CHAPTER 23

The Great Depression, the New Deal, and World War II
1929–1945

SECTION 1 Texas and the Great Depression
SECTION 2 Texans Look for a New Deal
SECTION 3 World War II Brings Change to Texas

When times get tough, you can adjust or . . . you can adjust.

Lady Bird Johnson

Grace Clements, Winter 1932

1929 Stock market crashes; Great Depression begins
1933 John Nance Garner and Sam Rayburn help pass Roosevelt's New Deal
1932 Franklin Delano Roosevelt is elected president
1932 Miriam “Ma” Ferguson is elected governor of Texas
1936 Texas celebrates centennial of its independence
1941 Japan bombs Pearl Harbor; U.S. enters World War II
1945 World War II ends
Before You Read

Imagine that you are an industrial worker who has just lost a job because the local factory has shut down. Because you no longer have a steady job, you are in danger of losing your home and all of your possessions. How would this make you feel? Would you be sad, angry, or discouraged? Who would you turn to for help? During the Great Depression many Texans had to confront these issues.

Think about
• the effects of unemployment on individuals and families
• resources available for those who have lost homes or jobs
• how the state government helps those in need
• what students can do to help those in need

As You Read

During the 1920s Texans enjoyed the rewards of the state’s booming economy. Then, the stock market crash of 1929 plunged the nation into an economic depression that would last for years. Cities throughout the state of Texas, along with the national government, developed programs to boost the economy and help the needy. Completing this chart for Chapter 23 will help you to understand both state and national efforts to end the Great Depression.

• Copy the comparison chart in your Texas Notebook.
• As you read, list actions taken by Texas cities to help residents cope with the Depression in the box on the left.
• Then list efforts made by the U.S. government to relieve the problems of the Depression in the box on the right.
Why It Matters Now

Many of the social programs that we take for granted today were created to provide relief from the Great Depression.

**TERMS & NAMES**

| stock, stockholder, speculate, crash | crash, Black Tuesday, Great Depression, Herbert Hoover, unemployment rate, Dust Bowl |

**OBJECTIVES**

1. Identify and describe the Great Depression.
2. Analyze the impact of national and international events on the production of goods and services in Texas.
3. Analyze the effects of physical and human factors on Texas during the Great Depression.

**MAIN IDEA**

The stock market crash of 1929 brought hard times to Texas and the rest of the nation and world. During the era that followed, known as the Great Depression, many Texans were out of work and searching for relief.

**INTERACT WITH HISTORY**

Imagine that your family farms cotton in East Texas in 1931. Texas farmers produce so much cotton that the price drops by five cents a pound. When your family sells the crop, there is not even enough money to pay off debts, much less support your family and pay for next year’s seed. You have to leave school to take a job just so your family can buy food to eat. Write a letter to your state legislator asking the state government to step in and offer relief to your family and other cotton farmers.

**From Boom to Bust**

Many U.S. businesses prospered in the 1920s, but farmers did not do well. Crop prices fell by about 40 percent at the beginning of the 1920s and remained low throughout the decade. Some banks went out of business because farmers could not pay their debts. Coal miners and workers in the railroad and textile industries also suffered. Although production was at an all-time high, these workers’ wages rose slowly.

Many people who made money during the 1920s invested heavily in stock. Normally, corporations sell stock, or shares in their company, to raise money to buy equipment and grow. If the company does well, then the stockholders get money back from their investments. In the 1920s, however, some people began to speculate on the stock market, where stocks are bought and sold. That is, they risked their money hoping that prices would rise rapidly and they could sell their stock for a quick profit. Others used credit to buy stocks they could not afford, hoping to use quick profits to pay for the stocks. For a while, rising prices made these people rich. Then, in October of 1929, came the stock market crash.
The Stock Market Crash of 1929

The final week of October 1929 was a rocky time for investors. On Thursday, October 24, investors sold more than 13 million shares of stocks. Prices dropped sharply. To help the market recover, bankers bought stocks to level out the stock market on Friday and Saturday. On Monday, however, prices fell again. On Tuesday, October 29, investors sold off their stock, hoping not to lose any more money. By the end of the day, more than 16 million shares had been sold. So much money was lost that the day became known as Black Tuesday.

During the weeks after Black Tuesday, stock prices on the New York Stock Exchange fell by 40 percent for an overall loss of $26 billion. Prices fell so low that stocks were no longer worth the money people had borrowed to buy them. As a result, many people were left with debts they could not pay. Banks ran out of money because they could not collect the money they were owed. The government did not insure banks at that time, so the people who had accounts in these banks lost their savings. Because people had no money to spend, factories and stores also closed, and thousands lost their jobs. The stock market crash marked the end of the boom years and set off a series of events that led to the beginning of the Great Depression.

The Great Depression

The Great Depression, which lasted from 1929 to the beginning of World War II, was the longest and worst depression in U.S. history. President Herbert Hoover had been widely supported before the Depression hit. Now millions of citizens blamed him for their losses. Throughout the nation, people lost their homes and farms. They roamed from place to place searching for work or built temporary shacks to live in. At the height of the Depression, almost one-fourth of all workers were without jobs.

