

Activity Five: The New Deal

Materials: NY Times Upfront article on the Legacy of FDR, attached; GIST template.

Steps:

1. Give out a photo showing “Hoover” sign. Ask students what they think people were trying to say by these signs. How did people feel about Hoover? Were they being sarcastic? Tell students that people were very discontented with Hoover during the Great Depression. After Hoover, a new president was elected: FDR. FDR won partly because he promised the American people “A New Deal.”
2. Remind students that Hoover was against government intervention in the economy. FDR had a completely different idea: he thought that the government was responsible for the well-being of people.
3. Give students time to read the article, “FDR: How He Changed America?”
4. Hand out the GIST template to students and review each section that needs to be filled in.
5. Tell students that they are going to practice summarizing a single paragraph by writing a GIST of one of the paragraphs from the article they just read, and that they should summarize the paragraph briefly in their own words.
6. Remind students that they are looking for the main idea(s) of the paragraph and that asking who, what, when, where, why, how will help them identify the most important pieces of information that will be included in their summary which is ultimately the GIST.
7. Assign each student (or pair) a paragraph to be summarized using the GIST template. (It helps to number the paragraphs prior to making copies of the article.)
8. Be sure to make it clear to students that their GIST needs to be 20 words or less, that one word goes on each line, and that it has to be coherent and make sense. They can’t just put random words on the line. (You may want to draw a brief illustration on the board with four lines and write “The dog is big.” or some other simple sentence so that students get the point.
9. Tell students to begin discussing/ filling in the 5W’s +H with their partner before they move on to the actual GIST. Remind them that the answers to these questions will help them to determine the most important information which is most likely going to end up in their GIST. (You may also want to let students know that they may not be able to fill in all of the 5W’s+H questions depending on the content of the article.)
10. Tell students that they may first want to write a draft of their GIST then edit it down to 20 words or less before they put the final draft on the GIST template.
11. Walk around and assist students by asking them prodding questions about their decisions for the 5W’s+H and their word choices. *Note: This activity can also be a good way for students to practice paraphrasing. Because the paragraphs are rather short students will be more apt to practice their paraphrasing skills during this activity.*
12. Once most students have finished, ask for a few volunteers to come up to the board and share their GIST with the rest of the class. (Typically about 4 GISTs will suffice.)

13. Read the GISTs out loud and lead a discussion in which you ask students to look at the original paragraph and discuss whether the summary reflects the original paragraph.

Note: Below are some additional extensions for this activity.

- Have students add their GISTs to newsprint in order to create a summary of the original article.
- If any individual students or pairs were assigned the same paragraph have them put their GISTs on the board side-by-side and discuss differences and similarities and which GIST presents the most accurate summary.
- Have students create a GIST that is 20 words or less for the entire article.
- Have individual students or pairs swap GISTs with other individuals or pairs and discuss whether the GIST represents the article or paragraph and having them explain why or why not.

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Homework:

1. Common Core Achieve Social Studies, pages 194, 198 and 199
2. Pages 89-90 from the TASC Exercise Book: Social Studies
3. Reading on Opposition to the New Deal
4. Minorities and the New Deal from "America in the 1930s"

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Adapted NY Times Upfront article: FDR's Legacy

FDR: How he Changed America—and Still Affects your Life Today

By Suzanne Bilyeu

New York Times Upfront. 140.8 (Jan. 14, 2008): p24.

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At your after-school job, you probably earn at least the minimum wage of \$5.85 an hour. Your grandfather may get a Social Security check every month. And if you work late, there's a good chance you're paid overtime.

The minimum wage, Social Security, and overtime pay are just three of the countless aspects of American life today that are largely the handiwork of a single President: Franklin Delano Roosevelt, who took office 75 years ago, in March 1933.

During his 12 years in the White House--a period that included the Great Depression and World War II FDR revolutionized the role of the government in business and the economy, and by extension, in the lives of all Americans. The legislation he pushed through Congress as part of his New Deal not only helped ease the Depression, it also formed the underpinnings of the modern welfare state.

Admirers credit him with rescuing capitalism and America's way of life at a time when widespread economic misery made socialism and Communism more appealing to many. Detractors argue that he opened the door to a government that was too big, too powerful, and too costly for taxpayers. But few deny his impact on the United States, then and now.

"No other President affects our lives today as much as FDR," says William E. Leuchtenburg, author of *The FDR Years*. "There is the growth of the presidency, the welfare state--including old-age security--and government regulation of so many areas of private life."

Here are some examples of how FDR's legacy influences American life in the 21st century:

MINIMUM WAGE

* If you work weekends or after school, at Wal-Mart or McDonald's, you're entitled to earn at least the federal minimum wage. In 1938, the Fair Labor Standards Act, part of Roosevelt's New Deal., established the first federal minimum wage: 25 cents

Securities and Exchange Commission (S.E.C.) over-sees the nation's stock and bond markets, with regulations designed to protect investors and get them the information they need to make investment decisions.

ROADS & PUBLIC WORKS

* Your local airport or even your school building may owe its existence to the New Deal. "Alphabet agencies" like the the C.W.A. [Civil Works Administration] and the W.P.A. (Works Progress Administration) put millions of unemployed Americans to work building roads, bridges, schools, hospitals, and airports. Projects built under these programs include New York City's Triborough Bridge, the Overseas Highway in the Florida Keys, the University of Texas Library, and Aquatic Park in San Francisco.

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

* The power that labor unions have today is largely the result of the National Labor Relations Act of 1935, which gave unions the right to organize workers and to engage in collective bargaining with employers. It also prohibited employers from "union busting" practices like firing or harassing workers who join a union.

Bilyeu, Suzanne

New York Times Upfront, 14 Jan. 2008, p. 24+.

Get the GIST

Name Student A
Article Title FDR: HOW HE changed America...
Article Source New York Times Upfront

1. Read the article or section of text.

2. Fill out the 5Ws + H.

Who: President Roosevelt

What: Capitalism

Where: America

When: 1933

Why: Economic Misery

How: Opened the door to a government that was too big

3. Write a GIST in 20 words or less.

President Roosevelt created capitalism
in America in 1933.
This creation resulted in
economic misery and a
government that was too big.

Get the GIST

Name Student B
Article Title FDR: How He Changed America-
Article Source New York Times Upfront

1. Read the article or section of text.

2. Fill out the 5Ws + H.

Who: Franklin D. Roosevelt

What: Affects our lives in many ways

Where: U.S.A

When: Over 80 years ago

Why: To help ease the Depression

How: Changed many laws: minimum wage, workday, social security, FDIC, safer investments, public works, bargaining

3. Write a GIST in 20 words or less.

Over 80 years ago,
Franklin Roosevelt changed laws
about wages, collective bargaining
and more. These changes
still affect Americans today.