

THEME

8



Document-Based Discovery



Theme 8: Changing Role of Government

The written documents and images on pages 30–33 relate to the theme of the changing role of American government during the middle 1900s. Each of the sources gives information or reflects one point of view about that change. Your assignment, working with these documents, has two parts.

Part 1 Historical Critique of Sources

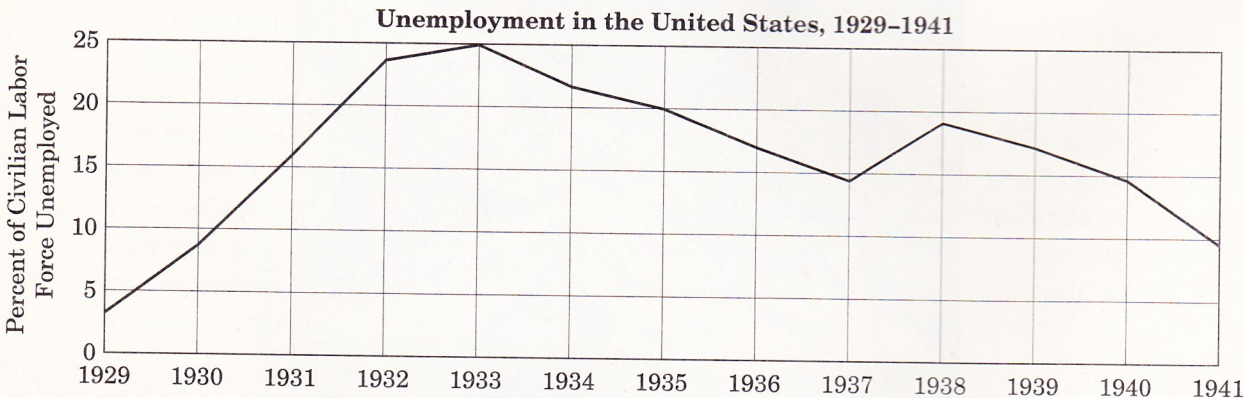
Study each document. As you do, evaluate the reliability of each source. Consider such questions as: Why was it created? Was it created by an eyewitness? If not, how reliable is the person who created it? Then answer the questions following each document. Write your answers on a separate sheet of paper.

Part 2 Writing About the Documents

Write a brief essay on the topic below using the documents as evidence. Be sure to consider the point of view of the writer or artist who created the document. Your essay should include three parts: (1) an introduction that states your main point, (2) a body that develops your main point and offers evidence from the documents and your textbook, and (3) a conclusion that restates your main point. Include specific historical details and use information from the documents that you analyzed in Part 1. Write your essay on the same paper that includes the answers to the questions about the documents.

Essay topic: In the 1930s and 1940s, several major problems confronted the American people. To meet these crises, the federal government became more active. What were these crises? How did the government respond to them? How effective were those responses?

Document 1 Graph, showing changes in the percentage of workers who were without jobs during the 1930s, based on government statistics



During the 1930s, in which years were 15 percent or more of all workers without a job?