

Day 11. *So, back in day 10 we spoke of “Roosevelt demonstrated his strong foreign policy by declaring the Roosevelt Corollary to the Monroe Doctrine in 1904. This addition to the Monroe Doctrine stated that the United States had the right to interfere in the economic matters of Latin American, South American, and Caribbean nations. This corollary (fancy word meaning “addition”) also kept foreign governments from setting up military bases in these areas.” The U.S. did this because many INDUSTRIALIZED countries were taking over weaker countries in a rush to grab NATURAL RESOURCES! This was known as **IMPERIALISM (3)** Countries that were going from handmade things to MECHANIZATION, needed natural resources, and they didn’t think wrong to take over other countries to get them. So Teddy Roosevelt basically told them to “Keep Your Paws Off North, Central and South America.*

World War I As the United States entered the 20th century; it began to take on a leading role in world affairs. Because of this new position as a world power, or global power, the United States found it more and more difficult to avoid involvement, or remain neutral, in a growing European conflict.

The growing unrest in Europe was caused by a number of factors. One of these factors was **nationalism.(4)** In the late 1800s and early 1900s, Europeans were devoted to the interests of *their own nations*. *Nationalism is a lot more intense than just being proud of one’s country*. Another factor was **militarism (1)**. In order to protect their colonies on other continents, many European nations increased their *military strength*. For example, Britain built a larger navy, Russia increased the size of its army, and Germany increased both its navy and army. *Something called an Arms Race began where each country (that could afford it) tried to out do other countries – Who has the biggest navy, who has the bigger army...*

In order to protect themselves, their national boundaries, and their economic interests, many European countries formed partnerships or **alliances (2)** with other European countries. Countries in an alliance promised to help each other if a member of the alliance was ever attacked by another country. This promise of protection led the European continent into war. *The smaller countries joined in agreements with each other to defend against larger countries.*

In 1914 two powerful alliances, the **Major Allied Powers**, or Allies, and the **Central Powers**, marched into war. The Allies included the countries of **Great Britain, France, Russia, Serbia, and Belgium**. The **Central Powers** included **Germany, Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria, and the Ottoman Empire**. (*We call the Ottoman Empire the country of Turkey now*)

The immediate cause of the war was the **assassination of Archduke Ferdinand**, the first in line to the Austro-Hungarian throne. He and his wife were killed during a visit to the country of Serbia. As a result, the Austro-Hungarian Empire declared war on Serbia. Germany then declared war on Serbia’s ally, Russia. Great Britain responded by declaring war on Germany.

At first the United States was able to remain neutral and maintain a policy of **isolationism**, but there were many disagreements about how much the United States should participate in world affairs. President Woodrow Wilson cautioned Americans to stay impartial.

Being neutral was more difficult than you might think; there were a lot of immigrants here from England, France and Germany. A lot of people did not want to get caught up in a European War.

On May 7, 1915 a German submarine, or U-boat, launched a torpedo attack sinking the British passenger liner **Lusitania**. Over 1000 people lost their lives including 128 Americans. This angered Americans, but President Wilson called for calm.

The sinking of the Lusitania was not that simple! Passenger ships were not supposed to be attacked, BUT the Lusitania was secretly carrying guns and ammunition for the English. The Germans found out about this, and

Day 12. *The sinking of the Lusitania was not that simple! Passenger ships were not supposed to be attacked, BUT the Lusitania was secretly carrying guns and ammunition for the English. The Germans found out about this, and warned people not to be on the ship, that they would try and sink it, The Germans even put an advertisement in New York (that is where the Lusitania sailed out of) warning people not to go on it. When a German submarine sunk the ship, the English used it as **PROPOGANDA** and tried to convince the U.S. to join the war on their side.*

Over the next two years, Germany continued to strengthen its navy. It also began a blockade to cut off military supplies to Great Britain and announced that German U-boats would attack any ship that entered British waters. This **unrestricted submarine warfare** resulted in the sinking of three American merchant ships. **It also threatened America's commercial shipping and its economic and political ties to Great Britain.**

* The U.S. loaned England A LOT OF MONEY! If they lost, they couldn't pay us back!!!!!!!!!!