At first, the Depression did not affect Texas as badly as other parts of the United States. Relatively few Texans had invested in the stock market. Also, because Texas had more farmers than industrial workers, fewer workers lost their jobs. Texans were strong supporters of Herbert Hoover for the first two years of his presidency but later blamed him for the Depression. As a result, the name Hoover became associated with poverty and misfortune. For example, large camps of tin and tar-paper shacks that popped up around the edges of cities became known as Hoovertowns. Empty pants pockets turned inside out were “Hoover flags.” Armadillos became “Hoover hogs.” Why do you think people blamed President Hoover for the Depression?
their jobs. Thus, the unemployment rate was not as high in Texas as in the North. In addition, Texas had been a poor state before the stock market crash. Therefore, it did not experience such a big change when profits dropped off. As long as Texans had land, they could at least feed themselves.

The Depression soon spread worldwide, however, affecting European markets for Texas goods. In 1931 the cotton crop was one of the largest in the state’s history. But cotton that had sold for 18 cents a pound in 1928 brought only 5 cents a pound three years later. Demand for other products decreased as well, causing crop prices to drop about 50 percent between 1929 and 1933. Texas finally felt the crisis. Soon, more Texas businesses began to close, and more people lost their jobs. By 1933 many Texans were out of work. About 13 percent of Texans had to ask the government for help.

Cities Try to Help Texans Cope

As conditions became worse, people’s money ran out. Families began turning to charities, which soon ran out of money as well. In Texas the state treasury had little, so Governor Ross Sterling could not offer much assistance. With no state funds available, some city governments and civic organizations pitched in to help. In Temple, for example, the Retail Merchants Association began issuing scrip—pieces of paper printed with 25¢, 50¢, or $1—that residents could exchange for goods. In Dallas and Fort Worth, the chambers of commerce sponsored gardening projects to help people grow vegetables to feed families. Some cities also organized charity plays and musicals to raise money to help the needy.

Some city governments paid Texans to work on streets and sewers, build parks and buildings, and take part in city cleanup efforts. A few cities allowed people who were homeless to live in public buildings. However, these opportunities were limited. Most Texas cities had to cut or reduce public services because of a lack of funds.

To the Arts

One way Texans and other Americans dealt with hard times during the Great Depression was through movies and music. Movies such as Gold Diggers of 1933 told happy stories and featured musical numbers to help people forget their problems. Many popular Depression-era songs, such as “Life Is Just a Bowl of Cherries” and “We’re in the Money,” used peppy rhythms and upbeat words to help lift people’s spirits. Other songs, like “Brother, Can You Spare a Dime?,” pointed out the unfairness of the times and helped remind people that they were not alone.

Why do you think movies and music remained popular even though families had little money to spend?

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Many Texans who were financially successful before the Depression found themselves penniless. Here, people line up for what might be their only meal of the day.

How do you think the Great Depression affected urban and rural Texans differently?
Drought and Dust Torment Rural Texans

In the mid-1930s a terrible drought hit Texas and other states in the Great Plains. During the years from 1925 to 1930, millions of acres of grassland had been plowed under to grow crops. Once the deep-rooted prairie grasses were gone, nothing was left to hold the dry Texas soil in place. Soon, the dust began to blow.

Some dust storms were so fierce that they were called black blizzards. Dust and sand could whip through an area with enough force to blast the paint off a car. Great clouds of Texas soil could block sunlight for hours at a time. Afterward, people sweated huge amounts of dust from their houses and shoveled giant piles of dust from their yards. The dirt destroyed crops, killed animals, and damaged people’s eyes and lungs. It was especially hard on babies, the elderly, and people with breathing problems. Woody Guthrie, a songwriter from Oklahoma, was living in the Texas Panhandle on “Black Sunday” 1935, and wrote a song about the storm:

**Texas Voices**

It covered up our fences, it covered up our barns,
It covered up our tractors in this wild and dusty storm.
We loaded our jalopies and piled our families in,
We rattled down that highway to never come back again.

Woody Guthrie, “The Great Dust Storm”
Between 1935 and 1937, conditions became so bad in the Texas Panhandle that more than a third of all farm families packed up and left. Other parts of Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Colorado, and New Mexico also were pounded by the drought and constant dust storms. Eventually, people everywhere called this region the Dust Bowl.

**Women and Minorities Face Hard Times**

Women, African Americans, and Hispanics were hit especially hard by the Depression. Companies often fired married women and minority workers to open up more jobs for Anglo males. Many school districts dismissed female teachers if their husbands had jobs. Most people at that time believed men had to work to support their families, but women did not.

It was also difficult for people from minority groups to find and keep jobs. Some cities also didn’t give them financial help. Again, Anglo males were treated as more important. Many African American males joined the ranks of the homeless, moving from place to place in search of work. Many African American women became heads of households, raising their children alone. In response, a number of African American leaders joined the Democratic Party. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) also worked to end racial discrimination against African Americans during the Great Depression.

Hispanics were also hit hard by the Depression. Denied relief by most emergency agencies, many Hispanics left the state. Those who remained often found work only in the fields. The League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), founded in 1929, focused on the needs of Hispanics in Texas and worked to overcome both segregation and discrimination.

**Terms & Names**

- stock
- stockholder
- speculate
- crash
- Black Tuesday
- unemployment rate
- Great Depression
- Herbert Hoover
- Dust Bowl

**Organizing Information**

Use a cluster diagram like the one shown to record details about life in Texas during the Great Depression.

