

# The Response to the Economic Collapse

## ***How did the federal government respond to the economic collapse that began in 1929?***

### Key Content Terms

As you complete the Reading Notes, use these Key Content Terms in your answers:

Bonus Army	New Deal
Hooverville	First Hundred Days
Reconstruction Finance Corporation (RFC)	

### PREVIEW

Examine the projected photograph, and imagine that you are a government official who must respond to this woman. What will you tell her can be done to help her and her family?

Decide which response below you most agree with. In your notebook, write the letter of that response and a few sentences that explain your choice.

**Response A** “America won’t let you down, ma’am. If you work really hard, you will eventually find a job to support yourself and your family. In this country, hard work and perseverance always pay off. Maybe for right now, though, your church or a charity near your home can help you and your family. Personal responsibility and local organizations are the answers to your problems.”

**Response B** “I feel truly horrible about your situation. You must be very frustrated. But help is on the way. Soon the government will start programs to provide a job for you. The government will make sure you can pay your rent. The president and Congress will help

you. More government programs is the answer to your problems.”

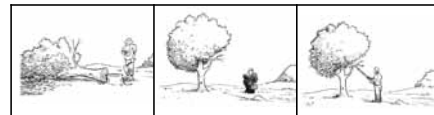
**Response C** “Wealthy Americans must stop being so greedy! The government needs to tax the wealthy heavily and give some of that money to those who live in poverty. Redistributing or sharing the wealth is the answer to your problems.”

### READING NOTES

#### Section 2

Tape the strip of three illustrations cut from Notebook Handout A across the top of a page in your notebook.

Read Section 2. Then decide which political ideology—conservative, liberal, or radical—is best represented by each illustration. Below each illustration, write the name of that ideology. Then write a sentence or two summarizing what supporters of that ideology believe about how to address economic issues. Leave the rest of the page blank for the activity that will follow.



**Sections 3 and 4**

Draw this T-chart on a page of your notebook:

Hoover’s Actions	Roosevelt’s Actions

As you read Sections 3 and 4, list actions taken by Hoover and Roosevelt to address the nation’s economic problems. Briefly describe how each action was meant to help the nation economically. Then label each action with a *C* if you think it was a more conservative action or an *L* if you think it was a more liberal action.

**P R O C E S S I N G**

You have learned that the Great Depression severely limited economic opportunities for most Americans. Both President Hoover and, later, President Roosevelt tried to promote economic opportunities by taking a variety of actions based on their own political ideologies.

Read the following quotations by these two presidents.

*Economic depression can not be cured by legislative action or executive pronouncement.*

*The basis of successful relief in national distress is to mobilize and organize the infinite number of agencies of self help in the community. That has been the American way.*

—Herbert Hoover

*This nation asks for action, and action now.*

*Not only our future economic soundness but the very soundness of our democratic institutions depends on the determination of our government to give employment to idle men.*

—Franklin D. Roosevelt

Using these quotations and information from your reading, write two or three paragraphs in which you evaluate the extent to which each president succeeded in advancing economic opportunities for all Americans.

Each of your paragraphs should have

- a solid topic sentence that summarizes your position.
- one or two pieces of evidence that support the topic sentence.
- one or two sentences that explain how your evidence supports your topic sentence.