr., used the family wealth to become a leader in the aviation and filmmaking industries. Some Texans grew wealthy in the oil fields, but the work was hard, as one oilman recalled.

Texas Voices

“When I went to work for the Magnolia Petroleum Company in '27, we worked eighty-four hours a week.

We worked seven twelve-hour days with an occasional day off once or twice a month. . . . Most of the work was done with shovels, teams [of mules], and wagons, and a few trucks. And it took lots of men and lots of man-hours to do the work that we can do in a few hours today.”

—Bruce Turner, quoted in *Tales from the Derrick Floor*,
by Mody C. Boatright and William A. Owens

Cotton mills and clothing manufacturers also employed many Texans. Meatpacking and other industries that processed farm and ranch products continued to be important to the Texas economy.

★ Reading Check Analyzing Information What influence do you think Texas oil production had on local and national markets?



Hard Times for Farmers

Despite this industrial growth, most Texans still worked in agriculture. Farmers had expanded production to meet the military's demands during World War I. New irrigation methods, such as advanced windmills, made it possible to grow cotton and wheat in areas that were once too dry for farming, such as the Panhandle. As one farmer noted, “This land we’re standing on is just a crust over a great big underground lake [Ogallala Aquifer].” With its flat, treeless land, the Panhandle was well suited for large farm machines. Irrigation and mechanization increased West Texas cotton production from 51,000 bales in 1918 to 1.1 million in 1926. As farming boomed, Panhandle ranches were divided into small farms. By 1924, more than 2.3 million acres were being farmed in the Panhandle, up from just 45,000 acres in 1909.

As farming increased in the Panhandle, many ranchers moved their herds to the south and east. Central Texas, the Gulf Coast, and the Pecos River region became important ranching centers. In much of these areas topsoil was thin and rainfall was spotty, making farming difficult. Conditions were better for farming in some parts of South Texas. Farmers there planted vast citrus-fruit orchards that produced oranges, grapefruits, lemons, and limes.

Analyzing Primary Sources

Comparing How might new technologies make oil-field work today different from that described by Turner?



Biography

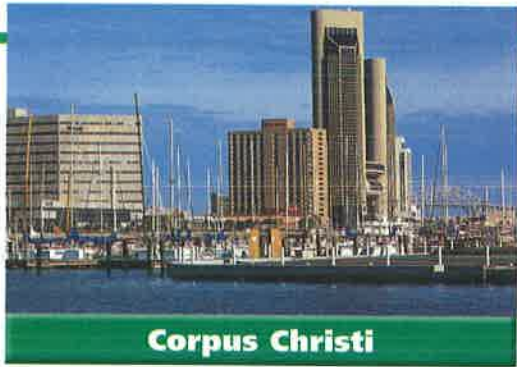


C. M. “Dad” Joiner (1860–1947)

Born in Alabama, Columbus Marion Joiner served in the Tennessee legislature before moving to Oklahoma Territory in 1897. Although trained as a lawyer, he became involved in the oil business. In 1926 he moved to Texas to search for oil. In Rusk County, Joiner struck oil on his third try in 1930. He earned the nickname “Dad” for being the “father” of the East Texas oil field he had discovered. By 1938 Joiner was worth some \$3 million. Joiner faced many legal problems, however, and lost much of his wealth.

How did C. M. “Dad” Joiner contribute to the economic development of Texas? **★ TEKS**

Texas Cities



History: In 1839 Henry L. Kinney established a trading house and ranch on the site of present-day Corpus Christi. Tourism and industry increased, and Corpus Christi grew rapidly.

Population in 2000: 277,454

Relative location: On the Gulf Coast at the mouth of the Nueces River

Region: Southern edge of the Gulf Coast Plain

County: County seat of Nueces County

Special feature: Largest city on the coastal bend

Origin of name: Legend has it that Álvarez de Pineda named the nearby bay Corpus Christi because he arrived there on the festival day of Corpus Christi, which is Latin for “body of Christ.”

Economy: Corpus Christi is a major port city. Ocean freighters and oil supertankers serve the entire South Texas area through Corpus Christi Bay. Industries include fishing, oil refining, and tourism.



The prosperity that most farmers enjoyed during World War I did not last. Growth in the use of synthetic, or artificial, fabrics hurt demand for cotton. Farmers soon grew more cotton than Americans wanted to buy. Overproduction meant lower prices and profits. In April 1920, cotton sold for 42 cents a pound. A year later, it sold for less than 10 cents a pound. Even as farmers received less money for their crops, the cost of operating farms was rising. Farmers had to invest in farm machinery, and land prices in the Panhandle increased. One West Texas farmer recorded his thoughts about the crisis in his diary.

Texas Voices

“Cotton down to 4 cents per pound. How can a man pay his debts and live at such prices. Things one has to have is as high as if cotton was 25 to 35 cents per lb. One can not pay his debts. I have nothing to show for my year’s work. Only some new debts.”

—William G. DeLoach, *Plains Farmer*, edited by Janet M. Neugebauer

★ Reading Check Identifying Cause and Effect
Describe the boom-and-bust cycle of farming during and following World War I, and explain why it occurred.

★ The Jazz Age in Texas

While cotton farmers were experiencing hard times, many Texans were enjoying the social changes brought by the 1920s. The decade has several nicknames including the “Jazz Age” and the “Roaring Twenties.” Jazz arose from the **blues**, a musical form with lyrics that often reflected the difficulties people faced in life. African American artists created jazz,

which soon became associated with the decade’s energy and excitement. Dances such as the bunny hug, the Charleston, and the fox-trot also became popular in the 1920s. In addition, families and friends liked attending baseball and football games. The development of a new technology—the radio—changed entertainment in Texas. Texans listened to music, news reports, and sports broadcasts. By the end of 1922 Texas had 25 commercial radio stations operating.