*World War I On day 11 we saw how European powers created an atmosphere for war (**M.A.I.N.**) and then a group of assassins killed the son, and his wife, of the leader of Austria. As revenge, Austria attacked Serbia, who called on their friend Russia. Germany was called by Austria. France, who wanted revenge after recently losing a war to Germany, joined in with Russia and Serbia. To get to France, Germany went through Belgium (without their permission) so England joined the Allies to help them = World War. Europe promised their people that it would be a short war... Three years later, they were worn down.*

Both sides used their technology to come up with new, deadlier weapons. These new weapons, combined with old style of fighting combined for VERY DEADLY results.

When the U.S. did join the war, we did not want to get bogged down/slowed down in "trench warfare" because our leaders learned from fighting the Indians (Remember Geronimo?) that attacking and moving was key to advancing. Poison Gas, Tanks, Zeppelins Airplanes & Flamethrower: Some tech used was not new, but contributed to the effectiveness: Pigeons, Trenches, Machineguns & Submarines:

3 Years of fighting in the trenches killed millions on each side. England had a superior navy and was blockading Germany from getting supplies and food. The Germans used their submarines, called U-Boats, to try and blockade and starve England & France.

The final incident that brought the U.S. into the war occurred in early 1917 -

(Russia had a revolution where a group of people, called Communist, overthrew the Russian royal family. They then pulled out of the war. This allowed the Germans to move the 100,000s of troops that they had fighting the Russians to fight the French and English. This could have been their chance to win the war.)

When the German foreign secretary, Arthur Zimmermann, sent a telegram to Mexico. The telegram asked Mexico to become an ally of Germany. In return, Germany promised to help Mexico win back lands it lost to the United States during the Mexican War. The Zimmerman telegram was intercepted, decoded, and then printed in newspapers throughout the country. The American people were outraged! **Finding it impossible to remain neutral any longer, the United States joined the Allies by declaring war on Germany** in April of 1917.

Day 13.

Answers for Day 12: 1. HMS Lusitania. 2. Submarine – Economic. 3. Zimmerman

America played a major role in what would later be called World War I. (*At the time, they called it the "Great War" – not because they thought it was that good, but because of how many countries were involved.*) In addition to manpower, America supplied the Allied armies with much needed food and supplies. Following four horrific years of war, the Central Powers surrendered in November of 1918, and "The War to End All Wars" (*another name that they called it...*) came to a close.

The fighting stopped on November 11, 1918. This was called an Armistice.

Treaty of Versailles

At the [Paris Peace Conference](#) in 1919, Allied leaders stated their desire to build a post-war world that would safeguard itself against future conflicts of such devastating scale.

Some hopeful participants had even begun calling World War I "the War to End All Wars." But the [Treaty of Versailles](#), signed on June 28, 1919, would not achieve that lofty goal.

Saddled with war guilt, heavy reparations and denied entrance into the [League of Nations](#), Germany felt tricked into signing the treaty, having believed any peace would be a "peace without victory," as put forward by Wilson in his famous [Fourteen Points](#) speech of January 1918.

As the years passed, hatred of the Versailles treaty and its authors settled into a smoldering resentment in Germany that would, two decades later, be counted among the causes of [World War II](#).

World War I Casualties

World War I took the lives of more than 9 million soldiers; 21 million more were wounded. Civilian casualties caused indirectly by the war numbered close to 10 million. The two nations most affected were Germany and France, each of which sent some 80 percent of their male populations between the ages of 15 and 49 into battle. **DEEPER THINKING:** If a country was to lose, or have wounded (physically or mentally) 80% of its male population, how would it effect that country? How long would it take for that country to recover from this kind of lose?

