

# Explain pick-up

## How serious was the Great Depression of the 1930s?

**This revision activity works best if you do it with a friend, and talk about it as you do it.**

The cards below all describe something that happened during the Great Depression in America.

Cut up the cards and place them face down. In turn, pick up a card, explain how it affected America and Americans, and how much, then place it face up in one of two piles – those which suggest the Depression was all doom and gloom, and those which suggest things were not all bad.

When you have finished 'weigh up' the two piles – how serious was the Great Depression?

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|---|--|---|
| 60 countries increased their tariffs against US exports       | Cinemas did not show Hoover's picture                              | Hoover lost the 1932 election   |
| Hoover sent the army into Washington to remove the Bonus Army | Many people queued in bread lines                                  | In 1932, Hoover provided \$300 million unemployment pay, and \$1.5 billion business loans |
| People blamed Hoover for the Depression                       | Electrical goods, and the chemicals industry, continued to do well | Some people lived in Hoovervilles   |
| People felt that Roosevelt would try to end the Depression    | Roosevelt won the 1932 election                                    | Some people were <i>better off</i> during the Depression                                  |
| The economic crisis spread to Europe                          | The number of unemployed rose to 13 million                        | The crisis spread from banks to ordinary firms  |
| There was a 'farm strike' in Iowa in 1932                     | There were 23,000 suicides in 1932                                 | The Wall Street Crash led to banks and brokers going bankrupt                             |
| There were clouds of dust over the Midwest                    | Thousands of Midwest farmers moved to California                   | Three-quarters of black workers were unemployed in some southern towns                    |
| The 'Bonus Army' demanded their pensions early                | Men were walking round with placards begging for jobs              | In one steel town, 80% of workers were unemployed   |