**Critical Thinking**

1. When and how did the Great Depression begin? What effects did it have on the nation?
2. How was Texas drawn into the Great Depression?
3. What environmental factors and human practices made the Great Depression worse in Texas and the other southern plains states?

**Interact with History**

Review your response to Interact with History in your Texas Notebook. Compare your letters as a class. Then discuss whether a government should help farmers financially in hard times. If so, what forms of financial help might a government offer?

**Activity**

Culture

Woody Guthrie was a famous songwriter and folk singer during the Great Depression. Research the lyrics to one of his Dust Bowl ballads. What does the song tell you about the lives of people in the Depression?
LEARNING the Skill

History is often made up of a series of related events. One event is often the cause of another. The event and the outcome together form a cause-and-effect relationship. Historians study these cause-and-effect relationships to better understand why events have happened at certain times.

To determine the cause-and-effect relationships that surround historical events, it is important to look for clues. Key words and phrases such as because, so, therefore, as a result, gave rise to, led to, caused, and brought about often indicate cause and effect. In addition, one event may have many causes, and one cause may result in many effects. The effect of one event also may be the cause of another. This is called a chain of events.

To identify cause-and-effect relationships, use the following steps:

• Choose an event to analyze.
• Ask yourself what happened and why it happened. Look for key words and phrases that indicate a cause-and-effect relationship between one event and another.
• Examine the conditions that existed before the event, such as specific problems and actions, to identify possible causes.
• Then examine what happened after the event to identify possible effects.

PRACTICING the Skill

Read the following paragraph from Section 1, Texas and the Great Depression. Using the steps in Learning the Skill and the questions below, analyze the paragraph to identify cause-and-effect relationships.

During the weeks after Black Tuesday, stock prices on the New York Stock Exchange fell by 40 percent for an overall loss of $26 billion. Prices fell so low that stocks were no longer worth the money people had borrowed to buy them. As a result, many people were left with debts they could not pay. Banks ran out of money because they could not collect the money they were owed. The government did not insure banks at that time, so people who had accounts in these banks lost their savings. Because people had no money to spend, factories and stores also closed, and thousands lost their jobs.

1. Which words and phrases in this passage indicate cause and effect?
2. Identify the causes and effects that are related to each key word or phrase.
3. Are any of the effects in the paragraph causes of other events? If so, which ones?

APPLYING the Skill

Reread Section 1 of Chapter 23. Use the steps in Learning the Skill to analyze the events leading up to the Great Depression as well as its effects on life in Texas. Then create a diagram of the cause-and-effect relationships you noted. For each cause of the Great Depression, use arrows to identify one or more effects.
TERMS & NAMES
Franklin Delano Roosevelt, John Nance Garner, New Deal, Sam Rayburn, WPA, NYA, CCC, AAA, “Ma” Ferguson, James Allred, centennial

OBJECTIVES
1. Analyze how New Deal reforms affected Texas.
2. Identify the leadership qualities of governors of Texas during the 1930s.
3. Explain how the Centennial Exposition of 1936 reflected the wide variety of people who lived in Texas.

MAIN IDEA
Roosevelt’s New Deal began to bring Texans much-needed relief from the Great Depression. However, recovery was slow. To cheer Texans, the state threw a giant party to celebrate its centennial.

Why It Matters Now
Many of the public parks and buildings in Texas today were built as part of the New Deal.

INTERACT WITH HISTORY
Imagine that you are a member of a commission appointed by the governor to plan a Texas Bicentennial Exposition in 2036. Your job is to plan an exhibit and events showing life in Texas 100 years ago—in the 1930s. What would you include to help people understand and appreciate what was happening in Texas during this decade?

Roosevelt Offers a New Deal
In 1928 most Texans had voted for Republican Herbert Hoover for president. By the end of Hoover’s term, however, voters were disappointed that he had not brought the nation out of the Depression. So, in 1932, almost 90 percent of Texans voted for Democrats Franklin Delano Roosevelt for president and John Nance “Cactus Jack” Garner, a Texan, for vice-president. Roosevelt promised a New Deal for America and cheered the nation with his campaign song, “Happy Days Are Here Again.”

Although happy days were slow in coming to Texas, things did begin to get better. President Roosevelt introduced a series of new laws and programs designed to create jobs and improve the economy. These programs, known as the New Deal, brought much relief to the nation.

Several Texans in addition to Vice-President Garner became national leaders during Roosevelt’s term. Jesse Jones became director of the powerful Reconstruction Finance Corporation. Jones was responsible for giving money to banks and corporations to help revive commerce. He also helped create the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) in 1933. The FDIC insures deposits at member banks so people do not lose their money when a bank fails. In addition, Sam Rayburn, a U.S. congressman from Texas, helped pass legislation to outlaw the kind of practices that had caused Black Tuesday.
Programs Put Texans to Work

Two of Roosevelt’s New Deal programs were particularly helpful to Texans. The Works Progress Administration (WPA) and the Public Works Administration (PWA) put people to work building or improving public buildings such as schools, post offices, hospitals, coliseums, parks, swimming pools, and dams. More than 600,000 Texans worked for these agencies between 1935 and 1943. These workers built the River Walk in San Antonio, the San Jacinto Monument near Houston, dams to create lakes, and many other structures.

The WPA also gave jobs to writers, musicians, and artists. Writers wrote city histories and travel guides, directors staged plays in city parks and playgrounds, musicians brought music to schools and small communities, and artists painted murals on public buildings.