A month later a peace treaty was drafted in Paris, France. **The Treaty of Versailles** required that Germany pay the Allies billions of dollars, take the blame for the war, and limit the size of its military forces. It also included a plan prepared by **President Woodrow Wilson**, called the **Fourteen Points**, which called for the **formation of a League of Nations**. The members of this **peacekeeping organization** would help each other settle disputes and agree to respect the rights of other members. The U.S. president went to Europe and tried to focus on the root causes of the war (His 14 Points). He was not appreciated very much by European powers that saw him as inexperienced and late-to-the-game. They were more interested in getting revenge on Germany. They did like his idea of an organization created of nations who would try and settle disagreements between countries peacefully.

Upon his return to the United States, President Wilson presented the treaty to the U.S. Senate for approval, but they failed to ratify (or approve) it. Many senators did not want the United States to join the League of Nations because they believed it would cause America to become involved in future European conflicts. Even though **the United States decided not to join the League of Nations**, the stage was set for it to emerge as a global superpower later in the 20th century.

Day 14. *America survived World War One.*

We also survived the 1918 Pandemic (H1N1 virus) – If you want to know more about it go to a PRIMARY SOURCE: THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION WEBSITE: <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/pandemic-resources/1918-pandemic-h1n1.html>

TIMES WERE CHANGING! New Invention + New Ways of Living = People expressing themselves differently than the generations before them did.

New Developments That Changed American Life As the United States entered the twentieth century, emerging new technologies made their way into in all areas of American life. Developments in transportation, communication, and electrification, which relied on new developments in factory and labor productivity, changed the lives of Americans whether they lived in cities or out in neglected rural areas. How did progress make social and economic life in the early 20th century different from that of the late 19th century?

Developments in transportation soon turned the United States into a country on wheels. “Horseless carriages” or **automobiles** were first manufactured in Europe in the 1890s. They were very expensive, and only the very wealthy could afford to own one. However, five years after World War I, nearly 3 million cars were being produced each year. Much of this growth was due to the **development of assembly line production** by Michigan carmaker **Henry Ford**.

This method of mass production caused the cost of automobiles to decrease and car ownership to increase. As a result, many Americans suddenly found they had greater **mobility** to go where they wanted, when they wanted.

This changed EVERYTHING! Before Henry Ford’s use of the assembly line to make cars affordable for most people, only the Very Rich could afford to own one. Thanks to Ford regular folks could have one.

This new mobility also resulted in the growth of transportation-related industries and the **creation of new jobs**. The new gasoline-powered cars were responsible for the rapid growth of the oil and steel industries as well as road construction companies, new automobile manufacturers, and gas stations.

Another result of improved transportation was the **growth of suburban areas**. As automobile ownership increased, Americans did not have to live in the cities where they worked. Instead, they began to look at less crowded areas surrounding the cities as ideal places to build homes and raise children.

The **invention of the airplane** also revolutionized life in 20th century America. In December of 1903, two brothers from Ohio, **Orville and Wilbur Wright**, became the first men to successfully fly an engine-powered flying machine. Although this first flight near Kitty Hawk, North Carolina lasted only 12 seconds, it was the beginning of an aviation industry that within 25 years would transport thousands of Americans across the country and around the world.

Developments in communication also changed the American way of life in the early 20th century. The increased availability of the **telephone** and the development of the **radio** and **movies** made social and economic life in the early twentieth century different from that of the late nineteenth century

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Check your answers in the Day 15 notes.

Day 15. Answers to Day 14 questions: **Developments in transportation, communication, and electrification, which relied on new developments in factory and labor productivity, changed the lives of Americans whether they lived in cities or out in neglected rural areas.**

New Developments That Changed American Life The first **telephone** was invented in 1876 by Alexander Graham Bell. By the early 1900s, phone networks zigzagged the country and millions of phones were operating in businesses and private homes. This increased availability of telephones made communication easier and faster than it had been in the 19th century.

The development of the **radio** and the **rise of the broadcast industry** also changed how Americans communicated. By the 1920s, radios provided a cheap and convenient way of broadcasting news and entertainment into American homes. The construction of a huge radio transmission station in New York, called *Radio Central*, allowed the first direct communication between the United States and Europe. By 1929, over 800 radio stations were broadcasting news, sports, music, comedy shows, and product advertisements into millions of American living rooms. Advertising had truly gone national!

