



Fifth Grade Social Studies



5th Grade Social Studies Activity 2

*There will be a short video lesson of a Knox County teacher to accompany this task available on the KCS YouTube Channel and KCS TV.

Topic: Tennessee History

Goals: Students will be able to describe the effects of the Great Depression on Tennessee and the impact of the New Deal policies in the state, describe Tennessee's contributions during WWI and WWII; including the conversion of factories to wartime production, the importance of Oak Ridge and the influence of Tennesseans.

Standards:

5.48 Describe the effects of the Great Depression on Tennessee and the impact of the New Deal policies in the state (i.e., Tennessee Valley Authority and Civilian Conservation Corp).

5.49 Describe Tennessee's contributions during WWI and WWII; including the conversion of factories to wartime production, the importance of Oak Ridge and the influence of Tennesseans (i.e., Cornelia Fort, Cordell Hull, and Alvin C. York).

Included Text for Students to Read:

Excerpts from Gallopade chapters 30-31

Tasks for Students to Complete:

- Students will follow along through the slides and answer questions as asked.
- Students will analyze a map and make a list.
- Students will complete a writing prompt.
- Students will analyze a primary source and answer questions.
- Students will create a billboard explaining the importance of keeping quiet in Oak Ridge during WWII.

Additional Links for More Information:

- BrainPOP "New Deal" <https://www.brainpop.com/socialstudies/ushistory/newdeal/>
- Flocabulary "Great Depression" <https://www.flocabulary.com/unit/great-depression/>
- tnhistoryforkids.com "Alvin York" <http://www.tnhistoryforkids.org/history/people/people/alvin-york.2448332>

CHAPTER 30

TENNESSEE AND THE GREAT DEPRESSION

Correlates with 5.48
Develops SSP.01, .02, .04, .05, .06
Complies with T.C.A. 49-6-1028

The **Great Depression** was one of the hardest times our nation had ever known. It was yet another challenge for Americans to overcome.

The Great Depression officially started with the Stock Market Crash in 1929 and lasted into the 1930s. These years were full of extreme hardships for families across the nation. In Tennessee, many people lost their jobs and so had no income to support their families.

After the Stock Market Crash, Tennesseans often could not get their money out of local banks. Many people could not pay their home mortgages and had to move to shabby houses in shantytowns. Those who had little money waited in long lines for free food given out at soup kitchens and bread lines.

Tennessee farmers were especially hard hit when crop prices fell. Many businesses failed as well. Families in cities moved to the country, hoping to survive. African Americans had it especially hard when whites took jobs they had traditionally performed.

Because the Great Depression lasted so long, things went from bad to worse. People were exhausted, afraid, and desperate. Even hard-working charities could not keep up with the demand for food and services.

The **Cumberland Homesteads** was an example of a Great Depression program that helped Tennesseans. Farmsteads were created for more than 200 families. Common areas for growing crops, animal grazing, and timber were shared by all. Unemployed workers from Tennessee built the homes, providing even more benefit to citizens.

Vocabulary

depression: a severe, long-term economic downturn



Men wait in a bread line.

A New President Makes a Difference

In 1933, Franklin D. Roosevelt was elected the 32nd President of the United States. Like all Americans, he did not want to see the suffering go on any longer. He came up with an idea and put it into action!



Franklin D. Roosevelt

The New Deal

President Roosevelt introduced a program called the **New Deal**. The New Deal introduced government programs to help the nation recover from the Great Depression. Examples of how the New Deal helped Americans included:

- ➔ Created emergency relief programs to help the unemployed
- ➔ Paid farmers to grow fewer crops to help crop prices increase
- ➔ Provided jobs of all kinds across the nation, including in Tennessee
- ➔ Created Social Security program to provide income to the elderly

The New Deal in Tennessee put Tennesseans back to work!

Two new programs were especially important in getting the state back on its feet:

Civilian Conservation Corps

Tennessee Valley Authority



CCC worker plants a tree to help stop soil erosion

Civilian Conservation Corps

The **Civilian Conservation Corps** (CCC) put young American men back to work preserving the nation's natural resources. Workers signed up for a term of service and lived in camps. The CCC employed thousands of men in Tennessee. Their jobs included planting trees, building state parks, and working on projects to conserve soil and prevent erosion.

Tennessee Valley Authority

The **Tennessee Valley Authority** (TVA) helped transform the Tennessee River Valley from poverty to productivity! For years, flooding had caused massive problems and made farming difficult. The TVA built dams throughout a seven-state region to control floods and generate electricity to homes and farms. Residents were thrilled to have electricity, and the project attracted industries and jobs to this very poor area. The TVA still provides power to the region today!



