1. Great Depression

Craig Kim, Section 3

The Great Depression was a time of suffering and poverty for many Americans. It caused millions of Americans to be unemployed, business shops to close doors, and banks being bankrupted. This tragedy caused many families to die from starvation and the lack of shelter. The Great Depression was triggered after the stock market crashed in October 1929. However, the crash of the stock market was only the beginning. After stock market crashed, the money that many American banks had invested had vanished, causing many banks to be bankrupted. Since the banks fell, people who had money in their accounts also lost their money after the banks fell. In addition, many Americans withdrew their money, allowing banks to become weaker.

http://www.english.illinois.edu/maps/depression/overview.htm

Daniel Lee, Section 3

Millions of Americans were put out of work because of the Great Depression, and this event also marked the first time when the government began to be involved in the economy and society as a whole. The Great Depression began when the stock market crashed. Although it was thought to be a quick path to becoming wealthy, investing in stocks had a reverse effect. As banks closed because of the crash, people began to rush to banks to withdraw their money. This sudden withdrawal caused even more banks to become bankrupt, and those who didn't make it in time also became bankrupt. The businesses and industries of America also suffered. Because of the closure of many banks, many businesses could not afford to maintain the current wages for workers, so they cut the pay. However, even after this, many businesses still had to close down. In addition, the workers were forced to curb their spending. This meant that they could not afford to purchase anything in excess and were only able to obtain basic necessities.

http://history1900s.about.com/od/1930s/p/greatdepression.htm

Joachim Bontemps, Section 3

In the 1920s, a worldwide depression struck countries with market economies. In particularly hit the United States. Thirty-seven percent of nonfarm workers were completely out of work. People starved, lost their homes and lands. Homeless vagabonds sneaked aboard trains to cross the nation. Dispossessed cotton farmers, the "Okies," migrated to California in the false hope that the posters about jobs were true. One of the reasons of the Great Depression was that there had been serious over-production in agriculture, leading to falling prices and a rising debt among farmers. When the United States was starting to recover, the World War II erupted in 1939. However, the war helped the country to recover from the depression since it created plenty of jobs.

http://www.english.illinois.edu/maps/depression/about.htm
http://www.history.com/topics/great-depression

2. Okies / Migrant Farmers

Albert Kim, Section 3

An Okie was originally supposed to denote a resident or native of Oklahoma. It's similar to Texan for Texas, in a way. However, in the 1930s in California, the term often referred to very poor immigrants from Oklahoma and other nearby states. Jobs were few in number in the 1930s, but after a job boom began in 1940, there were tons of jobs in shipyards and other places. The Okie migration of the 1930s caused over a million newly displaced people to come to California. During the Great Depression, Okies garnered unwanted hate and attention. These Okies came from the great plans due to ecological disasters. Modern usage doesn't make Okie as offensive; most Oklahomans don't really look with disdain upon people who left Oklahoma (namely Okies).

http://plainshumanities.unl.edu/encyclopedia/doc/egp.ii.044

3. Dust Bowl

Brian Lee, Section 3

The Dust Bowl was a massive ecological disaster in the 1930's that lasted from 1931 to 1939. It had the greatest impact on the southern US, but it affected the northern states as well and was a major contributor to the Great Depression. It was caused when farmers, from 1909 to 1929, came to the Great Plains as new settlers who had very little knowledge about the regions climate. They cleared away the vegetation for farming purposes so there was nothing covering the dirt from the wind. This combined with the droughts and the wind caused massive and frequent dust storms to appear everywhere. These continued for nearly a decade until in 1937 a plan was proposed: a massive planting spree of native trees that would protect the land from erosion. Despite its limited success, by 1938 the work done caused a 65% reduction in the soil blowing.

Sources

http://www.english.illinois.edu/maps/depression/dustbowl.htm
http://digital.library.okstate.edu/encyclopedia/entries/D/DU011.html

Sarah Kim, Section 3

From 1931 to 1939, the Dust Bowl has made a great impact on the southern plains. It was a yellow-brown colored windblown dust that destroyed the crops which led to the Depression of agricultural devastation. Due to the continuous dust storm, people in towns had to wear masks and stay home until the dust storm completed. How did the dust storm start? It first started out when the farmers settled on a land for farming purposes. Because of this, it caused wind and dirt to be combined and caused a massive dust storm. The dirt storm continued to a for almost a decade.

