

TEACHER'S GUIDE

Essential Questions

MISSION 5: "Up from the Dust"

Mission 5: "Up from the Dust" is designed to help students think about the following questions, among others. Keep them in mind as your students play the game.

1. What was the experience of family wheat farmers on the southern Great Plains during the late 1920s and early 1930s?
 - Why did so many landowners go into wheat farming?
 - What were some of the factors that encouraged wheat farmers to keep expanding their acreage devoted to wheat?
 - How did young people help out on the family farm?
 - What were some of the factors that made wheat farming difficult by the early 1930s?
 - Why were parts of Oklahoma, Kansas, and Texas called the Dust Bowl?
 - What were some of the causes of the drought and dust storms in the region, and how did they impact family farms?
2. What conditions did ordinary Americans face during the early years of the Great Depression, and how did they respond?
 - What happens to workers when businesses struggle or close during an economic depression?
 - Why did many people travel around the country on freight trains during the Great Depression?
 - Why were so many people homeless?
 - What were some ways people worked together to face the hardships of the Great Depression?
 - What kinds of organized protests arose, and what changes did the protesters want?
3. How did President Roosevelt and his New Deal programs try to ease the economic hardships many Americans experienced?
 - What were some of the specific New Deal programs to help the unemployed?
 - What programs were designed to help farmers?
 - What was the Civilian Conservation Corps, and why was it so popular?
 - Who were some of the groups of people who did not benefit from the New Deal?
 - Why did some people not support President Roosevelt and the New Deal?
 - How did the president use media to inform and reassure the public?

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4. Why did some people from the Dust Bowl migrate to California?
- What conditions did they find in California?
 - How did migrant farm workers try to improve conditions?
 - How did the government help to improve workers' lives?
 - Why was it more difficult for migrant farm workers to unionize and strike?