**The New Deal**

**Activity 1** – *Read the following and answer the questions below*

By 1933, it had become clear that Hoover’s policies of ‘rugged individualism,’ volunteerism and trickledown economics could not solve the deep-rooted problems of the Great Depression. Franklin Roosevelt, with few precedents for government involvement in the economy, experimented with countless programs his advisers suggested might relieve suffering, restore the economy to health, and prevent future depressions. Despite his efforts to deal with both the causes and effects of the worst depression in American history, FDR faced considerable opposition from both the right and the left. Business interests labeled his solutions communist or socialists and bitterly opposed his efforts to take money from the rich to give to the poor. Others, notably Francis Townsend, Father Charles Coughlin, and Huey Long, gained considerable support for their more radical proposals. Francis Townsend urged the use of a 2% sales tax in order to pay a pension of $200 per month to unemployed Americans over the age of 60; his requirement that the money be spent within thirty days would have created a steady purchasing power to stimulate the economy but would have put the elderly as a group among the top income brackets in the country. Charles Coughlin, the ‘radio priest’, attributed the Depression to ‘international bankers’ and Communists. His attacks on labor unions and his establishment of the National Union for Social Justice won him many listeners and advanced his own political ambitions. Huey Long’s ‘Share the Wealth’ program would have limited fortunes and annual incomes in order to finance a homestead grant of $6,000 per family, free education from kindergarten through college, veteran’s bonuses, old-age pensions, radios, cars, and an abundance of cheap food for all. Socialists Eugene V. Debs and Norman Thomas urged subsidizing consumers rather than producers to relieve unemployment. They recommended weekly emergency grants to the unemployed and a five day work week. The popularity of these proposals -- at least among the poor – prompted Roosevelt to push for what many at the time considered drastic measures, including Social Security and, later, the Fair Labor Standards Act.

Questions:

1. What were some of the labels that FDR was accused of being?
2. What were three alternative plans that were proposed as ways to improve the economy during the Great Depression? (create a list)

**Activity 2**: Read Chapter 22, Section 1 – 3 and outline

**Activity 3:** Using your textbook or the internet identify the following terms from the New Deal. Identify what the acronym means and what the organizations’ goals were.

1. AAA

**Summation:** The New Deal radically changed the role do the Federal Government in American Society. What were some ways in which government changed as a result of these programs?

1. NIRA
2. NYA
3. CCC
4. WPA
5. SEC
6. FDIC
7. TVA
8. Social Security Act
9. Wagner Act
10. HOLC
11. FERA
12. FDR’s Court packing bill

\*Use this List to Answer Question #5 in the Activity package:

**Activity 4:** The New Deal Today

Task: Using the Internet, look up the following Agencies and Act and see if they are still in use today. If an agency is not still in existence, find another government agency that preforms a similar function in our modern Federal government. If the agency still exists go to their webpage and compare their current goal as an agency with the original intent of the agency.

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3. NYA
4. CCC
5. WPA
6. SEC
7. FDIC
8. TVA
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**Summation:** The New Deal radically changed the role do the Federal Government in American Society. What were some ways in which government changed as a result of these programs?