Texans also loved going to the movies, particularly westerns. Early films were in black and white and had no sound. A piano player or a phonograph typically provided music to accompany the scenes on the movie screen. It was not until 1927 that a movie with sound, *The Jazz*

Singer, was released. *Wings*, one of the five major movies filmed in Texas during the 1920s, won the first Academy Award for best motion picture.

Texans had more leisure time partly because of **consumer goods**—items intended for personal use—that made household tasks much easier. Electric sewing machines and household appliances such as refrigerators, toasters, and vacuum cleaners became more common in the 1920s. The demand for these and other consumer goods also led to the growing popularity of large department stores in cities such as Dallas and Houston.

One of the most popular consumer goods was the car. In 1916, Texans registered some 195,000 cars, a number that grew to 1 million just 10 years later. The automobile industry's growth boosted both demand for oil products and the Texas economy. Automobiles, trucks, and buses brought other economic changes to Texans. By using trucks to haul products to markets, farmers became less reliant on railroads. Bus lines competed with railroads for passengers. The popularity of cars soon created a need for more roads. In 1922 Governor Pat Neff called for "a big road building program for this State, not a little, sickly, puny one." The following year the Texas Highway Department received money from a tax on gasoline to build roads. Road construction moved slowly, however—in 1930 only 7,300 miles of paved roads crossed Texas.

Despite these advances, not all Texans were pleased with the changes the Jazz Age was bringing. Some worried that the automobile was destroying traditional values. Young people were more likely to drive around in the family car than to spend time with other family members. Texans also worried that people were drinking too much alcohol. As a result, many Texans supported prohibition, which was in effect throughout the 1920s until its repeal in 1933.

✓ **Reading Check Summarizing** How did life in Texas change during the Jazz Age?

CONNECTING TO Music

Texas Blues

The blues is a form of music that African Americans living in the South created in the late 1800s. Blues singers and performers drew upon both African and American musical traditions to create music that told of the suffering African Americans endured. Several Texans contributed to the development and popularity of the blues. Blind Lemon Jefferson performed in the Dallas area, and his records were popular in northern states. One of the most famous Texas bluesmen, Robert Johnson, came from Mississippi, but recorded his music in Dallas and San Antonio.

How does the blues reflect the cultural diversity of Texas? ★ TEKS



Section 2 Review



Questions 2, 3, 4a, 4b, 5

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keyword: ST3 HP26

1 Define and explain:

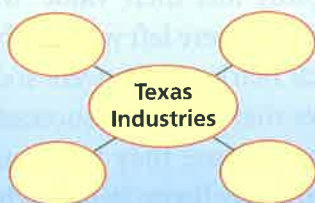
- blues
- consumer goods

2 Identify and explain:

- C. M. "Dad" Joiner

3 Summarizing

Copy the graphic organizer below. Use it to identify areas of the Texas economy that boomed during the 1920s.



4 Finding the Main Idea

- How did new forms of entertainment and the demand for consumer goods bring changes to life in Texas?
- What effect did the demand for automobiles have on the Texas oil industry?

5 Writing and Critical Thinking

Evaluating Imagine that you are a Texas farmer in the 1920s. Write a diary entry describing how the boom-and-bust cycle of Texas agriculture has affected you. Consider the following:

- the boom during World War I
- the fall in cotton prices in the 1920s



The Great Depression

Read to Discover

1. How did the Great Depression affect life in Texas?
2. How did Texans respond to the crisis?
3. What caused the Dust Bowl, and how did it affect Texans?

Why It Matters Today

The U.S. economy greatly affected the lives of Texans during the 1920s and 1930s. Use CNNfyi.com or other **current events** sources to learn about the U.S. economy today. Record your findings in your journal.

Define

- stocks
- soup kitchens
- breadlines
- scrip
- proration

Identify

- Great Depression
- Ross Sterling
- Dust Bowl

The Story Continues

At stockbrokers' offices throughout the United States, boys posted cards displaying the latest stock prices from the New York Stock Exchange. On one day in October 1929, they could not keep up with the changing prices. At the end of the day, the reporting of stock prices had fallen more than an hour behind. Investors had no idea what the values of their stocks were. They did know one thing for certain—prices were falling faster than anyone had ever seen before.



Stock tickers recorded the dropping stock prices during the crash of 1929.



An Economic Crisis

Companies sell **stocks**—shares of ownership—to raise money. Many people buy stocks hoping to sell them later and make a profit. During the 1920s the price of many stocks rose steeply. Many Americans began to speculate, buying stocks in an attempt to make a quick profit. Then in late October 1929, a panic spread at the New York Stock Exchange as people rushed to sell their stocks. This panic led to a stock market crash. Thousands of shares rapidly lost their value. Many people who had invested their savings in stocks were left with nothing.

The effects of the stock market crash were soon felt throughout the United States. Many banks that had been successful in Texas and other states were forced to close because they had made too many loans to people who now could not repay them. People who had savings in these

banks sometimes lost all of their money. As people lost their savings, they bought less. Businesses began laying off workers to reduce expenses. Workers who were unemployed, or without work, could not buy as much food, clothing, or other goods as they once had. When demand for these goods fell, business was hurt even more. As this cycle continued, the economic slowdown became a depression.

During the first year of the depression, many people believed the economy would improve quickly. A Houston newspaper editor dismissed the stock market crash. “The changes in stock prices are purely an affair of and for the stock speculators.” This optimistic spirit did not last long, however. The global economic slowdown in the 1930s was so severe that it became known as the **Great Depression**. Millions of people throughout the world became unemployed. By 1933 some 15 million American workers were unemployed and millions of families were on relief, or public assistance. Thousands of families lost their homes, and many people had to beg for money on the streets.

Governor **Ross Sterling** announced in 1932 that some 300,000 Texans were unemployed. African Americans and Mexican Americans were hit particularly hard. They were often the first to be laid off from work so that white employees could keep their jobs. As a result, many Mexican Americans returned to Mexico. Two San Antonio women later described life during the depression.

