

# The New Deal Knowledge Organiser

## Key Terms

<b>AAA</b>	The Agricultural Adjustment Agency
<b>Act</b>	A law that is created.
<b>CCC</b>	Civilian Conservation Corps
<b>federal government</b>	The branch of government, led by the president, that has overall control of nation-wide laws.
<b>NRA</b>	The National Recovery Association
<b>PWA</b>	The Public Works Administration

## The Hundred Days

Roosevelt got straight to work on his New Deal. His first hundred days as president saw a closing of all banks which were then checked by accountants. Only the most trustworthy banks could re-open, around 5,000.

He set up the **AAA** to improve farming. By setting limits on the amount of food that could be produced he hoped to raise prices. He encouraged farmers to modernise and use new technology that helped preserve soil quality.

The **CCC** was set up to give young men jobs. Around 2.5 million young men were given jobs in environmental projects that would improve America and let them earn a living.

The Federal Emergency Relief Administration was established to give help directly to those in poverty in the form of food, blankets and nursery schools.

## Roosevelt's Plan

Roosevelt was elected in 1932 promising a 'New Deal' for Americans. He told Americans that he would be more proactive than Hoover was before him and laid out his main goals for the nation, Roosevelt promised:

- more help for the unemployed, old and sick;
- to reduce unemployment;
- to revive industry and agriculture;
- to protect American's savings and homes.



## Fireside Chats

Roosevelt believed that Americans should know what he was doing to help them. He made weekly radio broadcasts explaining his plans and actions which were listened to by 60 million people. These became known as his 'fireside chats'.

## NIRA

Roosevelt passed the National Industrial Recovery Act in 1933. This Act allowed him to take direct control of many aspects of the economy. Two organisations that grew from this Act were:

- The **NRA**, which improved the working conditions for labourers and outlawed child labour. Roosevelt hoped to increase standards and wages, giving workers more money to spend and boosting the overall economy.
- The **PWA**, which provided money for public services and infrastructure such as school and road building. This gave many people jobs in the construction industry.



## 1935

1935 saw the New Deal start to receive criticism. Many people thought that the measures and organisations put in place by Roosevelt were not working quickly enough. Roosevelt answered these criticisms with a flurry of new Acts:

- The Resettlement Administration helped struggling farmers to relocate to better areas, even building camps for farmers and their families to live in;
- The Wagner Act allowed Trade Unions to develop and take more control in workplaces, fighting for better rights and conditions;
- The Works Progress Administration encouraged all industries to find ways of creating new jobs from office workers to artists;
- The Social Security Act saw an increase in pensions, help for the sick and the introduction of unemployment insurance, a safety net for those who lost their jobs.



## TVA

Roosevelt set up the Tennessee Valley Authority to address the problem of the dust bowl. This agency worked across multiple Southern Plains states to improve the conditions of the landscape. Hydroelectric dams were built to better irrigate the soil and provide electricity to local people. The region was rejuvenated, reducing the hopeless poverty of the areas' population.

These measures took time to create but were successful in the long term.

## Criticisms

Republicans criticised the New Deal for giving too much power to the **federal government**. They tried to stop many policies with the Supreme Court which was mainly Republican and saw Roosevelt as messing with things that should be left to the public and business. Some Democrats criticised the New Deal for being too soft. Louisiana Senator Huey Long wanted to take a more drastic step by restricting wealth to \$3 million per person. Long was assassinated for his views in 1935.



## Some Successes and Failures of the New Deal

Successes	Failures
Millions of new jobs were created.	The USA took longer to recover from depression than European countries.
The banking system was stabilised.	Big business still had massive influence across America.
Working standards improved.	Some considered Roosevelt's policies as 'too communist'.
Unions gained more power over workplaces.	Local government lost powers to federal government.
Creations such as Social Security would help poor people for years to come.	Unions sometimes caused problems, with strikes being violently broken up.

