

Explain pick-up

How successful was the New Deal in ending the Depression?

This revision activity works best if you do it with a friend, and talk about it as you do it.

The cards below all describe an aspect of Roosevelt's New Deal.

Cut up the cards and place them face down. In turn, each player picks up a card, states: 'This suggests the New Deal was successful (or a failure) because ...' and then explains *how* or *why* it shows that the New Deal was successful (or a failure). When they have done this to the satisfaction and agreement of the other players, they place it face up in one of two piles – those which suggest the New Deal was a success, and those which suggest it was a failure.

When you have finished 'weigh up' the two piles – how successful was the New Deal?

You can vary the game by playing from the point of view of a particular group – e.g. women, African Americans, farmers etc.

NRA – improved the working conditions of 23 million workers	AAA – farmers were 50% better off by 1936	New Deal unemployment insurance was not extended to agricultural or domestic workers –excluded 55% of all Black workers and 87% of Black working women
CCC – 2.5 million volunteers by 1941; did good environmental works	CWA/WPA – 2 million unemployed people given work = 2 million families saved from poverty	TVA/PWA – significantly improved the country's infrastructure (dams, airports, highways etc.)
The Glass–Steagall Act stopped banks going bankrupt	The Securities and Exchange Commission reformed the stock exchange	CCC campsites were segregated
Children benefited – the NRA codes abolished child labour, and the Social Security Act provided benefits to end child poverty	The NLRB helped many workers join a trade union	The National Housing Act limited poor people's rents to a maximum of a third of their income

<p>The Fair Labour Standards Act fixed a minimum wage of 75 cents an hour</p>	<p>Under the Soil Conservation Act the government continued subsidising farmers \$500 million a year</p>	<p>The AAA's policies to reduce agricultural production led to many unskilled Black workers in the South losing their jobs</p>
<p>Industrial output rose 22%, 1933–1935</p>	<p>Thousands of people wrote to Roosevelt thanking him for the help 'he' had given them</p>	<p>It did not end the Depression; when Roosevelt tried to reduce spending in 1937, industrial output fell and unemployment rose</p>
<p>By 1939, 9 million people were still out of work</p>	<p>NRA regulations damaged many firms' profitability</p>	<p>Roosevelt cut the pay of government employees by 15%, which reduced demand</p>
<p>HOLC – helped a million homeowners to keep their homes</p>	<p>Black Americans continued to suffer discrimination in the workplace</p>	<p>Some employers, forced to raise wages by the Fair Labour Standards Act, simply sacked their black workers to save costs</p>
<p>Women continued to suffer discrimination in the workplace</p>	<p>The New Deal did not help unskilled workers</p>	<p>The NRA did not end industrial troubles – in 1937, there were 4700 strikes, and ten strikers were shot dead by police in Chicago</p>
<p>The NRA allowed differential wage rates for Black workers</p>	<p>Many farmers continued to have to move off the land</p>	<p>The Social Security Act provided a benefit system which helped millions of poor Americans</p>
<p>Long and Townsend opposed the New Deal on the grounds that it was not radical enough</p>	<p>Many rich businessmen, opposed the New Deal on the grounds that it was too socialist</p>	<p>The Supreme Court declared that the AAA and the NRA unconstitutionally reduced the states' powers</p>