

TEACHER'S GUIDE
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MISSION 5: "Up from the Dust"

Eleanor Roosevelt and the New Deal

This photograph shows Eleanor Roosevelt touring a Works Progress Administration construction site in Des Moines, Iowa. The WPA was a New Deal program that created jobs for millions of unemployed Americans by organizing public works projects throughout the country. From 1935-1943, WPA workers built 40,000 new buildings, 5,900 schools, 1,686 parks, 1,000 libraries, and thousands of roads, bridges, tunnels, and other improvements to infrastructure. Roosevelt used her national influence as first lady to champion programs like the WPA, as well as other progressive social issues such as women's rights, anti-lynching campaigns, and improved working conditions for laborers. She continued her advocacy work for decades after the Great Depression, becoming a delegate to the United Nations and serving as the first U.S. Representative to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights.



Source: "Eleanor Roosevelt at Works Progress Administration site in Des Moines, Iowa,"
Photographer Unknown, 6/8/1936 National Archives, Collection: Franklin D. Roosevelt Library
Public Domain Photographs, 1882 - 1962 <https://research.archives.gov/id/195991>