The early 20th century saw the rise of another form of communication, the **movie**. By the mid-1920s, movie making had become one of the top industries in the country with over 20,000 movie theaters nationwide. As more and more Americans went to the theater, movies and movie stars began to influence the way we dressed, how we talked, and how we viewed our world.

Developments in electrification also changed American life in the early 20th century. **Thomas Alva Edison** used electricity to produce the first practical electric light bulb in the late 1800s. As a result, manufacturers began to produce small and large electric appliances for use in the home. Labor-saving products such as **washing machines, electric stoves, water pumps**, vacuums, and refrigerators made the life of the American housewife easier and even more enjoyable. Electricity also helped to improve communications by powering radios and movie-making equipment.

Many of the developments in transportation, communication and electrification that changed the way Americans lived came about because of the **new developments in factory and labor productivity**. Henry Ford's assembly line revolutionized the operation of factories. To meet the growing demand, radios, telephones and electric appliances went into mass production on assembly lines just like the automobile. Individual parts were no longer made by hand. Instead, machines were used to make the interchangeable parts needed on the assembly line. This mechanization of factories and use of the **assembly line** made production faster and products better for everyone in the U.S.

There are no "Wrong Answers." This is for reflecting.

Deeper Thinking: What modern Technology are Key Influences in our Times?

Transportation _____

Communications _____

Entertainment _____

How & Where We Work _____

Day 16. **Reviewing Answers to Day 15 Deeper Thinking:**

What modern Technology are Key Influences in our Times?

Transportation: Electric Cars. Making them and supporting them (Mechanics/Recharging Stations/Repairing them) who will lose jobs and who will gain jobs. What about Driverless Cars? **Communications:** Smart Cell Phones have changed the way we communicate. We can pretty much contact anyone in the world from our very mobile phones, both text or talking. **Entertainment & New Tech.** We can now (thanks for cellular technology), watch, listen and play whatever we want wherever we want to. People don't need to go to a theater to see a first run movie. **How and Where we work:** As we are finding out now, many people don't need to go into an office to work. Due to affordable computers and the Internet many people can perform their jobs from work. How might these change life styles?

Back to our timeline. Lots of things were changing in America. One thing some people tried was to fix many social problems with one easy answer. Prohibition – or outlawing alcohol.

Social & Economic Changes of the Early 20th Century: Prohibition: Social changes in the early 20th century centered on reforms such as **Prohibition**. Economic changes occurred during the **Great Migration north and west** as African Americans from the South claimed a new role in the industrial economy.

During the early 20th century, rapid industrialization and urbanization led many people to call for **reforms** to improve the condition of life in the United States. These reforms brought about laws that attempted to control how people behaved. One such reform was **Prohibition**.

Many reformers were opposed to the making and drinking of alcohol in the United States. Members of this **Temperance Movement** believed that prohibiting alcohol would lower crime rates, reduce poverty, and increase the overall quality of American life. Ratified on January 16, 1919, the **18th Amendment to the Constitution** established **Prohibition** in the United States. This amendment made it illegal to manufacture, transport, and sell alcoholic beverages in the United States.

UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES: Well meaning people tried to fix problems in society, but they created a lot more problems. Although Prohibition reduced the consumption, or drinking of alcohol in the United States, it did not end the demand for alcoholic products. In place of legal establishments, people looked for **speakeasies** as a source of supply. Between 200,000 and 500,000 speakeasies were created across the country as places for people to drink illegally. To enter these illegal saloons, patrons, or customers needed a password and had to talk softly or "speak easy" when ordering a drink.

Soon **organized crime** became involved in the sale of illegal alcohol. These criminal organizations used **bootleggers** to smuggle illegal alcohol from other countries such as Canada into the United States.

Gangster-owned speakeasies soon replaced neighborhood saloons and made huge amounts of money. As crime organizations became richer and stronger, gangsters in large cities began to shoot and kill anyone who got in the way of their profits.

