

VOCABULARY LIST FOR THE GREAT DEPRESSION

1. **bankruptcy** – financial failure caused by a company's inability to pay its debts
2. **Black Tuesday** – October 29, 1929 is the day that the stock market crashed
3. **Bonus Army** – 20,000 World War I veterans who were promised a bonus of \$1,000 to be paid by 1945; wanted immediate payment and marched on Washington; the U.S. Army was called in break up the protest
4. **default** – failure to repay a loan
5. **deficit spending** – when the government spends more money then it collects in taxes
6. **Dust Bowl** – at the beginning of the Great Depression a drought hits the Midwest lasting 5 years and causing massive crop failures and devastating dust storms, many Midwesterners are displaced and forced to move in search of work
7. **Eleanor Roosevelt** – FDR's wife who works tirelessly on her husband's behalf and fights for racial and gender equality
8. **fireside chat** – weekly radio addresses given by FDR to reassure the country during the Great Depression
9. **Franklin D. Roosevelt** – President of the United States during the Great Depression and for most of World War II, his New Deal programs are credited with helping to pull the United States out of depression
10. **Great Depression** – 12 year economic and social disaster that begins in the United States and eventually spreads around the world
11. **Hoovervilles** – makeshift towns of homeless people displaced by the Great Depression, named after Herbert Hoover who was president when the Depression begins
12. **Hundred Days** – the first 100 days of FDR's presidency, this is when he enacted many of his New Deal programs
13. **infrastructure** – underlying foundation on which a community or nation depends, such as its roads and bridges
14. **John Steinbeck** - writer who captured the misery of the Great Depression

15. **laissez faire** – idea that government should play as small a role as possible in economic affairs
16. **migrant worker** – agricultural worker who moves with the seasons, planting or harvesting crops
17. **New Deal** – FDR's program to end the Great Depression
18. **pension** – sum of money paid to people on a regular basis after they retire
19. **speculator** – person who invests in a risky venture in the hopes of making a large profit
20. **surplus** – situation in which the supply of manufactured goods exceeds the demand also known as overproduction
21. **beadle**— a minor city official, lower in rank than a sheriff or policeman. His job is to keep order at trials and town hall meetings.
22. **brethren**— members of a particular Church
23. **dictum**— a formal statement of principles
24. **domicile**—a house or place where a person lives
25. **foray**— going somewhere or doing something that is unusual for you to do. Out of the normal.
26. **human chattels**— slaves
27. **impotent**— powerless
28. **ambled**— to walk at a slow, leisurely pace
29. **apothecary**— pharmacist
30. **assuaged**— to lessen or to calm
31. **impudent**— to be shameless bold. To act as if you don't care what anyone thinks about you
32. **malevolent**— evil
33. **picket**— a pointed or sharpened pole or stake
34. **piety**— devotion to religious duties or practices
35. **predilection**— a preference or preferred way of doing something
36. **ramrod**— rigid, severe, straight
37. **repertoire**— all the special skills a person has
38. **Vapid**— boring
39. **scold**— someone who finds faults with others
40. **spittoon**— a jarlike container to spit into
41. **strictures**—conditions or rules
42. **taciturn**—almost always silent
43. **unsullied**—untouched/unused
44. **Veranda**—a porch with a roof
45. **eaves**—the lower edges of a roof, usually project beyond the sides of the house
46. **auburn**—reddish-brown

47. **condescended**—to agree to do something that you believe to be beneath your dignity
48. **covey**—group
49. **crimson**—blood red
50. **cunning**—attractive or cute
51. **entailment**—a legal situation regarding the use of inherited property
52. **hookworms**—a type of parasite usually entered the body through bare feet
53. **immune**—something has no effect on you
54. **indigenous**—belonging to a particular region or country
55. **scrip stamps**—paper money of small denominations (less than \$1) issued for temporary emergency use—during GD, gov'ts gave out to needy
56. **seceded**—to break away
57. **smilax**—a bright green vine
58. **sojourn**—a brief visit
59. **vexations**—something that causes annoyance or problems
60. **wallow**—to indulge in something with great enjoyment
61. **illicit**—unauthorized or improper
62. **Catawba worms**—are caterpillars that are highly prized by fishermen in the southern US
63. **subsequent**—follow closely
64. **mortification**—feeling of shame or loss of self-respect
65. **amiable**—friendly