

# The Great Depression

Diane Newton



## Summary

This book is about the Great Depression of 1929 and how it led to and was, in part, resolved by World War II.

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# Before Reading

## Think Ahead

Look at the pictures and answer the questions.

**dissatisfied**

**debt**

**poverty**

**march**

**currency**

1. What is it called when a person owes money?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What is another name for money?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. When people want to demand change, what kind of a walk do they sometimes go on?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. When people are unhappy with something, how do they feel?  
\_\_\_\_\_

# Vocabulary

## A Read and match.

1.



•

• a. symptom

2.



•

• b. decrease

3.



•

• c. worthless

4.



•

• d. unemployment

5.



•

• e. invest

6.



•

• f. wage

7.



•

• g. invade

8.



•

• h. teenager

**B Write the word for each definition.**

wage      profit      devastating      worthless      share

1. \_\_\_\_\_ having no value
2. \_\_\_\_\_ the amount of money a person regularly gets for his or her job
3. \_\_\_\_\_ one of the equal parts that the ownership of a company is divided into
4. \_\_\_\_\_ money made by companies when sales are greater than costs
5. \_\_\_\_\_ causing great damage

**C Choose the word that means about the same as the underlined words.**

1. These investment opportunities are pieces, or percentages, or a company.
  - a. Invests
  - b. Profits
  - c. Teenagers
  - d. Shares
2. People felt satisfied and fearless because the stock market was doing well.
  - a. worthless
  - b. confident
  - c. devastated
  - d. greedy
3. Taking a chance on the stock market is called guessing or hoping.
  - a. debt
  - b. savings account
  - c. speculating
  - d. unemployment
4. Roosevelt made laws to help protect and ensure industry, create jobs, and encourage recovery.
  - a. stabilize
  - b. invade
  - c. willing
  - d. decrease

# Comprehension

**A Match the pictures with the correct sentences.**

- a. People spent money they did not have.
- b. The crash was named for the street on which the US stock exchange was located.
- c. People who still had money chose to save it.



1. \_\_\_\_\_



2. \_\_\_\_\_



3. \_\_\_\_\_

**B Choose the best answer.**

1. Traditionally, what is a safe way to save money?
  - a. Foreclose on your loans
  - b. Invest it in stocks
  - c. Purchase things on credit
  - d. Put it in a savings account
  
2. What happens if a company you invest in does not do well?
  - a. You get your money back.
  - b. You make money.
  - c. You lose money.
  - d. Your investments go into a new company.
  
3. What did the Great Depression ultimately lead to in Germany?
  - a. Adolph Hitler's rise to power
  - b. Large debts to the USA
  - c. The Jarrow Crusade
  - d. The introduction of the FDIC

**C** Choose the correct phrase for each picture. One (1) choice will not be used.

- a. An unemployed man during the Depression
- b. Buying a home on credit
- c. A new deal of relief, recovery, and reform
- d. The location of the US stock exchange
- e. A child working to help his family



1. \_\_\_\_\_



2. \_\_\_\_\_



3. \_\_\_\_\_



4. \_\_\_\_\_

**D** Read each sentence. Write “T” if it is true or “F” if it is false.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ People did not have money to spend before the Great Depression.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ A share in a company is worth what someone will pay for it.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ The Wall Street Crash was also called White Tuesday.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ Financial systems worldwide suffered during the Great Depression.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ President Hoover believed that the government needed to help unemployed Americans.

**E Complete the sentences with the correct words.**

1. During the Great Depression, the value of shares fell until they were \_\_\_\_\_.  
worthless    poverty
2. In the gold standard, a unit of \_\_\_\_\_ was worth a certain amount of gold.  
currency    stock
3. The German people became \_\_\_\_\_ with their government, and Adolf Hitler rose to power.  
confident    dissatisfied
4. The Wall Street Crash was a \_\_\_\_\_ of greater problems in the financial system of the time.  
symptom    decrease
5. The IMF was founded to \_\_\_\_\_ currency around the world.  
invest    stabilize

**F Number the events in order from 1=first to 5=last.**

- a. \_\_\_\_\_ Many people were investing in the stock market.
- b. \_\_\_\_\_ No one had money to buy the goods that factories were producing.
- c. \_\_\_\_\_ Roosevelt promised a new deal for the American people.
- d. \_\_\_\_\_ World War II began in Europe.
- e. \_\_\_\_\_ Stock prices collapsed and panic set in.

## Think About It

**A** Look in the reader to write the answers to the following 5-W questions.

Who?	What?	When?	Where?	Why?
It's natural for _____ to want more than what they have.	The _____ _____ was a period of financial panic felt around the world.	On _____, _____ stock prices collapsed leading to an event called "Black Tuesday."	The financial crisis was particularly devastating in _____ where many countries were still recovering from World War I.	During the Wall Street Crash, everyone wanted to _____ their shares and no one was _____.

**B** Complete the sentences below with your own ideas.

From this book, I learned \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

Before I read this book, I knew \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

Now I also know \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.