The government soon realized that Prohibition was nearly impossible to enforce and had actually led to an increase in criminal activities and the production of dangerous, unregulated alcohol products.

Thousands of Americans were killed, blinded, or paralyzed as a result of drinking contaminated bootleg alcohol. As a result, after fourteen years, the 18th Amendment was repealed by the **ratification of the 21st Amendment**. This was the first and only time an Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ended.

Day 17. Social & Economic Changes of the Early 20th Century: The Great Migration

During the early 20th century, the quality of life for African Americans living in the South was deteriorating rapidly. The rise of Jim Crow laws, an increase of lynchings, and a diseased and failing cotton crop led many African American families to leave their homes in search of urban or city jobs in the North and Midwest. This was called the **Great Migration**. (Lynchings are illegal hanging of people) In the decades following the Civil War, many African Americans in the South were sharecroppers, tenant farmers, or domestic servants. Their wages were low and most families lived in poverty. To make matters worse, a series of problems had devastated the Southern cotton crop. When jobs became scarce, many poor African Americans fell into debt or lost everything.

In addition to these economic hardships, many African Americans in the South faced severe **discrimination**. (Discrimination is the unfair difference in the treatment of people.) By 1901 this discrimination took the form of *Jim Crow laws* and *segregation*. These laws affected African Americans by enforcing unequal opportunities in housing, education, employment, and government.

Violence against African Americans also increased in the early 20th century. After Reconstruction, many Southern Whites were determined to reclaim their position of dominance over African Americans. Groups such as the Ku Klux Klan used violence and fear to prevent African Americans from voting or participating in social reforms that called for racial equality. One of the main forms of violence was lynching. Between 1900 and 1920, more than 1,000 African Americans were hung for breaking Jim Crow laws or committing other crimes. Beatings and shootings were also common.

The quality of life for African Americans continued to deteriorate in the South between 1900 and 1920. Over 1 million African Americans moved to cities in the North and Midwest in hopes of finding better jobs and less discrimination. Their **migration** was also the result of a severe industrial labor shortage caused by World War I and a decrease in the number of European immigrants entering the country. These Northern and Midwestern cities offered African Americans jobs as unskilled laborers, waiters, janitors, and domestic servants. Although their wages were low, many were able to earn more than they had in the South.

Unfortunately, many African Americans had to tolerate **discrimination** and **violence** in the North and Midwest. As they arrived in the big cities, they once again found themselves in competition with Whites for jobs and housing. Northern Whites were resentful of their new neighbors and soon enforced laws that made it illegal to sell or rent housing to African Americans in white neighborhoods. Forced to live in crowded, dirty slums, African Americans once again felt the sting of segregation. In addition to discrimination, they also faced more violence. Although lynchings were less common than they had been in the South, mob attacks on African Americans took place in many cities. These bloody race riots occurred in cities such as Philadelphia, Chicago, and Washington, D.C. Many African Americans and Whites were injured or killed.

Day 18. The Art, Literature, and Music of the Early 20th Century

This was a time in America of great change. Some people like change and some do not, but change still happens. Every generation is impacted or influenced by different events and technology that shape them. We are not “just like our grandparents” because we are influenced by different things.

We will see how the Corona Virus 19 will influence us and how it affects our future and how we act: (will people shake hands in the future), our music (virus songs), fashion (will face masks be popular), art and literature (will there be movies made about it).

*In the 1920's young people were **influenced by World War One**; Back then people didn't travel much, then millions of young men left the places they spent their whole lives and traveled to different states and countries. They saw different ways of doing things and behaving. They brought these ideas back to where they came from.*

*They were **influenced by new technology** that allowed them to hear different ideas, music and information that they never knew existed.*

Transportation/affordable cars changed everything! See day 14 & 15. Women were getting more independence.

All these influences were expressed through big changes in Art, Music and Literature.

The Art, Literature, and Music of the Early 20th Century The 1920s and 1930s were important decades for American art, literature, and music. Who were some of the leading artists, writers, and musicians of these two decades, and what were their contributions to American culture?