Source: http://www.english.illinois.edu/maps/depr

Ryan Park - Section 3

The Dust Bowl, in essence, was a period in the 30s when Americans living in the Prairie had to fight against severe natural disasters and environmental damages. For instance, farmers exercised poor harvesting methods, ones that excluded necessary actions like crop rotation or cover crops. Although the steel plow allowed farmers to efficiently harvest their crops, the overuse and deeply digging through the soil eventually displaced plant roots that initially kept the soil moist and fertile. The dehydrated soil gradually turned into sand, or simply put, "dust." High winds and the unending drought caused large scale dust storms. "Okies" were forced to leave their homes and migrated to the West, and masses of farmers, with their fields destroyed by the dust storms, ended up as workers for the more fortunate and lost their land. It is important to note that this phenomenon was brought upon by ourselves.

Sources: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dust_Bowl
http://www.pbs.org/kenburns/dustbowl/

4. Economic hardship in the U.S. in the 1930's

Tommy Kim
Group 3

The Economic hardship in the US in the 1930s started in a time called the Great Depression. This was an extremely tough time for people since the year before the US was also suffering from the collapse of the stock market. During this economic crisis, interests' rates dropped to extreme levels. With that, consumer spending and investment were also decreased with the cause of the interest rates going down. Prices in general began to decline during this period. Working conditions began to worsen in farming areas, where unemployment was high since there were not many other possible job options. The decline in the US economy also bought in other countries into economic debt.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Depression

5. John Steinbeck

Sean Franiak
Group 3

The Great Depression was catastrophe that put millions of Americans out of jobs and thousands of banks bankrupted. This tragedy started in October of 1929 when the stock market crashed. It was such a surprise since America had been flourishing the ten years previous. The stock market crash however was just the beginning. Many American banks had invested in the stock market, causing them to bankrupt when the stock market fell. Because of this, people who had money in the banks therefore had nothing after the banks fell. This lead to a national commotion where many people decided to take their money out of banks, causing more banks to fail. Eventually, with the help from a new president and the start of World War II, the America, that was fraught with failure and bankruptcy, managed to retain its salubrious status after a decade. Okies were migrant farmers who had to leave their homeland of the Great Plains because of the Dust Bowl. The Dust Bowl was when the plains had eroded and turned into dry soil. This soil would blow around and create huge tornadoes of dust. John Steinbeck was an author who experienced the Depression and the Dust Bowl and decided to write about it.

Websites:
1. http://history1900s.about.com/od/1930s/p/greatdepression.htm
2. http://www.nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/literature/laureates/1962/steinbeck-bio.html
3. http://www.livinghistoryfarm.org/farminginthe30s/water_06.html

Jeanne Lee - section 3

John Steinbeck

John Steinbeck was one of the most influential authors of American during the 1900s. He was born in Salinas, California, on February 27, 1902, living with his father, mother, and three sisters. Steinbeck's talent love of writing was discovered when he was very young. At fourteen years old, Steinbeck would create poems and stories, locked up in his bedroom. In 1919, Steinbeck was accepted to Stanford University, but dropped out in 1925. He strived to become a writer, and did not think that college education was required for this. In Lake Tahoe, John Steinbeck wrote his first novel, Cup of Gold. It was at this time when Steinbeck married Carol Henning, who encouraged his writing. Steinbeck wrote and published various novels, short stories, and poems. In 1940, Steinbeck's novel Grapes of Wrath won him the Pulitzer Prize, awards given to literary art forms. After traveling Mexico and the Gulf as a war correspondent in World War II, Steinbeck was awarded the Nobel Prize for literature in 1962. In these years, Steinbeck grew ill of heart disease. At age of 66, John Steinbeck passed away on December 20, 1968. His creativity and passion for literature has lasted generations and is still read by many around the globe.