Texas Voices

“Some of us had lost our homes which were nearly paid for, had sold our furniture, piece by piece, our jewelry, and even most of our clothes, hoping against hope that something in the way of a job would materialize [appear].”

—Stella Boone and Ethel Stringer, quoted in *Women of the Depression*, by Julia Kirk Blackwelder

★ Reading Check Finding the Main Idea How were the banking industry and the production of goods and services in Texas affected by the boom-and-bust cycle after the stock market crashed?

That's

Interesting!

Hoover Hogs

The nine-banded armadillo is the only species of armadillo found in North America. During the Great Depression, some Texans were so poor that they ate armadillos. They referred to these animals as Hoover hogs, after President Hoover. Texans made armadillo shells into souvenirs ranging from baskets to lamp shades. In 1981 the armadillo was made the state mascot by executive decree.



Dallas Museum of Art, Otis Dozier, *The Annual Move*, 1985.125



Interpreting the Visual Record

Effects of the depression. This painting, entitled *The Annual Move*, shows a depression-era family being forced to move. Based on the landscape, how do you think the family's harvest might have affected their situation?



The Great Depression left many Texans out of work and seeking relief.

★ The Depression in Texas

The depression was somewhat less severe in Texas than it was in many other states. Most Texas farmers could at least feed their own families, and the oil industry continued to provide many jobs. Texans' need for assistance grew as the depression continued. Churches and private organizations tried to help as many people as possible, setting up **soup kitchens** and **breadlines** to give out food. Charitable organizations also donated clothing and provided shelters. Basic necessities were scarce, as one Texan recalled.

Texas Voices

“People around here just didn’t have much money for anything, including clothes. During that time, people used cloth feed sacks to make garments to wear. People that had those sacks . . . made clothes for their children. All of our children’s underwear was made out of the sacks.”

—Monroe Brannon, quoted in *The Loblolly Book II*, edited by Thad Sitton and Lincoln King

The Red Cross helped some 3,000 people in Dickens County—a county of fewer than 9,000 residents. However, charitable organizations could not assist everyone who needed aid. As the depression deepened, many Texans and other Americans grew frightened and angry.

Local governments also struggled to deal with the Great Depression. To reduce spending, many cities and counties cut jobs. One Texan complained, “This thing of cutting salaries and laying off employees, is one of the main things that has brought on this depression era.” Local governments also issued **scrip**, or paper notes, to save money. These paper notes were a promise to pay at a later date. For example, teachers in San Antonio received scrip for their salary. Such measures did little to help the Texas economy or to boost confidence.

President Herbert Hoover and Governor Ross Sterling—like many Texans—opposed government programs such as unemployment relief because they worried about destroying individuals’ self-reliance. They supported limited government aid to businesses. They believed that once businesses had recovered, new jobs would be created and the economy would revive. However, Texans and other Americans grew increasingly unhappy with these policies as the depression continued.

★ **Reading Check Summarizing** How did the Great Depression affect Texans?

CONNECTING TO ECONOMICS AND MATH

Texans at Work

Texans worked in a variety of industries during the Great Depression. Create a pie chart of the jobs Texans had in 1930.

INDUSTRY	NUMBER EMPLOYED
Agriculture	838,571
Manufacturing and mechanical	386,184
Trade	260,399

Interpreting Data ★ TEKS

- How many more people worked in agriculture than in the second leading Texas industry?
- How do you think life in Texas was affected by the types of work Texans did during the Great Depression?

★ A Crisis in the Oil Industry

As the depression deepened, the Texas oil industry faced a crisis. The East Texas oil discovery led to overproduction. The price of oil dropped from more than \$1 per barrel to a dangerously low 8 cents per barrel. These low prices threatened to ruin profits and the Texas oil industry.

The Causes of the Dust Bowl

The Dust Bowl was caused by both physical and human factors. The drought and dust storms resulted in millions of dollars in damage.

Grazing cattle ate away most of the native grasses that held the soil in place.



Farmers in the 1920s plowed up much of the Great Plains to grow wheat.





Drought struck the region in the 1930s.




With nothing to protect the dry soil, winds blew it away, creating huge dust storms. The dust and drought ruined farmers' crops and killed cattle.



Visualizing History

- 1. Geography** How did physical factors combine with human factors—like farming and ranching practices—to cause the Dust Bowl? 
- 2. Connecting to Today** What measures would you recommend to help people who change the environment avoid another Dust Bowl? 

Governor Ross Sterling tried to get producers to limit production, but had little success. In August 1931 he declared martial law in four East Texas counties. He sent in the National Guard to enforce **proration**, or the proportionate division of oil production. Under proration, each well could produce only a certain amount of oil each day. Oil producers complained that the state government had no right to tell them how to use their property. In response, the state legislature passed laws granting the Railroad Commission more authority to regulate the oil industry. These laws helped prevent overproduction, thereby increasing stability within the oil industry.

 **Reading Check Analyzing Information** How did the boom-and-bust economic cycle affect the Texas oil industry?

★ The Dust Bowl and Farmers

Although Texas farmers could grow much of their own food, the depression hit them hard economically. Farmers had experienced difficult times during the 1920s, but life grew even harder during the 1930s. Crop prices continued to drop. In 1932, cotton sold for less than six cents a pound. Prices fell so low that some farmers burned their crops.

YEARS OF DUST



RESETTLEMENT ADMINISTRATION
Rescues Victims
Restores Land to Proper Use

Many farmers were forced to move from the Panhandle because of dust storms.

As one newspaper noted, “There is no waste in burning something that . . . is hardly worth hauling to town.”

