

Guiding Question: What actions did people take to cope with the economic hardship of the Great Depression?

Mission Reflection

In Part 2, “Neighbors in Need,” and Part 3, “Riding the Rails,” people responded to economic hardship in many ways. In the chart below, list some of the specific ways Americans responded to the challenges of the 1930s.

Response to Hardship	Examples from the Game
Neighbors Helping Neighbors	
Demanding Governmental Assistance	
Traveling to Find Work	
Organized Charities	

Hard Times

Which of the strategies for dealing with economic hardship do you think were the most effective in the 1930s and why?

How might people facing economic hardship today cope in similar or different ways?

Time: 15 minutes

Instructions

Take 5 minutes to have students review their **Decision Tracker** and use this table to reflect on their game play, individually or in small groups.

In a 10-minute discussion, ask students to reflect on their experiences following Ginny and Frank around their town and then on the rails around the country.

Frank and Ginny learn more about the needs of their family, neighbors, and other Americans as they face the Great Depression. If this does not come up in conversation, follow up with questions such as:

- How can you tell that the Dunns and other members of the town were struggling financially?
- What is a drifter? How do you think Ginny, Frank, their family, and neighbors felt about having drifters in their town?
- What was the Bonus Army, and what were they hoping to achieve in Washington, DC?
- How would you feel seeing all the changes in your home and town that Ginny and Frank were experiencing?

In the game, Frank decided to leave the farm and travel the country via train. If this part of the game does not come up naturally in conversation, you may choose to prompt students with the following questions:

- Why did Frank decide to leave the farm? Would you have made the same choice? Why or why not?
- What kinds of people and events did Frank encounter on his journey around

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	the United States? What did you learn from each of them? • What were Hoovervilles, and what were they like? • What types of actions did people take to cope with the economic hardship? What did they hope would come from their actions? • How did ordinary citizens and local communities try to help those in need? • How were big cities and small towns alike and different?
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