Providing Jobs for Youth

One strong supporter of the New Deal was Texan Lyndon B. Johnson. A congressional assistant in Washington, D.C., Johnson returned to Texas to serve as state director of the National Youth Administration (NYA). Under his leadership the NYA employed between 10,000 and 18,000 young Texans per month in offices, libraries, and public schools. Young people between the ages 16 and 25 also built playgrounds for rural schools and roadside parks along Texas highways. Johnson would support similar programs years later as president.

Another successful youth program was the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). Between 1933 and 1942 around 50,000 young people earned $30 per month fighting floods, preserving farmlands, and building dams, watchtowers, and many of the state parks that Texans enjoy today.

New Deal work programs helped Texans not only earn a living but also reclaim their dignity and a sense of personal worth. ★ What was another benefit of programs such as the WPA, PWA, and CCC?
Helping Farmers

Roosevelt’s New Deal also provided help for farmers. The Agricultural Adjustment Administration (AAA) paid farmers to plant fewer acres of crops, hoping to raise prices by lowering the surplus. Federal and state agencies began conservation programs to counteract the drought. The Soil Conservation Service, the AAA, the CCC, and other organizations taught farmers new ways to reduce loose dust and keep the soil in place. They also helped farmers plant trees to protect soil and created ponds and reservoirs to collect water.

“Ma” Ferguson Returns

Still, conditions were tough in Texas. Unhappy with Governor Ross Sterling, Texans began looking for a replacement. In 1932 they once again turned to the Fergusons. Proclaiming “Me for Ma,” they elected Miriam Amanda “Ma” Ferguson to her second term as governor. During the campaign, Ferguson promised to lower taxes and state spending. As governor she did cut spending, but she also proposed several new state taxes. The legislature rejected all but one—a small tax on oil that supplied much-needed money to the state.

Ferguson and her husband, Jim, had always been controversial. Their conduct during this term was no different. The pair was accused of steering federal relief funds to benefit personal friends and political supporters. Problems also arose over the Texas Rangers. During the 1932 election, the Rangers had supported Ross Sterling instead of Ferguson. When “Ma” won, she fired all 44 Rangers and replaced them with her own supporters. Many people called the new force corrupt.

An Era of Lawlessness

These problems with law enforcement could not have come at a worse time. The Depression had sparked a major increase in crime. Violent criminals such as George “Machine-Gun” Kelly, Bonnie Parker, and Clyde Barrow roamed through Texas, making headlines with their bloody crimes. Often they stole what little money people still had in banks. Fortunately, a former Texas Ranger was able to use his years of experience to track down the killers. Bonnie and Clyde were eventually killed in an ambush led by famous lawman Frank Hamer.

Lawlessness was still a problem in 1934, when Texans elected Attorney General James V. Allred as governor to replace “Ma” Ferguson. The new governor hoped to win back people’s confidence in law enforcement by establishing a Department of Public Safety. He also appointed a special commission to oversee the Texas Rangers. Allred passed many other important measures to strengthen law enforcement, such as the establishment of the Texas Employment Commission.
Texas Celebrates Its Centennial

The year 1936 marked the centennial of the state’s independence from Mexico. The Texas Centennial Commission selected Dallas as the site of the celebration, which was also to be the first world’s fair held in the Southwest. When work was completed, the $25 million Fair Park in Dallas boasted 50 buildings of awe-inspiring exhibits. Among them was the “Cavalcade of Texas,” which showed four centuries of Texas history, and the Hall of Negro Life.

More than 6 million visitors, including President Roosevelt and First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, attended the Texas Centennial Exposition in Dallas. Thousands more visited related sites throughout the state. One of these was the San Jacinto Monument, built near Houston at the site where Sam Houston defeated Santa Anna’s army in 1836.

The Hall of Negro Life was the first-ever celebration of African American culture at a world’s fair. The exhibit, featuring contributions from 32 states and the District of Columbia, presented examples of African American art, music, theater, dance, and food. By the end of the Centennial Exposition, more than 400,000 people had visited the exhibit.

Before the Centennial Exposition closed in November 1936, it had provided jobs for many Texans constructing buildings, monuments, and exhibits. Tourists had spent millions of dollars and had gained a new awareness of the Lone Star State and its vast and colorful history.
Making Generalizations

LEARNING the Skill
Most people make generalizations all the time. In fact, that statement is itself a generalization. A generalization draws broad conclusions on the basis of specific facts and details. Generalizations can be valuable to the study of history. They allow a person to use his or her knowledge of specific details to understand larger issues.

To be useful, a generalization must be accurate. That is, it must take into consideration all the facts and supporting details about a topic. Generalizations in which a writer jumps to conclusions and ignores the facts are often untrue. Untrue generalizations can be very harmful, especially when they are applied to groups of people.

To make an accurate generalization, use the following steps:

• Determine the main topic or issue.
• Research as many facts and details about this topic as possible.
• Determine whether these details follow a pattern or point to a consistent conclusion.
• Form a general statement based on the facts.
• Look for exceptions or contradictory information.
• Revise your generalization, if necessary, so that it is supported by accurate data.

PRACTICING the Skill
Read the following excerpt from Can See to Can’t by That Sitton and Dan K. Utley. Then read the four generalizations labeled A–D and answer the questions that follow.

