**Focus Question:** How did the New Deal attempt to address the problems of the depression?

*Fill in the chart below with the problems that FDR faced and the steps he took to overcome them.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Problem</th>
<th>FDR’s Policy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Failing banks</td>
<td>• Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) insures bank deposits.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>•</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Desperate plight of farmers</td>
<td>• Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) builds dams in the Tennessee River valley to control floods and to generate electric power.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>•</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joblessness</td>
<td>• Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) provides jobs for more than 2 million young men.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Federal Emergency Relief Act (FERA) grants federal funds to state and local agencies to help the unemployed.</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>•</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Franklin D. Roosevelt was elected President in November 1932. He had lost the use of his legs to polio in 1921. Because of his physical disability, FDR relied heavily on his wife, Eleanor Roosevelt. She served as his “eyes and ears.”

In his first hundred days in office, FDR acted quickly to help the country recover from the Great Depression. Congress passed 15 bills, which became known as the First New Deal. The New Deal had three goals: relief, recovery, and reform. “Relief” meant helping people in great need; “recovery” meant helping businesses; and “reforms” were designed to prevent future depressions.

Relief programs included the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), which built dams in the Tennessee River valley to control floods and to generate electricity, and the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), which provided jobs for many young men. They replanted forests, built trails, dug irrigation ditches, and fought fires. The government also began to pay farmers subsidies to reduce the amount of crops they produced.

Recovery efforts included the National Recovery Administration (NRA) and the Public Works Administration (PWA). The NRA set minimum wages for workers and minimum prices for goods. The PWA created new jobs building bridges, dams, power plants, and government buildings.

Two reform efforts were the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), which insured bank deposits, and the Securities Exchange Commission (SEC), which made the stock market safer for investments.

Some Americans thought the New Deal made the government too powerful; others thought the New Deal should help citizens more. Father Charles Coughlin was a Roman Catholic priest who expressed his angry views on a weekly radio show. Church officials eventually forced Coughlin to stop his broadcasts. Senator Huey Long of Louisiana proposed raising taxes to help the poor.

Review Questions
1. What were the three main goals of the New Deal?

2. Who disagreed with the New Deal? Why?
Focus Question: What major issues did the second New Deal address?  
Complete the table below to record problems and the second New Deal’s solutions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Problem</th>
<th>Solution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unemployment</td>
<td>Works Progress Administration (WPA) created new jobs doing public works.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poverty</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
President Franklin D. Roosevelt used legislation passed by the second New Deal to promote the general welfare of the citizens and to protect their rights.

The Works Progress Administration (WPA) provided new jobs doing public works. The government paid for WPA programs by spending money it didn’t have. According to British economist John Maynard Keynes, such deficit spending would help end the depression.

The Social Security Act created a pension system for retired people. It also provided unemployment insurance for workers who lost their jobs and aid for the disabled. New programs aided farmers. The Rural Electrification Administration (REA) helped bring electricity to farms.

New laws also helped industrial workers. The Wagner Act ensured their right to collective bargaining. This meant that employers had to negotiate with unions about hours, wages, and other working conditions. The Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 set a minimum wage, a maximum number of working hours for the week, and outlawed child labor.

During the Great Depression, there was an upsurge in union activity. The Congress of Industrial Organizations (CIO) organized workers in major industries. In 1936, CIO members staged a sit-down strike against General Motors. Workers refused to leave the workplace until a settlement had been reached. Their success led to other strikes. As a result, union members’ wages and working conditions improved.

The Supreme Court struck down a number of the key laws of the New Deal. To change this trend, FDR wanted to add six new Justices to the nine-member court. This was referred to as court packing. After 1937, the Supreme Court became more willing to accept the New Deal. FDR stopped trying to force more New Deal reforms through Congress after the economy slumped again in 1938.

**Review Questions**

1. How did the Social Security Act promote the general welfare of American citizens?

2. What right did the Wagner Act give to workers?
Focus Question: How did the New Deal change the social, economic, and political landscape of the United States for future generations?