An environmental disaster made matters worse. Ranching and farming were changing the environment. Cattle grazing had already damaged the native grasses that held the soil in place. In the 1920s farmers in Texas and other states plowed up much of the Great Plains to grow wheat. Wheat did not hold the soil as well as the native grasses. Then drought struck in the 1930s, leaving the soil dry and loose. When the spring winds came, they lifted the soil into the air, creating huge clouds of dust. The worst of these storms were called black blizzards, with walls of dirt reaching more than a mile high. In 1935 Amarillo suffered a black blizzard that blocked out the sun for more than 11 hours. One Amarillo resident remembered seeing a huge dark cloud approaching.

Texas Voices

“We were running . . . toward home when the wind hit, pelting our bare legs with gravel. We choked and gasped . . . as the air thickened with brown dust. . . . Just as we reached my front porch everything went completely black. The porchlight was consumed by the blackness. We couldn’t see each other’s faces. We couldn’t see our own hands. I remember gasping, ‘I can’t breathe.’”

—Pauline Robertson, *Panhandle Pilgrimage*

Analyzing Primary Sources

Evaluating Based on this eyewitness account, how did changes to the environment affect the Panhandle?

Parts of the southern Great Plains soon came to be called the **Dust Bowl**. Drought and dust ruined crops, and thousands of cattle died. Many cattle ranchers struggled financially during this time. One third of Panhandle farm families received charity or relief. About 90 percent of the local farmers had to take out crop loans to be able to buy necessities.

Reading Check Finding the Main Idea How did weather affect the Panhandle and Texas farmers and ranchers during the Great Depression?

Section 3 Review

TEKS Questions 3, 4a, 4b, 5

go.hrw.com Homework Practice Online

keyword: ST3 HP26

1 Define and explain:

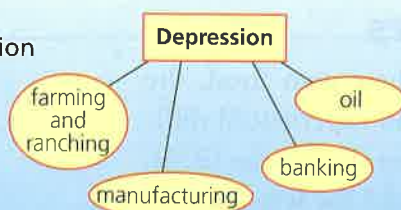
- stocks
- soup kitchens
- breadlines
- scrip
- proration

2 Identify and explain:

- Great Depression
- Ross Sterling
- Dust Bowl

3 Analyzing Information

Copy the graphic organizer below. Use it to show the effects of the Great Depression on the Texas economy.



4 Finding the Main Idea

- How did government regulation affect the Texas oil industry?
- How did Texas farmers and ranchers modify the environment during the 1920s, and what were the consequences of these modifications?

5 Writing and Critical Thinking

Analyzing Information Imagine that you live in Texas during the 1930s. Write a letter to a friend in New York describing how Texans have responded to the Great Depression.

Consider the following:

- the social effects of the Great Depression
- the environmental crisis that created the Dust Bowl

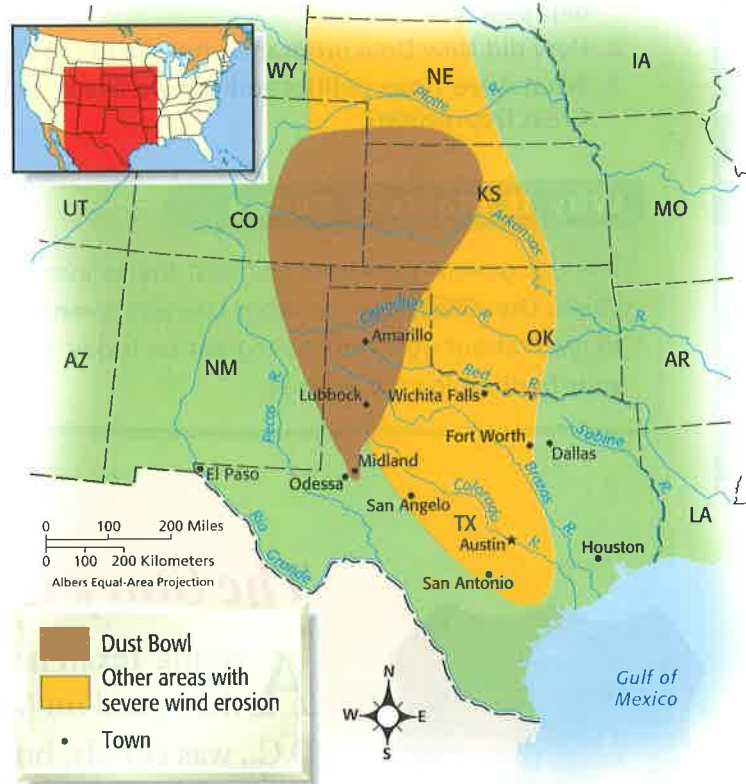
TAKS

Connecting To Geography

Drought and Farming in Texas

Drought has long been a problem for Texas farmers and ranchers. Spanish explorer Álvar Núñez Cabeza de Vaca provided the first recorded information about a drought in West Texas. The map shows the regions of Texas affected by drought in the 1930s. The chart shows years of drought in different regions of Texas. Between 1920 and 1940 the only region that had no years of drought was the Low Rolling Plains. Crops failed during this time, and the state's cattle industry suffered. Texans endured droughts again in the 1950s, 1980s, and 1990s. In addition to having trouble with water, ranchers had trouble obtaining enough feed for their cattle because of the effects of erosion.

The Dust Bowl, 1930s

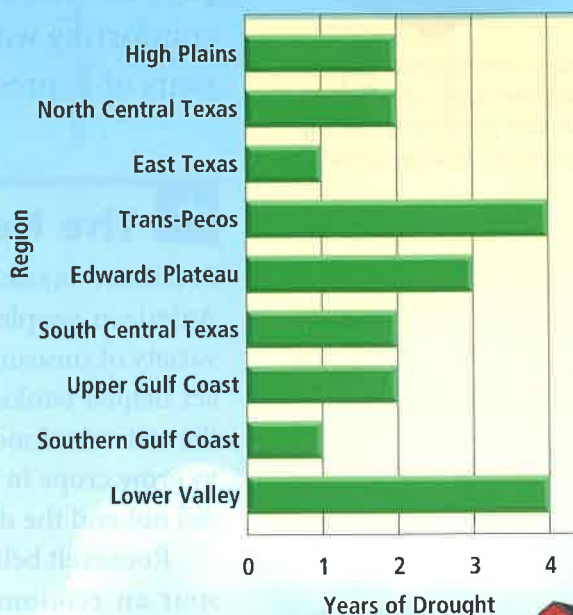


Geography Skills

Interpreting Thematic Maps and Graphs

1. What region of Texas was most affected by the drought and erosion that led to the Dust Bowl?
2. Which regions suffered the greatest number of drought years?
3. How do you think years of drought affected the cattle industry?