Carpenter working on Douglas Dam in East Tennessee

CHAPTER 31

Correlates with 5.49
Develops SSP.01, .02, .04, .05
Complies with T.C.A. 49-6-1028

TENNESSEE CONTRIBUTES DURING WORLD WARS I AND II

The state of Tennessee made enormous contributions during both World War I and **World War II**—both in manpower and in the manufacture of vital products needed for the war effort. About 100,000 Tennesseans fought for the U.S. in WWI, and more than 300,000 served in WWII.

World War I (1914-1918)

More than 100,000 Tennessee soldiers served in **World War I**, which was called “the war to end all wars.” Some Tennessee women served in the armed forces as nurses. At home, blacks and whites worked in factories to support the war effort. School children grew “Victory Gardens” to provide food.

World War II (1939-1945)

Tennesseans played important roles in **World War II**. While war had broken out overseas, America was still recovering from the Great Depression and World War I. But after the surprise attack by Japan on the American naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, in 1941, the United States joined the war and fought alongside allied nations.

Tennessee sent 300,000 soldiers to the fight. Tennessee **factories** stopped building their usual products and began to build things needed for the war effort, such as vehicles, airplanes, and firearms. Suddenly, jobs were readily available. Citizens bought war bonds to support the war effort, planted Victory Gardens, and began to save scrap metal and paper.



WWII Victory Garden poster

TENNESSEANS SERVED!

Some **influential Tennesseans** in those wars include:



Alvin C. York
Sharpshooting Hero

Alvin York, was one of the most decorated soldiers of World War I. Born in Pall Mall, Tennessee, York was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1917. Although he opposed war and violence, York showed tremendous bravery on the battlefield. He became known for his excellent shooting skills, gained from years of hunting back home. York became famous for a shootout with German forces. He is said to have killed 25 of the enemy and captured 132 prisoners. For his courage, he won the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Cornelia Fort, from Nashville, was a flight instructor in Hawaii in 1941. While giving a lesson, she spotted a Japanese plane and realized Pearl Harbor was under attack! Forced to fly through machine gun fire, she was barely able to land her plane. Later, she campaigned for war bonds and joined the WAFFS, the Women's Auxiliary Ferrying Squadron. While flying a plane from one base to another, she was killed, becoming the first WAFFS pilot to die during a mission.



Cornelia Fort
World War II Aviator



Cordell Hull

Cordell Hull was born in Olympus, Tennessee. He served as a U.S. Congressman, U.S. Senator, and Secretary of State for President Roosevelt. During that time, he drew up plans for an international organization dedicated to peace that eventually became the United Nations. This organization gathers nations together to help avoid global conflict. Secretary Hull was awarded the 1945 Nobel Peace Prize for his work in creating the United Nations.

The Importance of Oak Ridge



Oak Ridge workers at their work stations

During World War II, the American government feared that Germany was working to build an atomic bomb. It suddenly became imperative for America to create its own bomb. The race was on!

In 1942, President Roosevelt approved the top-secret **Manhattan Project** to build an atomic bomb. The work would be done in several locations, and one of them was **Oak Ridge** in eastern Tennessee. Engineers had to work quickly to build complex facilities and a town for the workers to live in!

Thousands of people were brought to this “secret city” to do secret work enriching **uranium**. The work was so secret that most of the workers had no idea they were working on an atomic bomb project! In July 1945, uranium from Oak Ridge was sent to New Mexico, where it was placed in a nuclear bomb.

On August 6, 1945, that bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, Japan. While the bomb was deadly and destructive, it helped bring about the end of the long, hard war that had killed so many. Within a month, the war was over.

Vocabulary

uranium: a radioactive metal used to produce nuclear energy and nuclear weapons

**5th Grade Social Studies
Activity 2**


Task 1:

During WWI and WWII Tennesseans made conscious, informed choices to assist the war effort by growing vegetables in their own gardens, buying war bonds, saving scrap metal and paper, etc. Write a blog post from the perspective of a child living during WWII in America explaining the choices your family has made to help the war effort.

Task 2:

Analyze the primary source below and answer the questions.


Primary Source ★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

 Look at the photograph and answer the questions.

1. Who does Uncle Sam represent in the photo?

2. What is the message of the billboard?

3. Why do you think plant managers felt a billboard like this was necessary?



A billboard reminding Oak Ridge workers to keep their work secret

Task 3:

Create a billboard for Oak Ridge that reminds them to stay quiet and keep their work a secret. Use the one above as inspiration. Draw it in the space below or on the back of this page.