**Document A: Fireside Chat** (Modified)

*President Roosevelt gave this speech over the radio on May 7, 1933, two*

*months after he became president. He called these radio addresses*

*“fireside chats,” and this was his second one as president.*

Tonight, I come for the second time to tell you about what we have

been doing and what we are planning to do. . . .

First, we are giving opportunity of employment to one-quarter of a

million of the unemployed, especially the young men, to go into forestry and

flood prevention work. . . .

Next, the Congress is about to pass **legislation** that will greatly ease

the **mortgage distress** among the farmers and the home owners of the

nation, by easing the burden of debt now bearing so heavily upon millions

of our people. . . .

I know that the people of this country will understand this and will also

understand the spirit in which we are undertaking this policy. . . .

All of us, the Members of the Congress and the members of this

Administration owe you, the people of this country, a profound debt of

**gratitude**.

***Source****: President Roosevelt’s “Fireside Chat,” May 7, 1933.*

**Vocabulary**

legislation: laws

mortgage distress: many farmers and homeowners were unable to pay off

the loans on their houses and so their property was taken away

gratitude: thanks

**Document B: African Americans and the New Deal**

Most New Deal programs discriminated against blacks. The National

Recovery Administration, for example, not only offered whites the first crack

at jobs, but authorized separate and lower pay scales for blacks. The

Federal Housing Authority (FHA) refused to guarantee **mortgages** for

blacks who tried to buy in white neighborhoods, and the Civilian

Conservation Corps maintained segregated camps. Furthermore, the

Social Security Act excluded those job categories blacks traditionally filled.

The story in agriculture was particularly **grim**. Since 40 percent of all black

workers made their living as sharecroppers and tenant farmers, the

Agricultural Adjustment Administration (AAA) acreage reduction hit blacks

hard. White landlords could make more money by leaving land untilled than

by putting land back into production. As a result, the AAA's policies forced

more than 100,000 blacks off the land in 1933 and 1934. Even more

**galling** to black leaders, the president failed to support an anti-lynching bill

and a bill to abolish the poll tax. Roosevelt feared that conservative

southern Democrats, who had seniority in Congress and controlled many

committee chairmanships, would block his bills if he tried to fight them on

the race question.

***Source****: This excerpt is from the Digital History online textbook.*

**Vocabulary**

mortgage: a loan to buy a house

grim: worrisome, severe

galling: irritating

**Document C: Interview with Cotton Mill Worker**

*George Dobbin was a 67-year-old cotton mill worker when he was*

*interviewed for the book* These Are Our Lives*, a book put together by the*

*Federal Writers’ Project in 1939.*

I do think that Roosevelt is the biggest-hearted man we ever had in the

White House. . . . It’s the first time in my **recollection** that a President ever

got up and said, “I’m interested in and aim to do somethin’ for the workin’

man.” Just knowin’ that for once there was a man to stand up and speak for

him, a man that could make what he felt so plain nobody could doubt he

meant it, has made a lot of us feel a lot better even when there wasn’t

much to eat in our homes.

***Source****: George Dobbin in* These Are Our Lives, *Federal Writers’ Project,*

*1939.*

**Vocabulary**

recollection: memory

**Document D: Hot Lunches for a Million School Children** (Modified)

One million undernourished children have benefited by the Works Progress

Administration's school lunch program. In the past year and a half

80,000,000 hot well-balanced meals have been served at the rate of

500,000 daily in 10,000 schools throughout the country. . . .

For many children, who are required to leave home early in the morning

and travel long distances after school hours to reach their homes, the WPA

lunch **constitutes** the only hot meal of the day. . . .

Through the daily service of warm, nourishing food, prepared by qualified,

needy women workers, the WPA is making it possible for many

underprivileged children of the present to grow into useful, healthy citizens

of the future.

***Source****: Speech by Ellen S. Woodward, Assistant Administrator, Works*

*Progress Administration.*

**Vocabulary**

constitutes: equals

**Document E: Unemployment Statistics**

**YEAR &**

**Unemployment**

**(% of labor force)**

**1929** 3.2

**1930** 8.7

**1931** 15.3

**1932** 22.5

**1933** 20.6

**1934** 16.0

**1935** 14.2

**1936** 9.9

**1937** 9.1

**1938** 12.5

**1939** 11.3

**1940** 9.5

**1941** 6.0

***Source****: Gene Smiley, "Recent Unemployment Rate Estimates for the*

*1920s and 1930s,"* Journal of Economic History*, June 1983.*

**Document F: Song**

“No Depression in Heaven”

Out here the hearts of men are failing

For these are latter days we know

The Great Depression now is spreading

God's words declared it would be so

I'm going where there's no depression

To the lovely land that's free from care

I'll leave this world of **toil** and trouble

My home's in heaven, I'm going there

In that bright land there'll be no hunger

No orphan children crying for bread

No weeping widows toil or struggle

No **shrouds**, no coffins, and no dead

I'm going where there's no depression

To the lovely land that's free from care

I'll leave this world of toil and trouble

My home's in heaven, I'm going there

***Source:*** *The Carter Family, “No Depression in Heaven,” 1936.*

**Vocabulary**

toil: hard and exhausting work

shroud: a cloth used to cover a corpse

**Document G: Whither the American Indian?** (Modified)

*Roosevelt appointed John Collier, a leading social reformer, as*

*Commissioner of Indian Affairs in 1933. Collier pushed Congress to create*

*the Indian Emergency Conservation Program (IECP), a program that*

*employed more than 85,000 Indians. Collier also made sure that the PWA,*

*WPA, CCC, and NYA hired Native Americans.*

*In 1934 Collier convinced Congress to pass the Indian Reorganization Act,*

*which provided money for tribes to purchase new land. That same year, the*

*government provided federal grants to local school districts, hospitals, and*

*social welfare agencies to assist Native Americans.*

Congress is authorized to appropriate $10 million from which loans may be

made for the purpose of promoting the economic development of the tribes.

. . .

About seventy-five of the tribal corporations are now functioning, with

varying degrees of success, and the number continues to grow. The

Jicarillas have bought their trading post and are running it; the Chippewas

run a tourist camp; the Northern Cheyennes have a very successful

livestock cooperative: the Swinomish of Washington have a tribal fishing

business. There are plenty of others to prove these corporations can be

made to work. . . .

The truth is that the New Deal Indian administration is neither as successful

as its publicity says it is, nor as black and vicious a failure as the severest

critics would have us believe. Many Indian problems remain unsolved, but

every one has been addressed.

***Source****: Alden Stevens, “Whither the American Indian?”* Survey Magazine

of Social Interpretation, *March 1, 1940.*

**Vocabulary**

appropriate: give

**ORGANIZING THE EVIDENCE**

***Use this space to write your main points and the main points made by the other side.***

The New Deal was a success: **List the 5 main points/evidence that support this side.**

1. From Document \_\_\_\_\_ :
2. From Document \_\_\_\_\_ :
3. From Document \_\_\_\_\_ :
4. From Document \_\_\_\_\_ :
5. From Document \_\_\_\_\_ :

**The New Deal was a failure:** List the 5 main points/evidence that support this side.

1. From Document \_\_\_\_\_ :
2. From Document \_\_\_\_\_ :
3. From Document \_\_\_\_\_ :
4. From Document \_\_\_\_\_ :
5. From Document \_\_\_\_\_ :

**Final Question** – To what extent did the New Deal solve the problems of the Great Depression? Explain your answer using evidence from the documents