Drought in Texas, 1920–1940



Texas and the New Deal

Read to Discover

1. How did Texans help President Roosevelt during the depression?
2. How did New Deal programs improve life in Texas?
3. What were Texas politics and culture like during the Great Depression?

Why It Matters Today

The U.S. government tried to boost the economy in the 1930s. Use [CNNfyi.com](http://cnnfyi.com) or other **current events** sources to learn about government regulation today. Record your findings in your journal.

Define

- centennial

Identify

- New Deal
- Social Security
- John Nance Garner
- Jesse Jones
- Lyndon Baines Johnson
- Sam Rayburn
- Civilian Conservation Corps
- James V Allred
- W. Lee O'Daniel
- J. Frank Dobie



Texan John Nance Garner took the oath of office as the vice president during the 1933 inauguration.

The Story Continues

A young Texan named Lyndon Baines Johnson stood in the crowd on March 4, 1933. The sky over Washington, D.C., was cloudy, but the rain of the past few days had stopped. The audience watched Franklin D. Roosevelt take the oath of office. The new president told the American people, “The only thing we have to fear is fear itself.” His comforting words provided hope to a nation battered by years of depression.

★ The New Deal

President Franklin D. Roosevelt had promised “a new deal for the American people.” Roosevelt and his advisers asked Congress to pass a variety of measures—called the **New Deal**—to fight the depression. One act helped banks remain open, while another program gave money to the states for food and other aid to people. Another act paid farmers not to grow crops in order to cut down on overproduction. The New Deal did not end the depression, but it gave hope to millions of Americans.

Roosevelt believed that if workers had money to spend it would help spur an economic recovery. Business would benefit and the whole economy would improve. New Deal programs created jobs by funding

public works—government-sponsored building projects for public use. People worked for New Deal agencies such as the Public Works Administration (PWA) and the Works Progress Administration (WPA). Workers constructed schools, dams, parks, and roads. These programs became so well known that many people wrote directly to Roosevelt looking for work. Lulu Gordon of San Antonio wrote, “I am willing to do any kind of work because I have to support myself and my children. . . . Please give me some work.”

Roosevelt also wanted to provide Americans with economic security for the future. In 1935 Congress created the **Social Security** system. This program provided payments to retired citizens and benefits for unemployed workers. The Social Security system collected the money it needed for its payments from employers and from workers.

Several Texans served under Roosevelt and helped with his New Deal efforts. **John Nance Garner** of Uvalde served as vice president from 1933 to 1941. He had previously been Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives. Under President Hoover, **Jesse Jones** of Houston had headed a government agency that loaned money to businesses. President Roosevelt then appointed Jones to head all government lending programs and to the position of secretary of commerce. **Lyndon Baines Johnson** of Johnson City served as state director of the National Youth Administration (NYA), which employed young people between the ages of 16 and 25. Johnson was only 27 years old when he became the NYA director. An NYA official complimented Johnson’s service. “You have the best Youth Director in the nation in Lyndon Johnson.”

Among the well-known Texans in the U.S. Congress was **Sam Rayburn** of Bonham. Rayburn held a seat in Congress for almost 50 years and served for many years as Speaker of the House. Rayburn was generally a loyal supporter of Roosevelt. Like Rayburn, other members of Congress from Texas usually supported New Deal programs.

★ Reading Check Summarizing Which Texans played a role in the New Deal, and what were their contributions?



Biography



Sam Rayburn

(1882–1961)

Samuel T. Rayburn was born in Tennessee but was raised in Bonham, Texas. In 1906 he won a seat as a Democrat in the Texas House of Representatives. After the election, Rayburn attended law school. In 1912, voters elected him to the U.S. House of Representatives. Rayburn was re-elected 24 times, serving from 1913 until his death in 1961. Rayburn promoted the New Deal. He also chaired the Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee. Both Democrats and Republicans respected Rayburn for his abilities at effective compromise. He served as Speaker of the House in every Democrat-controlled Congress from 1940 until 1961. **How did Sam Rayburn serve Texas?** ★ TEKS

Interpreting the Visual Record

Hard times. Many teenagers tried to find jobs to support their families during the depression. **How have these Texas boys managed to earn some money during the Great Depression?**

LINKING PAST to PRESENT

Social Security

When Congress passed the Social Security Act in 1935 as part of the New Deal, it was intended to help Americans deal with the depression. Since that time Social Security benefits have continued to help Texans and other Americans. Social Security provides financial assistance to retired persons, people with disabilities, and families of deceased workers. **How does Social Security help Texans?**



New Deal Programs in Texas

Several New Deal agencies offered assistance to Texans during the Great Depression. In 1934 some 13 percent of Texans received aid. The Federal Emergency Relief Administration provided millions of dollars to assist Texans. The **Civilian Conservation Corps** (CCC) created jobs for some 100,000 Texans. CCC workers built and repaired bridges, dams, and roads. Workers received \$30 a month but were required to send \$25 of their pay back home to their families. The families could then spend the money in their local economies. By January 1938, Texans had received some \$23 million from family members in the CCC. Other Texans found jobs with the WPA. The WPA aided in the construction of dams along the Colorado River. NYA workers in Texas built many highway rest stops—an idea that soon spread throughout the nation. As a result of these jobs, Texans had money to spend on goods and services, thereby helping the state's small businesses.