After Christmas and the New Year . . . the old counties along the Brazos and Colorado entered the yearly period of mud and isolation—mudtime. . . . [After a few weeks’ time] no wheeled vehicles ran the roads, and only riders or foot travelers made it into town for supplies or medicine—if the creek did not rise too high.

Long before this stage was reached, most automobiles stood unused in farmers’ barns and garages, since mud outmatched motorcars on the wagon-track roads. . . . Many farmers at first had viewed automobiles as toys for townsmen and a danger to be avoided on rural roads. [Livestock] panicked at the sight and sound of them, and farmers . . . studied county road maps trying to calculate how best to avoid the hated cars. The affordable Model T Ford, the “mechanical cockroach,” somewhat reconciled farmers to motorcars, and by . . . late winter of 1927 many of them owned one. The high-centered, narrow-wheeled, buggy-like Model T’s worked well in mud, although they were underpowered. . . .

A. The Model T Ford was a powerful luxury vehicle.
B. Mudtime made life difficult for rural Texans.
C. The Texas road system needed much improvement in 1927.
D. The automobile has always been a valuable and practical tool for Texas farmers.

1. Which of the four generalizations above are supported by details in the selection?
2. Identify at least one detail from the selection to support each accurate generalization.
3. Which of the generalizations are not supported? Explain.

APPLYING the Skill
Review Sections 1 and 2 of this chapter. Write two accurate generalizations supported by the text or that Texans made during this time period. Then write at least two details to support each generalization you identified. Share your generalizations as a class.
Creating a Political Campaign

“Ma” Ferguson for Governor

To win the support of voters, politicians identify problems that concern the public and come up with plans to solve those problems. Then politicians advertise their plans to voters with a campaign. A campaign may include radio and television commercials, public speeches, and newspaper advertisements. Miriam Ferguson, the first female governor of Texas, was interested in many of the issues that concerned Texas voters in the 1920s and 1930s. Use the Internet to locate information on Miriam Ferguson and her campaigns for governor. Then use your findings to create a political campaign.

**GETTING Connected**

1. To get started, log on to www.celebratingtexas.com and go to Chapter 23.

2. Focus your search on information and links to the history of Texas during the 1930s and Miriam Ferguson’s second term as governor.

3. Find information that answers the following questions:
   - How did Miriam Ferguson’s first term as governor compare with her second?
   - What was happening in Texas when Miriam Ferguson ran for governor in 1932?
   - Which issues were most important to Miriam Ferguson?
   - While in office, what did Miriam Ferguson do to improve life for Texans?
   - What did Miriam Ferguson do while in office that some people disagreed with?

**DEVELOPING Your Presentation**

Imagine that it is January of 1932. You have been asked to organize Miriam Ferguson’s election campaign for governor. Conduct additional online searches to learn more about Miriam Ferguson as Texas governor. Be sure to include several of the following in your presentation.

- A press release announcing Miriam Ferguson’s run for governor
- A newspaper advertisement that reflects one of Miriam Ferguson’s campaign promises
- An inaugural address telling of Ferguson’s plans as governor
- A timeline that illustrates Miriam Ferguson’s accomplishments
- A poster or button with a campaign slogan
World War II Brings Change to Texas

Why It Matters Now
Changes brought on by World War II helped create the modern Texas of today.

TERMS & NAMES
- Doris Miller, Dwight D. Eisenhower, valor, Chester W. Nimitz, Oveta Culp Hobby, Congressional Medal of Honor, Audie Murphy

OBJECTIVES
1. Describe the contributions of Texans during World War II.
2. Analyze the economic impact of World War II on Texas.
3. Analyze the social impact of World War II on Texas.

MAIN IDEA
Government spending during World War II finally put an end to the Great Depression. Brave Texans served in battle, and others contributed whatever they could on the home front.

A REAL-LIFE STORY
During World War II, Americans of all backgrounds showed heroism in their common cause. Doris (Dorie) Miller of Waco joined the navy and was assigned to an African American mess squad. He was collecting laundry when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. He raced to the deck and took over a deck gun, which he had never been trained to fire. He also rescued many wounded sailors. He received the Navy Cross:

For distinguished devotion to duty, extraordinary courage and disregard for his own personal safety during the attack on the Fleet in Pearl Harbor, Territory of Hawaii, by Japanese forces on December 7, 1941. . . . Miller, despite enemy strafing and bombing and in the face of a serious fire, assisted in moving his Captain . . . to a place of greater safety, and later manned and operated a machine gun directed at enemy Japanese attacking aircraft until ordered to leave the bridge.

U.S. Navy Citation to Mess Attendant Second Class Doris Miller, 1941

Poster in memory of Dorie Miller

Sadly, Miller was killed in battle in 1943. In this section you will learn about World War II and its effects on soldiers, their families at home, and the world at large.

The World at War Again
The Great Depression made life difficult in all parts of the world. In some countries, dictators rose to power by claiming that they could improve people's lives. Once they were in command, the
dictators began attacking neighboring countries. The rest of the world rose up to battle them, thus beginning another world war.

World War II matched the Allies (Great Britain, France, and the Soviet Union) against the Axis powers (Germany, Italy, and Japan). When the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor, a U.S. naval base, on December 7, 1941, the United States entered the war on the side of the Allies. Texas senator Tom Connally introduced a resolution to declare war on Japan the next day. Germany and Italy were added a few days later.