As you read, identify the lasting effects of the New Deal upon American society.
READING CHECK
What was the New Deal coalition?

VOCABULARY STRATEGY
What does the word gender mean in the underlined sentence? The paragraph it appears in discusses the role of women in the New Deal. Use the subject of the paragraph to help you figure out the meaning of gender.

READING SKILL
Identify Main Ideas What were three different groups affected by the New Deal?

CHAPTER 15
SECTION 3

Section Summary
EFFECTS OF THE NEW DEAL

The New Deal brought significant changes to the nation. Some women increased their political influence. Eleanor Roosevelt changed the First Lady’s role, becoming active in the political process. She traveled throughout America and called for equal justice for all. Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins was the first female Cabinet member. She played a leading role in establishing Social Security and a minimum wage. Despite the work of these two women, the New Deal did not fight to end gender discrimination in the workplace.

President Roosevelt invited African American leaders to advise him. These unofficial advisers became known as the Black Cabinet. One member, Mary McLeod Bethune, was a powerful champion of racial equality. However, African Americans continued to be victims of racial discrimination.

The Indian New Deal was a program to help American Indians by providing funding for the construction of new schools and hospitals. In 1934, the Indian Reorganization Act gave control of American Indian lands back to tribes. The Bureau of Indian Affairs also stopped discouraging the practice of traditional American Indian customs.

FDR united a culturally diverse group of Americans into a strong political force called the New Deal coalition. The coalition helped the Democratic Party gain a large majority in both houses of Congress. New Deal programs allowed people of different backgrounds to get to know one another, breaking down regional and ethnic prejudices.

Under the New Deal, both the size and scope of the federal government grew. The government took responsibility for providing for the welfare of children and the poor, elderly, sick, disabled, and unemployed. This led to the rise of a welfare state. This was a major change in government policy.

As the government grew, the executive branch got much more power. Roosevelt was elected President four times. After his death, a President’s term of office was limited to two terms.

Review Questions
1. How did the New Deal affect American women?

2. How did the New Deal create a welfare state?
Focus Question: How did the men and women of the depression find relief from their hardships in the popular culture?

As you read, complete the table below to record examples of cultural or popular media.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cultural or Popular Media</th>
<th>Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Movies</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Radio</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Art</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Literature</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Entertainment became big business during the 1930s, creating a golden age in American culture. Radio ownership grew during the decade. Nearly two thirds of all Americans attended at least one movie a week.

The movies helped Americans escape the harsh realities of the Great Depression. Movies like *The Wizard of Oz* promised weary audiences that their dreams really could come true. Many films reflected the public’s distrust of big business and government. The films of Frank Capra focused on American idealism and the triumph of the common man.

National radio networks broadcast dramas, comedies, soap operas, and variety shows. Episodes from *The Lone Ranger* began running in 1933 and lasted for more than 20 years. Sometimes the lines between news and entertainment were blurred. On October 30, 1938, the Mercury Theatre broadcast a drama called *War of the Worlds*. Many people panicked, believing that Martians were actually invading.

Music also provided a diversion from hard times. Americans listened to popular music on the radio or in nightclubs. They enjoyed “swing” music played by “big bands.” Blues singers sang of harsh conditions faced by African Americans. Woody Guthrie wrote songs about Okies who fled the Dust Bowl.

For the first time, the federal government provided funding for the arts through programs such as the Federal Art Project. Artists were paid to paint huge *murals* on public buildings across the nation. The government also paid photographers such as Dorothea Lange to show the plight of America’s farmers.

Many writers wrote novels about working-class heroes. John Steinbeck’s *The Grapes of Wrath* is the story of the fictional Joad family. The novel follows the family from the Oklahoma Dust Bowl to California. Lillian Hellman wrote several plays featuring strong roles for women. Americans also enjoyed comic strips and comic books.

**Review Questions**

1. Why did the movies become popular during the 1930s?

2. What were some of the major themes of literature in the 1930s?