The Rural Electrification Administration (REA) helped Texas farms gain access to electricity. This program was important to Texans because fewer than 10 percent of Texas farms had electricity in 1935. By 1965, 98 percent of Texas farms had electricity. The federal government also helped Texas farmers by purchasing farmland to keep it out of production and allow it to recover. Agents of the Soil Conservation Service taught farmers how to plant trees and grass to prevent soil from blowing away. They also advised farmers to plow in the direction of the natural shape of the land. That way the ridges and furrows would prevent further erosion by water and wind.

Many Texans welcomed the federal assistance, but as the depression continued some people began to criticize the New Deal. They feared that the rapid expansion of government would threaten individual liberty.

★ Reading Check Drawing Inferences and Conclusions How did New Deal programs affect the production of goods and services in Texas?

Interpreting the Visual Record

New Deal programs. During the Great Depression the Works Progress Administration funded public works including murals. How did the artists of this mural show aspects of depression-era life in Texas?



★ Texas Politics during the New Deal

Miriam Ferguson, who had been elected governor again in 1932, supported New Deal policies. In 1933 she convinced Texans to approve \$20 million in bonds for relief aid. She also issued an order creating the Texas Relief Commission to assist Texans.

Ferguson chose not to run for office in 1934, opening the way for Texas attorney general **James V Allred** of Wichita Falls to win election as governor. Allred worked hard to bring New Deal programs and federal money to Texas, and he was re-elected in 1936. He once declared, “I’m gonna grab all I can for the State of Texas.” Allred also helped create a state old-age pension program and a retirement plan for public school teachers. In addition, during Allred’s administration the Texas Unemployment Compensation Commission—now known as the Texas Workforce Commission—was established. This commission gives Texans information about available jobs and distributes payments to unemployed workers.

In 1938 a candidate with a style unlike anyone else’s ran for governor. **W. Lee O’Daniel** was the sales manager of a flour-milling company in Fort Worth. During the late 1920s O’Daniel had begun airing a radio show that featured a country music group called the Light Crust Doughboys. The show opened with the words, “Please pass the biscuits, Pappy!” Soon the show’s host was known as Pappy Lee O’Daniel. In May 1938 O’Daniel announced that he had received some 54,000 letters in one week urging him to run for governor. Much to the surprise of political experts, O’Daniel ran a successful campaign. Texas journalist Robert Hicks described an O’Daniel campaign rally.

Texas Voices

“The rally opens with hillbilly songs, then the candidate tells the crowd that the singing is over, and anyone who came for the show can leave. But no one does. He admits that when he first started talking about running [for governor] he was simply looking for a new way to help sell his flour. But when the people became serious about it he did so too. O’Daniel is as mystified [bewildered] as his opponents in regard to his large crowds.”

—Robert Hicks, quoted in *Texas after Spindletop*, by Seth S. McKay and Odie B. Faulk

Texans elected O’Daniel by a wide margin in 1938. Some 100,000 people jammed Memorial Stadium in Austin to watch O’Daniel take the oath of office. Pappy O’Daniel’s lack of political experience began to show after he took office, however. He had a poor relationship with the legislature, and few of his proposed programs became law. Nevertheless, Texans re-elected him in 1940. O’Daniel gave up the governor’s office in 1941 to take a seat in the U.S. Senate. By that time, the depression was nearing its end.

✓ **Reading Check Analyzing Information** Identify the accomplishments of the Texas governors elected during the 1930s.

CONNECTING TO Music

Western Swing

During the 1930s a new style of music appeared in Texas. Western swing featured traditional country music instruments such as the fiddle and the guitar. James Robert “Bob” Wills, a fiddle player, was the most influential western swing musician of the 1930s. Wills borrowed from the various musical traditions that he heard growing up in Texas. Mexican ballads, the blues of black Texans, and the sounds of rural southern music all inspired his music. In 1934 Wills formed a new band, the Texas Playboys. It became the most popular western swing band in the United States.

How does western swing reflect how the diversity of Texas has blended to form a unique Texas culture?



Analyzing Primary Sources

Identifying Points of View

Why did Hicks claim that O’Daniel was “mystified” by his popularity?

LONE STAR LEGACY

The San Jacinto Monument

During the Texas centennial, construction began on a monument at the San Jacinto battleground. When it was completed in 1939, the monument stood some 570 feet high—five inches taller than the Washington Monument. The monument is topped by a 34-foot star, and a museum is located in the tower's base.

For what event does the San Jacinto Monument serve as a memorial?



Life and Culture during the Depression

Life during the depression was difficult for many Texans. In 1934 journalist Lorena Hickok toured Texas. She noted, “I’ve been out on this trip now for a little more than two weeks. In all that time I’ve hardly met a person who seemed confident and cheerful.” Music provided a welcome distraction to Texans. African American musicians such as Huddie Ledbetter and Aaron “T-Bone” Walker played the blues. Bob Wills and his band the Texas Playboys offered a new kind of dance music called western swing. Other musicians such as Woody Guthrie, who lived in the Panhandle from 1929 to 1937, wrote songs about the experiences of Texans in the depression. Guthrie’s song “So Long, It’s Been Good to Know You” was written in response to a huge dust storm that convinced some Texans that the world was about to end.

Texans also enjoyed other forms of music during the depression. Some Texans attended symphonies in Dallas, Houston, and San Antonio. Many Texans went to the movies. Texans also read the works of **J. Frank Dobie**, whose stories and collections of folktales captured many aspects of life in Texas. Another bright spot came in 1936, when Texas celebrated its **centennial**, or 100th birthday since independence. With federal assistance, the state spent \$25 million to stage a world’s fair in Dallas to mark the occasion. President Roosevelt visited the fairgrounds. The centennial provided an opportunity for Texans to enjoy the efforts of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas and other groups who worked to preserve the state’s historic buildings and sites.