Texas lined up to join the armed services. Although only 5 percent of the nation’s population lived in Texas, 7 percent of all U.S. servicemen and women came from the Lone Star State. In all, more than 750,000 Texans served in the war, including 12,000 women.

Because so many supplies were needed for the war, businesses finally began making money again. Demand for food, clothing, weapons, and other supplies rose both at home and overseas. Airplanes rolled off assembly lines in Dallas and Fort Worth. Shipyards along the Texas Gulf Coast launched warships and cargo vessels. Texas oil helped fuel airplanes, tanks, and trucks used in the war effort. World War II brought an end to the Great Depression.

The War Effort in Texas

Texas again became a training ground for the armed services. New bases and camps increased Texas’s total to 15 major military bases and

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**Internment Camps**

_Wartime has often been difficult for immigrants from countries at war with the United States. Fearing that Japanese Americans might help Japan in the war effort, the U.S. government forced them out of their homes and sent them to internment, or confinement, camps. Many Japanese Americans lost their homes and jobs—and years of their lives. There were three such camps in Texas.

In 1988 Congress passed a bill that repaid these Japanese Americans for part of the property they lost during World War II. The government also formally apologized for discriminating against them during the war._

_Do you think an action like the internment of the Japanese could happen again in the United States? Why or why not?_
General Dwight D. Eisenhower (left) and Admiral Chester W. Nimitz (right), both Texans, were among the top-ranked military officials of World War II.

WOMEN IN THE WORKFORCE With so many men away at war, industries depended on women to help produce airplanes, jeeps, artillery, and other supplies for the war. No longer limited to traditionally female jobs, women worked on production lines, lifted slabs of steel, drove buses and trucks, and did other heavy labor. Although many women faced some anger from male coworkers and earned about 65 percent of what men earned, they took heart knowing that they were “doing their part.” After the war, returning soldiers took many of the jobs women had filled. However, many women were not happy to return to their homemaking duties; 80 percent of women reported that they wished they could keep their jobs. In the decades to come, more and more women began taking jobs traditionally held by men. Today, laws help ensure a woman’s freedom to choose a career.

How do you think people’s opinions of women in the workforce have changed since the 1940s?

40 airfields. These bases provided training and personnel for the war. The naval flight-training base in Corpus Christi was the largest in the world.

Texas also was the site of more than 40 prisoner-of-war camps that held more than 50,000 prisoners—more than in any other state. With typical Texas resourcefulness, the state made the most of its situation. The prisoners of war were put to work on farms and military bases to help the Allies.

Ordinary people also helped in the war effort. Because the armed forces needed so many supplies, some common items became scarce. Texans used meat, sugar, coffee, and other foods carefully and planted “victory gardens” to grow more food. They collected scrap iron and old tires and bought war bonds to aid the war effort. In factories, women worked while men went off to war. The popular image of “Rosie the Riveter” was a reminder of their willingness to serve.

A Bounty of Texas Heroes

Texas men and women made major contributions to the Allied effort in World War II. Supreme Allied Commander General Dwight D. Eisenhower was born in Texas. Eisenhower planned the D-Day advance...
into Normandy, France, in 1944 and accepted Germany’s surrender on May 7, 1945. He would later be elected president largely due to his valor during the war. Another Texan, Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, was commander of the Pacific Fleet. Nimitz turned back the Japanese navy and was present when the Japanese surrendered aboard the USS Missouri on August 14, 1945.

Colonel Oveta Culp Hobby, wife of former Texas governor William Hobby, organized the Women’s Army Corps and served as its first commander. Texas women also joined the Navy, Coast Guard, and Marines, and served as Women’s Airforce Service Pilots, providing valuable air support for the Allies. Some women took jobs in Texas defense plants. Still others served with the American Red Cross and as military nurses.

By the time the war ended, more than 22,000 Texans had given their lives for their country. Thousands of Texas soldiers came home with medals and commendations awarded for their efforts during the war. In addition, more than 30 Texans were awarded the nation’s highest military decoration, the Medal of Honor, given by Congress to recognize bravery beyond the call of duty. One such sailor, Johnnie Hutchins, was only 21 when he saved his ship from an enemy torpedo. Despite being wounded, Hutchins steered the ship out of the torpedo’s path. He died still holding onto the wheel. He received the Medal of Honor, and the Navy also named the USS Johnnie Hutchins in his honor.

**Diverse Groups Unite in the War Effort**

Besides the thousands of minority Texans who sacrificed and volunteered at home, many were honored for their valor overseas. In fact, five of the Texans who received the Medal of Honor were Hispanic. Lucián
Adams, Marcario García, Silvestre Herrera, Cleto Rodríguez, and José M. López all received the award for extreme bravery. Another Hispanic Texan, Dr. Héctor P. García, was awarded the Bronze Star and six battle stars for service in Italy and North Africa.

African American Texans also made a difference. The Navy Cross was awarded to Texan Doris Miller, who manned a machine gun at Pearl Harbor and was later killed in action. The Navy honored Miller in 1973 by naming a ship for him. Cuba Gooding, Jr., portrayed Miller in the 2001 movie *Pearl Harbor*. Another African American from Texas, Leonard Roy Harmon, gave his life while protecting a wounded shipmate during an attack. Harmon was awarded the Navy Cross. In 1943 he became the first African American for whom the U.S. Navy named a ship, the USS *Harmon*. Many other minority Texans also served the United States proudly.

