

## **Hard Times - New Deal : 1929 - 1936**

This unit is a dramatic, dynamic unit that really gives the student an understanding of the economics that rule their world and the shining example of how the U.S. government can become a major force in changing for the better the lives of her people. If you are teaming with the English department on this unit, reading The Grapes of Wrath is the most powerful experience you can give to a history class. The novel teaches the time period like nothing else can. If just yourself in a history course I still recommend using some of the powerful excerpts from the novel. If you are interested, contact me and I'll offer examples.

Again, I like to introduce each new unit to the class with a video/dvd or slide presentation that gives the students an overview and a basis from which to begin asking questions from a context. As I mentioned in previous units the very good videos I have used in the past seem to no longer be available but I know you can find many sources in your media centers. I do a slide presentation mixing slides of then and now to the soundtrack of Bruce Springsteen's The Ghost of Tom Joad as an example. The internet is a gold mine of photos for you to use. Over the years I have created a large number of overhead projections taken from newspapers, magazines and books to illustrate the economic concepts. I have left these references in the lecture notes to show where you might utilize your own visual aids.

I have included an in-depth lecture on Economics that you may include in your unit if you have the time. Students can become very empowered by learning these concepts that rule their world sight unseen. If you don't feel able to teach the lecture without the visuals or your own background is weak in this area you may find many interesting facts and concepts that you can use in your discussion of this time period.