Reading Check Summarizing What kind of celebrations, cultural activities, and performances did Texans enjoy during the depression?

Section 4 Review **TEKS** Questions 3, 4a, 4b **go.hrw.com** Homework Practice Online **keyword: ST3 HP26**

1 Define and explain:

- centennial

2 Identify and explain:

- New Deal
- Social Security
- John Nance Garner
- Jesse Jones
- Lyndon Baines Johnson
- Sam Rayburn
- Civilian Conservation Corps
- James V Allred
- W. Lee O’Daniel
- J. Frank Dobie

3 Categorizing

Copy the graphic organizer below. Use it to identify the significant achievements of Texas leaders during the depression.

Texan	Achievements
Rayburn	
Johnson	
Jones	

4 Finding the Main Idea

- Explain how New Deal programs affected the production of goods and services in Texas.
- How did New Deal programs affect rural Texans?

5 Writing and Critical Thinking

Summarizing Write a paragraph describing Texas politics and culture during the Great Depression.

Consider the following:

- governors of Texas during the depression
- music, movies, and celebrations in Texas



Connecting To Literature

"Mustang Gray"

J. Frank Dobie

J. Frank Dobie was born on a ranch in Live Oak County. He joined the faculty of the University of Texas in 1914, but left the university for a year to manage his uncle's ranch. The western tales he heard from the ranch hands sparked his interest in the folklore of Texas and the American Southwest. By the 1930s, Dobie's writings and folktales were recognized in Texas and across the United States. His short story "Mustang Gray" tells the story of Mayberry B. Gray's efforts to capture a mustang.



Not long after coming to Texas, [Gray] was a-ranging after buffalo, far away from the settlements, when his horse fell, throwing him to the ground. He held to the reins, but the charge of a buffalo **mortally**¹ shot so frightened the horse that he jerked away and ran out of sight. After trailing him for a long time and finding his tracks mingled with those of wild horses, Gray came back to the slain buffalo for a meal. He took some of the meat to a pond nearby, built a fire, and cooked it.

Tracks . . . told him that mustangs were watering here. If he but had a rope, he might catch one. He climbed a tree over the main horse trail for a look. Before long he saw a band of mustangs galloping to water. Some of them, including a heavy-set stallion, passed beneath him. . . .

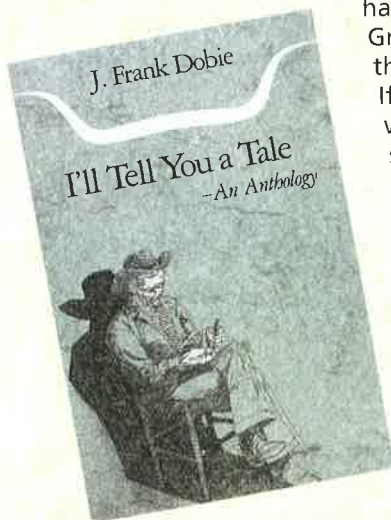
After the mustangs had water and left, Gray came down from the tree with a plan. If he attempted to walk back to the settlements, he would certainly suffer from thirst. Walking was against his principles anyhow. . . .

Animals have regular hours for watering, and when the time approached on

the fourth day for the mustangs to come to the pond, Gray was ready for them. Having tied one end of the **reata**² to a low, stout branch, he took the other up the tree to an open space immediately over the trail and made it into a loop. He knew that he would have but one throw at one mustang. He wanted the heavy-set stallion. He did not miss.

The stallion jerked himself flat, but got up. For hours he plunged, ran, jerked, snorted but gradually as the man talked to him in low tones and moved gently, he calmed down. It was the next day before he tremblingly allowed a hand on his neck. . . . The taming process went on until Gray . . . got the stallion to stand until he was firmly seated. Then, headed towards the settlements, he pulled the bandanna free. For many miles the prairie was open. The mustang ran until he was completely exhausted. That evening Gray watered him and hobbled him short. The next morning he had comparatively little trouble keeping him under control. Riding bareback, he came to the camp of men who knew him. They dubbed him Mustang Gray, a name still attached to a place as well as to legend and song.

¹mortally: fatally ²reata: rope




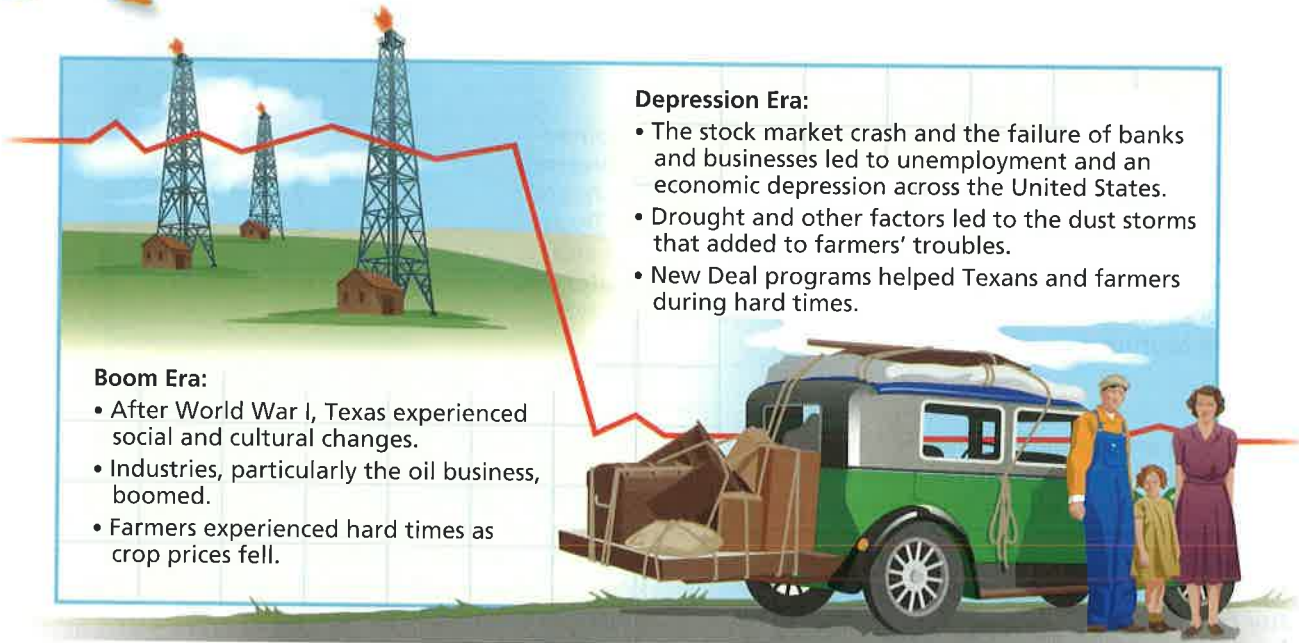
Texans have enjoyed reading collections of Dobie's works for decades.