**Audie Murphy**

The most decorated soldier in World War II was Audie Murphy. In all, the young soldier from Farmersville, Texas, received 33 awards, including every U.S. medal awarded for valor. In 1945, when he was not quite 21, he received the Medal of Honor for his bravery during a battle in France. Murphy had jumped into a burning tank destroyer and taken control of its guns, killing or wounding 50 of the enemy and stopping an enemy tank attack. After the war, France and Belgium also awarded Murphy decorations for bravery.

In 1949 Murphy wrote about his war experiences. In one passage, he describes the difficulties of starting life again after the horrors of war.

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**TEXAS VOICES**

When I was a child, I was told that men were branded by war. Has the brand been put on me? Have the years of blood and ruin stripped me of all decency? Of all belief?

Not all belief. I believe in the force of a hand grenade, the power of artillery, the accuracy of a Garand [rifle]. . . . We have been so intent on death that we have forgotten life. And now suddenly life faces us. I swear to myself that I will measure up to it. I may be branded by war, but I will not be defeated by it. . . . I will learn to live again.

Second Lieutenant Audie Murphy, *To Hell and Back*, 1949

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**Texas After the War**

When World War II ended in 1945, the nation had a new president. Franklin D. Roosevelt had been elected to a fourth term in 1944 but died the following spring. Vice-President Harry S. Truman became president in April 1945.
Other changes had happened as well. The war had created enormous economic growth, ending the Depression. In Texas, business was booming. Government spending in defense industries and huge demand for oil, tools, and aircraft gave a needed boost to many Texas cities. Other towns benefited from nearby military camps. Farmers, who had contributed crops to Allied nations, enjoyed high prices for their goods. Texas was even able to pay its $42 million debt from the Depression.

Continued migration to cities also changed the face of Texas. During the war thousands of rural Texans moved to cities to take jobs. People from other states and countries also streamed into Texas cities, as did returning soldiers. These newcomers and soldiers shared new ideas and experiences from faraway places, making the cities more sophisticated. Slowly but surely, Texas was changing from a rural state to an urban society. Its economy, once dominated by farming and oil, now depended largely on industry.

People were changing, too. African Americans, who had served with distinction in a segregated Army, now were determined to have equal rights. Mexican Americans also vowed to overcome discrimination. Women—who had flown planes, built machinery, and provided important medical care during the war—found it difficult to establish a business or even buy a house in postwar Texas. They, too, would demand equal rights. In the years to come, Texas would face many challenges in these areas, resulting in a totally new way of thinking.
Born on January 19, 1905, Oveta Culp was the second of seven children born to Ike and Emma Culp in Killeen, Texas. She became familiar with government at an early age because her father was a lawyer and a Texas state legislator. She acquired her dedication to community service from her mother, who provided food, clothing, and money to people in need. Culp studied at Mary Hardin College in Belton, Texas. She continued her education at the University of Texas at Austin. As a woman in the 1920s, she already had made great strides. She had attended college and was a full-time member of the workforce.

In 1925, 20-year-old Oveta Culp was appointed by the speaker of the Texas House of Representatives to serve as legislative parliamentarian. At 25, she was persuaded to run for the state legislature but lost the race. However, she remained active in politics for the rest of her life. She married publisher and former governor William Pettus Hobby, 27 years her senior and a family friend, in 1933. The couple had two children, William and Jessica.

In 1941 Hobby was asked to create an organizational chart suggesting how members of the proposed Women’s Army Corps could serve their country. Hobby identified doctors, secretaries, communications operators, kitchen patrollers, and parachute folders as among the 239 types of Army positions that could be filled by women. Hobby was appointed Director of the Women’s Army Corps and soon rose to the rank of colonel. In 1945 Hobby received the Distinguished Service Medal for her outstanding service.

After the war Hobby returned to work in the private sector in Houston for several years, although she remained active in humanitarian and government efforts. She and her husband supported Dwight D. Eisenhower for president. In 1953 Eisenhower appointed her the secretary of the new Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. She resigned in 1955 to take care of her ailing husband but soon went back to work and charitable activities in Houston. She was later appointed by President Lyndon B. Johnson to the National Advisory Commission on Selective Service (the military draft).

Many awards, honors, and degrees have been awarded to Hobby, who was named in 1984 to the Texas Women’s Hall of Fame. She died on August 16, 1995, in Houston.

**LINKING TO HISTORY**

Until Oveta Culp Hobby helped organize the Women’s Army Corps, women’s roles during wartime were limited. As a class, discuss the types of opposition Oveta Culp Hobby might have faced in her work with WAC. What other areas of women’s lives were affected by these attitudes?

**LINKING TO TODAY**

Find out how women’s roles in the U.S. Army have changed since the 1940s. What types of military responsibilities do women have today? What role did Oveta Culp Hobby play in this change? Summarize your findings and share your information as a class.

Go to www.celebratingtexas.com to research this topic.
TERMS & NAMES
Explain the significance of each of the following:
1. Black Tuesday
2. Great Depression
3. Dust Bowl
4. Franklin Delano Roosevelt
5. New Deal
6. Doris Miller
7. Dwight D. Eisenhower
8. Chester W. Nimitz
9. Oveta Culp Hobby
10. Audie Murphy

REVIEW QUESTIONS
Texas and the Great Depression
(pages 476–480)
1. Why did Texas at first not feel the full effects of the Depression?
2. What did the government do to provide relief to Texans?

