**The New Deal and Franklin Roosevelt’s Presidency**

In the Presidential election of 1932, American’s rejected Herbert Hoover (the incumbent) and instead voted for Franklin D. Roosevelt. Roosevelt had a plan called “The New Deal.” It was a series of government programs to help end the Great Depression.

**Putting People To Work**

One of Roosevelt’s major programs was the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA). It created dams and power plants along the Tennessee River. It created cheap, environmentally-friendly, electricity to 7 states. Building the dams employed hundreds of people. It is still around today.

**Second New Deal**

Since the first “New Deal” did not completely solve the crisis, Roosevelt created the Second New Deal. This established several new and important programs such as:

**Wagner Act/National Labor Relations Act:** Established bargaining rights for workers and made it illegal for companies to use unfair labor practices like intimidating workers or attempting to keep workers from organizing unions.

**Social Security Act**: The most important of the new Federal Programs. It create relief for the following groups.

1. Old-age insurance for retirees aged 65 and older.
2. Unemployment compensation paid by a federal tax on employers and administered by the state.
3. Aid for the disabled and families with dependent children.

**Eleanor Roosevelt**

Eleanor was President Roosevelt’s wife and was very influential in her own right. She was interested in humanitarian causes and social progress. She was very active during Roosevelt’s time in office (the longest any President ever served) and changed the position of First Lady from a ceremonial role to a more active role. She traveled all over the United States to observe social conditions so she could keep the President informed as to the state of the nation. As a supporter of women’s activism, she was also important in convincing Roosevelt to appoint more women to government positions.

**Roosevelt’s Political Challenges**

During his 12-year Presidency (you read that right, he was elected for 4 terms, but died in office. He did not follow George Washington’s precedent of stepping down after 2) Roosevelt faced many challenges. Many Conservatives thought the New Deal programs made the government too big and powerful. Liberals did not think the New Deal was doing enough (seriously, its goes to show that everybody can’t be happy). One of his biggest critics was **Huey Long**. Long did not think the President did enough and wanted to give every American a home, food, clothing, education, etc.

**Europe and Avoiding World War II**

World War II stared in Europe in 1939. Roosevelt wanted to keep America out of it. Congress passed a series of Neutrality Acts to make it illegal to sell arms or make loans to nations at war. It also prohibited American citizens from using foreign ships to help prevent another *Lusitania* situation. After a few years, the Nazis were winning and so the United States changed their neutrality plan and allowed “cash and carry.” That meant we could sell arms and other war machines, but they would have to pay cash and use their own transportation to get the supplies over the Atlantic Ocean. Eventually, “cash and carry” was abandoned an “Lend/Lease” was enacted. Basically, we let Great Britain “borrow” tanks and supplies, that they would give back or pay for at the end of the war.

**Court Packing Bill**

The Supreme Court declared several New Deal Programs unconstitutional. In order keep getting his way, Roosevelt wanted to add more members to the Supreme Court (remember, they are really old and have their jobs until they quit or die). The call this the **Court Packing Bill.** In order to prevent changes, the Supreme Court started to change their views of the New Deal Programs, but many saw this as Roosevelt taking too much power as President.

Questions:

1. Who was elected President after Herbert Hoover?
2. What did the Tennessee Valley Authority do?
3. What did the Wagner Act do?
4. What 3 groups does Social Security benefit?
5. Who is Eleanor Roosevelt and why is she so awesome?
6. Did everybody like FDR? Who did/did not and why?
7. What are Neutrality Acts?
8. What replaced the Neutrality Acts?
9. Why did Roosevelt suggest the court-packing bill?
10. What was the outcome of the court-packing bill?