Understanding What You Read

- Literature and History** Why did Gray need to capture the mustang?
- Literature and History** What does this story reveal about the dangers of hunting on the Texas frontier?
- Literature and You** What folktales and stories are told in your community?

The Chapter at a Glance

Examine the following visual summary of the chapter. Create an outline of the major events of the boom era of the 1920s and the depression era in Texas. Then compare your outline with a classmate's. 



Identifying People and Ideas

Use the following terms or people in historically significant sentences.

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Pat Neff | 6. Great Depression |
| 2. Miriam A. "Ma" Ferguson | 7. Ross Sterling |
| 3. Dan Moody | 8. Dust Bowl |
| 4. Lawrence A. Nixon | 9. Sam Rayburn |
| 5. consumer goods | 10. J. Frank Dobie |

Understanding Main Ideas

Section 1 (pp. 536–539)

1. What problems arose while Miriam Ferguson was governor?
2. What was the white primary, and how did it influence civil rights efforts in Texas?

Section 2 (pp. 540–543)

3. How did the geographic distribution of farming and ranching change during the 1920s?
4. What was life like in Texas during the Jazz Age?

Section 3 (pp. 544–548)

5. How did government regulation affect East Texas oil producers during the Great Depression?
6. How did falling crop prices affect farmers' profits?

Section 4 (pp. 550–554)

7. How did Texans contribute to the New Deal?

8. How did New Deal programs help the Texas economy?

You Be The Historian

Reviewing Themes

1. **Economics** How did World War I contribute to the boom-and-bust cycle of Texas agriculture?
2. **Geography** How did farmers in the Panhandle adapt to and modify the environment, and what were the consequences of the modifications?
3. **Citizenship** What steps did Texans take to fight for equal rights in the 1920s?



TAKS

Practice: Thinking Critically

1. **Drawing Inferences and Conclusions** Many Texas businesses experienced boom-and-bust cycles during the depression. What part of this economic cycle did banking and ranching experience during this time?
2. **Analyzing Information** Describe the defining characteristics of the Jazz Age and the Great Depression era of Texas history.
3. **Summarizing** What effect did the New Deal have on farming and ranching in Texas?

Interpreting Political Cartoons

Study the political cartoon below. Then use the information in the cartoon to help you answer the questions that follow.



1. Texas farmers faced many environmental challenges in the 1930s. Why would the Texas farmer call Uncle Sam for help?
 - a. He wanted federal assistance.
 - b. Bollworms were good for cotton.
 - c. Bollworms spread from the United States.
 - d. The cotton belt spread across the entire southern United States.

2. Based on this cartoon, what crops did the pink bollworm eat?

Analyzing Primary Sources

Read the following quote by Annie Mae Hunt, an African American who lived in Texas during the depression. Then answer the questions.

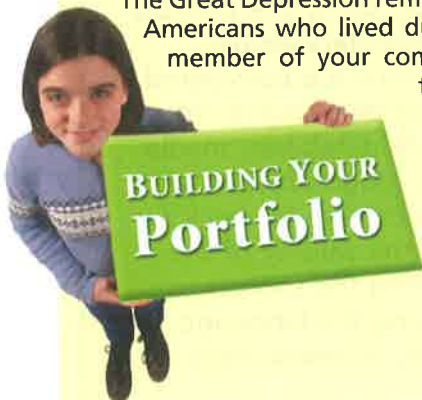
“When I was raising [my] first three kids during the Depression . . . I had jobs. . . . Like on Monday morning, I’d get up, I’d go out to Mrs. X’s house, wash for her, hang her clothes up. Then I’d go on down to wash for another woman. I’ve done four washes in one day. I’d come on back, and these things hung out for Mrs. X, they’d be ready. . . . And I cooked. I was a very good cook. Everybody liked my cooking. I didn’t have to worry about no jobs, because I always had a job as long as I was cleanin’ house and cookin’. And I did that for a long time.”

3. Hunt earned money during hard times by doing laundry for
 - a. her three daughters.
 - b. her relatives.
 - c. one other family.
 - d. several other families.
4. How might the fact that Annie Mae Hunt was African American have affected her life during the Great Depression?

Alternative Assessment

Linking to Community

The Great Depression remains a vivid memory for many Americans who lived during the 1930s. Interview a member of your community who lived through the depression. Ask the person what kind of work his or her family did to make enough money to survive. Prepare a scrapbook of that individual’s life and your community during the depression. You may want to include images of the era in your scrapbook.



Internet connect

Internet Activity: go.hrw.com
 KEYWORD: ST3 TX26



Access the Internet through the HRW Go site to research the Great Depression and to analyze the impact of national and international markets on the production of goods and services in Texas. Then create a chart that has the following information: the cause of the depression, whether the cause was national or international, and ways people attempted to solve challenges presented by the depression.