Texans Look for a New Deal
(pages 482–485)
3. New Deal programs are sometimes referred to as the alphabetical agencies. Why?
   Identify three of these programs.
4. What public safety crisis arose in Texas during the 1930s? How did one Texas governor deal with the problem?

World War II Brings Change to Texas
(pages 487–492)
5. Name one way World War II had a negative effect on Texas and one way it had a positive effect.
6. Identify one Texas war hero and describe his or her specific contribution.

CRITICAL THINKING
Making Generalizations
1. How have U.S. employment practices changed for women and minorities from the 1940s to the present?

Drawing Conclusions
2. Staging a major celebration like the Texas Centennial Exposition during the Great Depression might seem illogical. Why do you think Texas leaders supported it? Explain.

Comparing and Contrasting
3. Which did more to solve political, economic, and social problems in Texas, the New Deal or World War II? Defend your answer.
MAP & GEOGRAPHY SKILLS
Applying Skills

1. Which state had the most land area affected by the Dust Bowl?
2. Which states experienced severe land erosion?

SOCIAL STUDIES SKILLBUILDER
Identifying Cause and Effect

Because so many supplies were needed for the war, businesses finally began making money again. Demand for food, clothing, weapons, and other supplies rose both at home and overseas. Airplanes rolled off assembly lines in Dallas and Fort Worth. Shipyards along the Texas Gulf Coast launched warships and cargo vessels. Texas oil helped fuel airplanes, tanks, and trucks used in the war effort. World War II brought about an end to the Great Depression.

1. Which words indicate cause and effect?
2. Identify the causes and effects related to these key words.
3. What other causes and effects can you find in this paragraph?

CHAPTER PROJECT
Exploring the New Deal
Working in groups of three or four, choose one of the New Deal agencies you read about in this chapter and find out what that agency accomplished in Texas during the Great Depression. Then create a pamphlet or poster detailing your findings. Include photographs and other visuals where appropriate. As a group, present your findings to the class.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & SOCIETY ACTIVITY
Changes in Farming Methods
Poor farming techniques and the invention of the motorized tractor led to massive overuse of the Texas soil during the 1920s. Research how pre-1930s farming methods contributed to the Dust Bowl. Then find out how Texas farmers changed those techniques to better conserve the soil and its nutrients. As a class, create a model of one old and one new technique and demonstrate how each holds up to the wind and rain.

Go to www.celebratingtexas.com to research this topic.

CITIZENSHIP ACTIVITY
Creating a Government Services Guide
Even today, Texans rely on government assistance of some type. Many of President Roosevelt’s New Deal agencies still provide valuable services. As a class, research what government-sponsored services are available in your community. Include such agencies as the welfare department, employment commission, and others. Then compile your findings in an easy-to-use reference database. Include the name, address, telephone number, Web address, and purpose of each agency. Share your guide with community relief agencies.
LEARNING the Skill

A time line is a special type of chart that shows a sequence of events. It presents a picture of the order in which events happened.

Time lines can cover short or long periods. They may provide exact dates or general time periods. Some time lines present events in two or more categories. The unit time lines in this book present events that happened in Texas, the United States, and the world. Also, although the time lines in this book are all horizontal (side to side), some time lines are vertical (up and down).

The time line on this page is horizontal. On a horizontal time line, the earliest date will be at the left. Always look above and below a time line for events. On a vertical time line, the earliest date is usually at the top, but also check the bottom to be sure.

PRACTICING the Skill

Use your knowledge of time lines and your knowledge of social studies to answer the question. Read the question and answer explanations that follow to help you answer the TAKS practice questions on the following page.

1 Which event most likely led to the formation of the first women’s suffrage organization in Texas?

A Governor Culberson’s becoming a U.S. senator  
B the formation of the Texas Railroad Commission  
C the acceptance of the Texas Constitution of 1876  
D the fading of the Populist movement

A Incorrect. Charles Culberson left the governor’s office in 1899.  
B Incorrect. The Texas Railroad Commission was formed in 1891.  
C Correct. The women’s suffrage movement began in 1885, after the 1876 Texas Constitution denied women the right to vote.  
D Incorrect. The Populist Party was not formed until 1892.
APPLYING the Skill

Use the time line and your knowledge of social studies to answer the questions on this page.

1. Which event led to the formation of a city commission type of government in Galveston in the early 1900s?
   A. the stock market crash
   B. the hurricane of 1900
   C. the Mexican Revolution
   D. the Texas Capitol building burns

2. In what year did Pancho Villa attack Americans in Mexico?
   F. 1910
   G. 1914
   H. 1915
   J. 1916

3. Which would be the best title for this time line?
   A. Disaster and Unrest
   B. The Great War
   C. Peaceful Coexistence
   D. New Deals and Prosperity

4. What is the most likely reason the United States did not enter World War I until 1917?
   F. The Europeans did not want U.S. interference.
   G. The entire U.S. Army was guarding the United States–Mexico border.
   H. The United States had not felt threatened by the war before the events of 1917.
   J. The war was almost over.

On your own paper, write brief answer explanations for the correct and incorrect answer choices on this page.