Sources:
http://www.nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/literature/laureates/1962/steinbeck-bio.html
http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/585.John_Steinbeck
http://www.biography.com/people/john-steinbeck-9493358?page=2

Great Depression
Irissa Rim, Section 3

This period of time was when the there was a depression that was world wide and lasted about 10 years, approximately. The time period was around 1929-1939. The cause was when the stock market drastically dropped about 12.8%. This was only 1 of the many stock market crashes that occurred that contributed to the downfall of the economy. Although, it's been a debatable topic whether this was the cause of the Great Depression or not. Many say it was a severe drought that hit all across America, causing the agriculture to go bad, which lead to less workers working on the fields. Also, consumers started to stop buying things, which lead to an increase in the laying off of jobs. Many things contributed to the Great Depression, the period of when things were truly depressing.

Sources:
americanhistory.about.com/od/greatdepression/a/facts_great_dep.htm

Economic hardship in the U.S. in the 1930's
Wonhee Cho, Section 3

Economic hardship in the US in the 1930s were all effects of the Great Depression that had started in the late 1920s. 1/4 of the American workforce was unemployed which was a major problem as prior, they had experienced full employment. The employed workers however, saw their wages decrease and the employers suffered from significantly lowered profits. Banks were also failing as approximately 11,000 banks failed over a four year period from 1929 to 2932. The GNP also faced dramatic decline as what used to be a 2.5% increase annually decreased by 10% for four years. In 1933, Franklin D Roosevelt was confident in solving the problem and had people supporting his campaign, The New Deal. He put in many acts that he hoped would attempt to solve the problem. He created job opportunities for two million young men between the ages of 18 and 25. He also created the AAA (agricultural adjustment act) and had them control the supply of the seven basic farm products: corn, wheat, cotton, rice, peanuts, tobacco, and milk. Doing this, they would be able to control the prices.

Sources:
http://economics.about.com/od/laborinamerica/a/greatdepression.htm
http://www.studyworld.com/depression_of_the_1930's.htm
http://bilaras.hubpages.com/hub/The-New-Deal

John Steinbeck
Kate Lee, Section 3

John Steinbeck was a very famous American writer. He was born on February 27, 1902 in Salinas Valley, California. His mother was a teacher, and his father was a county treasurer. Although his major in Stanford University was marine biology, he never took his degree. It was not until 1929 his first novel, *Cup Of Gold*, was published, which was a historical romance based on the life of a Jamaican buccaneer. However, he gained his popularity when his second novel, *Tortilla Flat,* came out in 1935. He continued writing, coming up with his most famous pieces, *Of Mice and Men* in 1937, and *Grapes Of Wrath* gained a Pulitzer prize in 1939 and was made into a film in 1940. Steinbeck wrote about direct memories of his life in California in the first half of the 20th century America, as he was a reporter before. His works, especially *Grapes of Wrath*, awakened America's social consciousness. During World War II, he became a war correspondent, and his later novels became controversial and weren't very popular due to the fact that he supported the underprivileged during the Great Depression and the Dust Bowl. Although during this time he was criticized greatly by America, he was still greatly appreciated in Europe. He wrote 25 books in total, and he received the Nobel Prize in 1962 for Literature. He passed away in 1968.

Sources: www.johnsteinbeck/com/shtml
www.goodreads.com/author/show/585.John_Steinbeck

Great Depression
Michael Kang, Section 3

The Great Depression was a tragic event that happened in the United States during the 1929's to the 1940's. During this period, millions of Americans lost their jobs and when thousand of banks went bankrupt. This tragedy began October 29th, 1929 when the stock market crashed. Due to the recent economic boom, many americans found the great depression a surprise. There are no clear cut answer on what caused the great depression. Whether it'd be the failing stock market or due to bank failures but we all know what solved the great depression, World War 2. However, during the great depression, 1/4th of the American workforce was unemployed. The employed workers suffered from decrease wages. Banks started to fail due to fear and over a four year period from 1929 to 1932, 11,000 banks started to fail.

Sources: http://history1900s.about.com/od/1930s/p/greatdepression.htm