

Suggested Internet Resources

Periodically, Internet Resources are updated on our web site at www.LibraryVideo.com

- memory.loc.gov/ammem/fsowhome.html
The Library of Congress' "America from the Great Depression to World War II" has a wealth of photographs of life in the United States during this time period.
- www.umkc.edu/lib/spec-col/ww2/PearlHarbor/ph-txt.htm#fdr
The University of Missouri-Kansas City provides the full text and audio of President Franklin Roosevelt's "Day of Infamy" speech.
- millercenter.virginia.edu/scripps/diglibrary/prezspeches/roosevelt/
The Miller Center of Public Affairs at the University of Virginia offers audio recordings of some of President Franklin Roosevelt's most important speeches.

Suggested Print Resources

- Buhite, Russell D. (Ed.) *FDR's Fireside Chats*. University of Oklahoma Press, Norman, OK; 1992.
- Grafton, John (Ed.) *Great Speeches: Franklin Delano Roosevelt*. Dover Publications, Mineola, New York; 1999.
- Houck, Davis W. *FDR and Fear Itself: The First Inaugural Address*. Texas A&M University Press, College Station, TX; 2002.

TEACHER'S GUIDE

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Teacher's Guides Included
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FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

Grades 9–12

Great political speeches are authentic and heart felt — designed to move audiences, instill trust, and clearly and effectively communicate goals and policies. *Greatest Speeches of the 20th Century: Voices in Time* will introduce viewers to a wide range of prominent leaders and analyze the rhetoric they used to persuade others during times of dramatic social change and intense political turmoil. Students will become more knowledgeable about the immediate impact and enduring effect of history's most remarkable speeches, and through these stirring words increase their awareness of 20th century world history.



Historical Overview

The Stock Market Crash of 1929 ushered in one of the worst depressions in American history, one that instilled an overwhelming sense of economic helplessness and cast a pall on the entire country. With President Hoover perceived as ineffectual, the Democratic Party turned to Franklin D. Roosevelt who after his election in 1932 became the unifying force the United States needed to stabilize the fractured country. His intimate fireside chats communicated honestly the brutal realities Americans faced, clearly explained his New Deal policies and led to unprecedented trust and comfort levels between the president and American citizens.

Time Line

1882 — Franklin Roosevelt is born in Hyde Park, New York.

1913 — Franklin Roosevelt is appointed Assistant Secretary of the Navy under Woodrow Wilson.

1921 — Franklin Roosevelt is stricken with polio.

1929 — The stock market collapses.

1932 — Franklin Roosevelt is elected president of the United States.

1932 — The unemployment rate reaches approximately 25% in the United States.

1934 — Great Plains dust storms blow soil as far east as Washington, D.C.

1935 — The second New Deal begins.

1940 — Franklin Roosevelt is elected to an third term as president.

1944 — Franklin Roosevelt is reelected to a fourth term as president.

1945 — Franklin Roosevelt dies in Warm Springs, Georgia.

Vocabulary

Dust Bowl — The calamitous soil erosion caused by the removal of grasslands and subsequent drought that ruined many farms and farmers in the Great Plains in the 1930s.

Hoover Villages (Hoovervilles) — A derogatory name given to clusters of shacks where those affected by the Depression lived while Herbert Hoover was president.

Civil War — A major war in the United States between 1861 and 1865 in which northern states battled southern states that were attempting to leave the Union.

Great Depression — The time period from around 1929 to 1939 in which many people suffered from extreme poverty as a result of high unemployment.

World War I — The first major war of the 20th century that involved the Allied Powers, led by Great Britain, France and Russia, and their opponents, the Central Powers, which included Germany and Austria-Hungary.

New Deal — The name given to the set of laws initiated by President Franklin Roosevelt that attempted to improve economic conditions during the Great Depression.

Fireside Chats — A series of radio addresses given by President Franklin Roosevelt to gain public support for his New Deal policies during the Great Depression.

(Continued)

Bank Holiday — President Franklin Roosevelt's 1933 plan to shut down the nation's banks for four days to restore public confidence and prevent further panic-induced withdrawals.

World War II — The second major war of the 20th century that involved the Allied Powers led by England, France, the Soviet Union and the United States and their opponents, the Axis Powers, which included Germany, Japan and Italy.

Pearl Harbor — An American military base in the Pacific that was attacked by Japan on December 7, 1941. The United States declared war on Japan the next day.

Discussion Questions

1. Why did many consider Herbert Hoover a “do-nothing” president?
2. What was the socio-economic background of Franklin D. Roosevelt?
3. How did Franklin Roosevelt's political career begin?
4. How were banks and farms affected by the economic crisis?
5. Who was Anton Cermak?
6. Why did Franklin Roosevelt declare a four day bank holiday?
7. How did Franklin Roosevelt deliver his fireside chats?
8. What was the effect of Franklin Roosevelt's “Pearl Harbor” speech?

Discussion Questions & Activities

- Franklin Roosevelt's “Fireside Chats” endeared him to millions of Americans who believed he was acting in their best interests. Break students into small groups and ask each group to listen to and summarize the content of one of Roosevelt's radio addresses. Ask each group to critically analyze its speech's mood, tone and organization of thought. Many audio files of “Fireside Chats” may be found at the following web site: www.fdrlibrary.marist.edu/fires90.html.
- The first hundred days of President Franklin Roosevelt's tenure changed the very infrastructure of one of the most complex governments in history. Ask students to create detailed time lines of the many social programs implemented in stages one and two of the New Deal. More information may be found at the following web site: xroads.virginia.edu/~MA02/volpe/newdeal/timeline_text.html.
- Roosevelt's New Deal created an alphabet soup of work programs such as the PWA, WPA and CCC. Ask students to research and describe initiatives such as the Appalachian Trail, Blue Ridge Parkway and various art projects that were created at this time. As an extension, students may create period posters or advertising campaigns that give recognition to these accomplishments.
- Franklin Roosevelt's January 6, 1941 State of the Union Address was delivered at a time of great international turmoil and economic distress. Ask students to read what became known as the “Four Freedoms” speech and to summarize Roosevelt's thoughts on American preparedness against global threats. Students may also analyze what President Roosevelt called the “foundations of a healthy and strong democracy” and list and evaluate the four essential human freedoms he championed. The “Four Freedoms” speech may be found at the following web site: www.fdrlibrary.marist.edu/4free.html