

TEACHER'S GUIDE

Vocabulary Activity

Part 3: Riding the Rails

MISSION 5: "Up from the Dust"

A NOTE TO THE EDUCATOR:

On the following pages, you will find "flashcards" with terms and definitions (both combined and separate) that your students may encounter while playing Part 3 of "Up from the Dust." These terms and definitions can be introduced and practiced before or during the time students see or hear them in the context of Mission US or in their American history study. The discussion questions and writing prompts will provide further opportunities for students to have more practice with the words and terms.

Divide your students into small groups of four or five, and ask each group to review the terms and definitions.

After your students have had a chance to review and discuss the terms and definitions, distribute the excerpt from Frank and Ginny's interview. Review the directions with your students, and ask them to complete the text using the terms they studied.

Here is the order in which the vocabulary terms should be inserted into the blanks within the interview:

yearling

Hoovervilles

hoboes

evicted

union

cannery

on the dole

cotton gin

KKK

deported

soil conservation

lodged



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cannery

A factory where foods are processed and packaged into cans for distribution and sale.



cotton gin

A machine that efficiently removes seeds from cotton fibers, allowing for greater productivity in processing cotton.



lodging

A place to sleep or stay temporarily.



hobo

(Slang) A homeless person who moves from place to place, often in search of work; a vagrant.



Hoovervilles

Makeshift villages created by the homeless during the 1930s and named after President Herbert Hoover.



on the dole

Receiving a regular distribution of money or food from the government.



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soil conservation

The protection of soil from erosion and loss of fertility, usually through methods to reduce damage from wind or water.



union

An organized association of workers that protects their rights and interests, in an attempt to improve working conditions.



yearling

An animal that is one year old.



deported

Forced by the government to leave a country.



eviction

To remove a tenant forcefully from a property by the landlord or by authority.



KKK

The Ku Klux Klan, a secret society in the southern US that violently condemned slave liberation and terrorized Black and other non-White ethnic groups.



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<p>A factory where foods are processed and packaged into cans for distribution and sale.</p>	<p>A machine that efficiently removes seeds from cotton fibers, allowing for greater productivity in processing cotton.</p>
<p>A place to sleep or stay temporarily.</p>	<p>(Slang) A homeless person who moves from place to place, often in search of work; a vagrant.</p>
<p>Makeshift villages created by the homeless during the 1930s and named after President Herbert Hoover.</p>	<p>Receiving a regular distribution of money or food from the government.</p>

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<p>The protection of soil from erosion and loss of fertility, usually through methods to reduce damage from wind or water.</p>	<p>An organized association of workers that protects their rights and interests, in an attempt to improve their working conditions.</p>
<p>An animal that is one year old.</p>	<p>Forced by the government to leave a country.</p>
<p>To remove a tenant forcefully from a property by the landlord or by authority.</p>	<p>The Ku Klux Klan, a secret society in the southern US that violently condemned slave liberation and terrorized Black and other non-White ethnic groups.</p>

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Name: _____

Date: _____

Activity: In 1990, more than fifty years after the events of "Up from the Dust," Ginny Dunn's granddaughter Emily interviewed Ginny and Frank for a middle school history assignment about the Great Depression. The following is a portion of that interview.

After reading and talking about the words and terms on the flash cards, read this excerpt from the interview, and use your memory to fill in the missing words and terms.

Hoovervilles

soil conservation

cannery

union

deported

evicted

on the dole

KKK

yearling

hoboes

cotton gin

lodged

Emily: Grandma, didn't you try to stop Great Uncle Frank from leaving? Riding the rails sounds so dangerous!

Ginny: Well, I tried, but it didn't work. I still remember—Frank had lost his _____. She was such a sweet cow. He was very upset, and when I told him that our aunt had invited me to go see her in California—

Frank: I was irate. I wanted to get out of there too—the drought, the dust, everything! I just made up my mind and told Ginny I was leaving.

Ginny: I still think it was a bad idea, Frank. Ma and Pa were frantic. Pa was counting on you to help out with planting in curves the next day, ever since he heard that _____ expert talk on the radio.

Frank: You're right. I had forgotten all about that.

Ginny: Both our parents were pretty hurt, and scared for you.

Emily: Did you regret running away?

Frank: I regret not telling our parents, for sure. But as dangerous as it was, I don't regret the experiences I had when I rode the rails.

Emily: Can you tell me about them?



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Frank: Gee, where do I start, Emily? I made it to Chicago and saw several _____ right by the rail yard. These camps were cleverly named after the President.

Emily: Who lived there? Was it _____?

Frank: Yes, but they were looking for work, so they only _____ there until they found something better. The people there were mostly factory workers and their families. I met a boy whose family had been _____ from his house. Most of the factories had slashed the workers' wages, and ignored demands made by workers' _____. Some just shut down like the _____ where the boy's father used to work. Everyone there was unemployed and _____ — they would only get a handful of flour, some butter and a can of beans.

Ginny: Didn't you run into Bill and Bud on a farm one time? I remember you wrote us about it.

Frank: I did when I went to Floydada. They were standing outside a _____ building, holding bags of cotton and looking shell-shocked. It felt so great to see them after so long, but they asked me to leave and find work elsewhere. They said the conditions on that farm were far worse.

Emily: Did seeing your brothers make you want to go home?

Frank: It did. I saw all sorts of families riding the rails together and that made me miss home even more. The African-American families had to constantly hide from being victimized by the _____ because of the color of their skin. The Mexican families feared being _____ to another country by the US government. These families suffered the most.