Art: Georgia O'Keeffe was born on a Wisconsin dairy farm on November 15, 1887 and moved with her family to Virginia at the age of 16. She is considered one of the **greatest female artists** of the 20th century. She is best known for her urban scenes and, later, paintings of the Southwest.

Literature: F. Scott Fitzgerald was born in St. Paul, Minnesota on September 24, 1896 and named for a distant cousin who authored the *Star Spangled Banner*. A **novelist**, he is known for his novels and short stories about America's 'Jazz Age' during the 1920s. One of his major works was *The Great Gatsby*.

John Steinbeck was born in Salinas, California in 1902. As a novelist, he portrayed the strength of poor migrant workers during the 1930s. In 1939 he published *The Grapes of Wrath*. Considered his best work, it tells the story of migrant workers in California.

Music: Aaron Copland and George Gershwin were composers who wrote a unique, or new kind of American music. **Copland** was born on November 14, 1900 in New York City. In the 1920s, he showed the world how to write classical music the American way, flavored with jazz. **Gershwin** was born on September 26, 1898 in New York to Russian immigrant parents. Although he dropped out of school at the age of 15, he went on to become an accomplished musician and composer. In 1924 he debuted the jazz-influenced, “Rhapsody in Blue.” A lot of his music is featured in Broadway Musicals and Plays. Disney used his music in *Fantasia 2000*. *Aaron Copland made a lot of music that is played in the backgrounds of movies. He was able to capture the mood of whatever environment he was experiencing.*

The Art, Literature, and Music of the Early 20th Century

During the 1920s and 1930s, African American artists, writers, and musicians began to expose the flavor and variety of African American culture. This period was called the **Harlem Renaissance**. It was a rebirth of African American culture that was centered primarily in Harlem, New York. The leaders of the Harlem Renaissance, who established themselves as powerful forces for cultural change, drew upon the heritage or traditions of the African American culture and made a lasting contribution to American culture as their popularity spread to the rest of society.

Day 19 Art: Jacob Lawrence was a **painter** who detailed the experiences of the Great Migration north through art. Born in Atlantic City, New Jersey in 1917, he moved to Harlem with his family when he was 13. As one of the century's great American painters, Lawrence used brilliant colors to show everyday life in the African American community. His series of paintings entitled "Migration" is considered his greatest achievement. Video: This is 6 min. and is a great intro to J. Lawrence's art & effects of The Great Migration (Day 17)

Literature: Langston Hughes was a **poet** who blended or combined the experiences of African and American cultural roots. Born in Missouri, on February 1, 1902 to abolitionist parents, his poems promoted equality, condemned racism and injustice, and celebrated the African American spirit. He is best known for his poem, "The Weary Blues" that describes an evening of listening to a Blues musician in Harlem.

Do you remember reading in English Class about a boy who tries to steal a woman's purse to buy some blue shoes? This is the man who wrote it

Music: Duke Ellington, a jazz composer, bandleader, and pianist, was born on April 29, 1899 in Washington D.C. He is recognized as one of the greatest jazz composers and was awarded our country's highest civilian honor, the Presidential Medal of Freedom. "Mood Indigo" is one of his classic [jazz](#) compositions. **Louis Armstrong, a jazz composer**, was born in one of the poorest sections of New Orleans on August 4, 1901. His trumpet solos and "scat" singing transformed the American music scene. In the song "Heebie Jeebies," Armstrong brought scat singing, the vocalizing of rhythmic, nonsense syllables, to the public's attention and transformed jazz from regional dance music into a popular art form.

Bessie Smith, born in the late 1890s in Chattanooga, Tennessee, was one of the greatest **blues singers of the 1920s**. Her first recording, "Down Hearted Blues," was released in 1923 and was an immediate success. Before long, she was known as the "Empress of the Blues" and was the highest paid African American entertainer in the country.

So during the 1920's America was roaring along! Economic times were very good compared to earlier times. Then came a time of very difficult economic times called "The Great Depression."

