

UNIT III: THE DEPRESSION (1919 - 1940)

Topics: Industry and Agriculture

Lesson 22: Introduction to The Great Depression

Objectives:

1. Students will gain an understanding of what an economic depression consists of.
2. Students will recognize the impact of national events on Iowa's economy in the 1920s and 30s.

Materials:

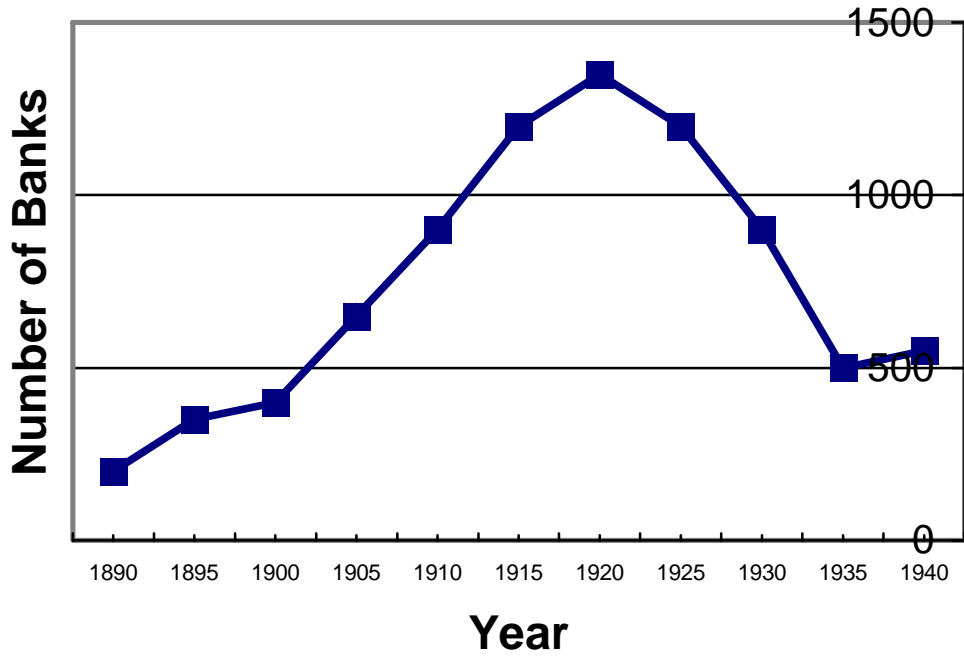
Transparency: Banks in Iowa 1891 - 1939

Transparency: Prices Paid and Prices Received by Iowa Farmers, 1910-1939

Activities:

1. Introduce the lesson by projecting the transparency *Banks in Iowa, 1891 - 1939*. Allow students time to observe and digest the information on the graph.
2. Ask students to identify generalizations which could be listed on the board based upon information on the graph. The following sample generalizations should be included:
 - a. The number of banks in Iowa rose steadily from 1891 to 1921.
 - b. From 1921 to 1933 there was a continual decline in the number of banks in Iowa.
 - c. There were less than half the number of banks in Iowa in 1933 than there were in 1921.
3. Project the transparency, *Prices Paid and Prices Received by Iowa Farmers, 1910 - 1939*. Allow students time to observe and digest the information on the graph.
4. Ask students to identify generalizations which could be listed on the board based upon information on the graph. The following sample generalizations should be included:
 - a. Farm prices were highest in 1919.
 - b. Farm prices were lowest in 1933.
 - c. Between 1921 and 1939 farm prices fell below the price of commodities most of the time.
 - d. Prices received in 1932 were about one-fourth of what they were in 1919.
5. Have students compare their conclusions for each graph. Discuss similarities and differences.
6. Discuss national political and economic events which affected the economic picture in Iowa. The close of World War I and the stock market failure of 1929 had a major impact on deepening the depression in Iowa.

Banks in Iowa, 1891-1939



Prices Paid and Prices Received by Iowa Farmers, 1910-1939

