COUNCIL FOR
Economic Education
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Analyzing New Deal Programs

Name: _____   **Date:** _____

Directions: Review the following information about unemployment in the Great Depression and the New Deal programs created to help provide jobs. Record your answers to the set of questions in the space provided.

1. "Our greatest primary task is to put people to work. This is no unsolvable problem if we face it wisely and courageously. It can be accomplished in part by direct recruiting by the Government itself, treating the task as we would treat the emergency of a war, but at the same time, through this employment, accomplishing greatly needed projects to stimulate and reorganize the use of our national resources."
   FDR, 1st Inaugural Address, March 4, 1933

   What did FDR hope to accomplish?

2. The **Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC)** put 3 million unemployed young men to work in the nation's forests and parks over a 9-year period. The men of the CCC plant 3 billion trees and create, develop, or improve 800 state parks. It started March 31, 1933 and ended June 30, 1942.

   In your own words, what was the purpose of the CCC? How did it help meet the objectives stated in FDR's inaugural speech?

3. The **Public Works Administration (PWA)** was in place from June 16, 1933 to June 30, 1943. During that ten-year span, it contributed $4 billion dollars towards tens of thousands of infrastructure projects all across the nation and employed about 2 million workers.

   In your own words, what was the purpose of the CCC? How did it help meet the objectives stated in FDR's inaugural speech?

4. The **Civil Works Administration (CWA)** operated from November 9, 1993 to July 14, 1934. By January 1934, over 4 million formerly-jobless Americans were employed by the CWA. During the eight-month program, over $800 million was spent employing men to build 44,000 miles of new roads, install 1,000 miles of new water mains, construct or improve 4,000 schools, and complete many other projects.

   In your own words, what was the purpose of the CWA? How did it help meet the objectives stated in FDR's inaugural speech?

5. The **Works Progress Administration (WPA)** was created to provide jobs for unemployed Americans and to improve the nation's infrastructure. The WPA employed over 8.5 million jobless Americans during its eight years of operation. During its existence the WPA greatly modernizes and expands America's infrastructure. The agency operated from May 6, 1035 to June 30, 1943.

   In your own words, what was the purpose of the WPA? How did it help meet the objectives stated in FDR's inaugural speech?

6. Another agency, the **National Youth Administration (NYA)**, was created to provide work, education, and job training for unemployed young men and women. It employs 4.7 million young Americans between June 26, 1935 and January 1, 1944.

   In your own words, what was the purpose of the NYA? How did it help meet the objectives stated in FDR's inaugural speech?

Civilian Employment Data 1929 - 1943

	Unemployed [a]	Unemployment rate [a]	Civilian Job Creation from Previous Year	Net Gain in Civilian Jobs After the New Deal Takes Effect in 1933 [a]
1929	1,550,000	3.15		
1930	4,340,000	8.71		
1931	8,020,000	15.91		
1932	12,060,000	23.65		
1933	12,830,000	*24.87*	0	0
1934	11,340,000	21.71	2,130,000	2,130,000
1935	10,610,000	20.07	1,370,000	3,500,000
1936	9,030,000	16.90	2,150,000	5,650,000
1937	7,700,000	14.26	1,890,000	7,540,000
1938	10,390,000	19.03	-2,080,000	5,460,000
1939	9,480,000	17.16	1,530,000	6,990,000
1940	8,120,000	14.59	1,770,000	8,760,000
1941	5,560,000	9.94	2,830,000	11,590,000
1942	2,660,000	4.72	3,400,000	14,990,000
1943	1,070,000	1.93	720,000	15,710,000

a - https://www.bls.gov/opub/mlr/1948/article/pdf/labor-force-employment-and-unemployment-1929-39-estimating-methods.pdf

7. Using the Civilian Employment Data 1929 – 1943 in the table above, describe what happened to the unemployment rate over the life of each program.

Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC)

Public Works Administration (PWA)

Civil Works Administration (CWA)

Works Progress Administration (WPA)

National Youth Administration (NYA)