The Great Depression During the 1920s, the United States entered a period of economic prosperity and technological advances in the areas of transportation, communication, electrification, and the arts. However, covered up by these good times were problems in the American economic system and attitudes about the role of government in controlling the economy. In 1929, the United States entered into a time of little money and little economic growth. This era, called the Great Depression lasted into the 1930s and had a widespread and severe impact on American life.

Causes of the Great Depression Economists have argued for years about the causes of the Great Depression. However, three factors played a significant role.

The **first factor** was the **stock market crash** in late October of 1929. The stock market is a place where people can buy shares or stocks of companies. When a person buys a stock, they are actually buying a small piece of a company. During the 1920s, the economy was healthy and many Americans were investing and making money in the stock market. In time, people became overconfident in the stock market. They began to borrow money to buy more and more stocks in the hopes of making bigger profits when they sold the stocks. In October of 1929, millions of people tried to sell their stocks but there were too few buyers. Because of this, the price of stocks fell dramatically and the stock market crashed. This left many people unable to pay back their loans. Nearly everyone, including the banks, lost money.

Day 20 *In other words, people got a bit greedy and borrowed money to "bet" on the stock market. For some reason, it is not clear why; a lot of people got concerned that they needed to sell their stocks. They tried to sell, but no one was buying and that drastically lowered the value of their stock. People called it a PANIC! Where one day they had stock that was worth tens-of-thousands or millions of dollars, now they were broke! People and companies (yes banks are companies) lost \$\$\$\$. Those who borrowed money to buy stocks (Called buying on margin) were stuck! They lost their money and couldn't pay off their loans.*

The **second factor** that led to the Great Depression was the failure of the **Federal Reserve** to prevent the collapse of the banking system. As more and more people defaulted, or were unable to pay on their loans, banks that had loaned too much money went bankrupt. In addition, many Americans panicked and rushed to their banks to withdraw all of their money and savings. *This was called a "Bank Run."* Between 1930 and 1933, more than 5,000 banks closed their doors. -- *When banks closed, anyone with money in those banks lost all of their money. NO, there was nothing they could do about it. They couldn't sue, they couldn't demand anything – there was nothing to demand. **The Federal Reserve** is the part of the government that helps control the value of our money. At this time, the government was asked by banks, companies and people to step in and help keep the banks from closing. Congress and the President didn't think that that was the right thing for government to do. So they didn't help very much.*

The **third factor** leading to the Great Depression involved **high tariffs and international trade**. In 1930 the United States Congress passed a high tariff law. A **tariff** is a tax on goods brought into the country. As a result, other countries began to put high tariffs on goods they imported from the United States, which **discouraged international trade**.

Impact on Americans The Great Depression impacted the lives of Americans in many ways. As more and more banks closed their doors after the stock market crash, many people lost their savings. Left with little or no money, Americans could not afford to pay for goods and services. With no buyers for their products, **many businesses failed** or were forced to lay off employees because they could not afford to pay them their wages. **One-fourth of American workers** were eventually without jobs. This high unemployment rate resulted in **large numbers of hungry, homeless people**.

Another group of Americans was also suffering. For a number of years American farmers had been struggling to make a living, but during the Great Depression, **farmers' incomes fell** to even lower levels. During World War I, American farmers had worked hard to produce enough extra corn and livestock to feed American soldiers as well as our allies in Great Britain and France. After the war, there was a **surplus of supplies** as farmers continued to produce. This caused the price of farm goods to go down. Farmers were making so little money for their crops and livestock that in some areas of the country they actually burned their crops for fuel instead of selling them at market.

To make matters even worse, a **severe drought** hit the Great Plains in the 1930s. The dry soil, no longer held in place by the prairie grasses, was picked up by the ever-blowing winds. This resulted in huge, suffocating dust storms that covered everything in sight with dirt and grit. As the drought continued, the farmers who lived in the "Dust Bowl" were often forced to auction off their farms, become migrant workers, or accept government aid in order to feed their families.