

CHAPTER 22

The Great Depression

Why It Matters

The 1930s brought one of the greatest challenges to Texas and the United States since the Civil War. Ideas about the role of the government in economic matters were modified as new programs such as Social Security began. Texans provided important leadership in solving the nation's problems.

The Impact Today

Many projects built with federal assistance in the 1930s continue to serve Texans. Among these are the Paseo Del Rio (the San Antonio Riverwalk), the San Jacinto Monument, Buchanan Dam, and facilities at many state parks.



1930
★ East Texas Oil Field discovered

1929

1931

1933

1929
• Stock market crashed; the Great Depression began



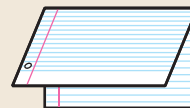
1933
• Prohibition ended



Dusty Day in Texas by Grant Tyson Reynard reflects the stark landscape of a Texas dust storm.

Cause-Effect Study Foldable Make this foldable to record information about Texas during the Great Depression and the New Deal.

Step 1 Fold one sheet of paper in half from top to bottom.



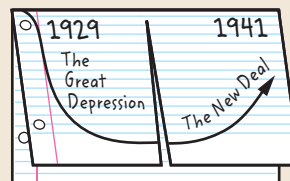
Step 2 Fold it in half again, from side to side.



Step 3 Unfold the paper once. Cut up the inside fold of the top flap only.



Step 4 Label your foldable as shown.



Reading and Writing As you read the chapter, write under the flaps of your foldable what you learn about these historic events. Underline the causes of these events and circle information that identifies the effects of these events.

1935

★ James Allred became governor

1936

★ Texas celebrated centennial of independence

1935

1937

1939

1936

• Jessie Owens won four gold medals at the Berlin Olympics



1939

• Gone With the Wind produced as a movie



1939

• Nylon stockings first commonly worn

TEXAS HISTORY
Online

Chapter Overview

Visit the texans.glencoe.com Web site and click on **Chapter 22—Chapter Overviews** to preview chapter information.

CLICK HERE

Depression Hits Texas

Guide to Reading

Main Idea

The Great Depression affected Texas in a variety of ways.

Key Terms

stock, unemployment, wildcatter, law of supply and demand, martial law, economies of scale, Dust Bowl

Reading Strategy

Organizing Information As you read this section, complete a table like the one shown here by stating how these parts of the Texas economy were affected by the Great Depression.

Factories	
Timber workers	
Oil production	
Cotton crops	

Read to Learn

- why the East Texas Oil Field was significant.
- how the cotton crisis was resolved.

Section Theme

Economic Factors Governor Sterling worked with Texans to limit production of certain products and crops during the Great Depression.

Preview of Events

◆ 1929

Stock market crashes on Wall Street

◆ 1930

East Texas Oil Field is discovered

◆ 1931

Texas Railroad Commission limits production in East Texas Oil Field



Emma Tenayuca Brooks

A Texas Story

For future activist Emma Tenayuca of San Antonio, going to La Plaza de Zacate as a young girl was exciting. People sold food and newspapers and listened intently to political speeches. In an interview, Emma said, "There was one place where I used to go particularly with my grandfather . . . and that was La Plaza de Zacate, that was the square, Milam Square, right in front of Santa Rosa Hospital."

The Great Depression Begins

Republican **Herbert Hoover** became the president of the United States in 1929. He had been in office for only seven months when Wall Street stock market prices fell sharply. **Stock** shares represent ownership in companies. During the 1920s, people hoping to make quick fortunes had driven up the

price of the stock of many companies. Some investors had borrowed money to buy stock. When the price of stocks fell, both they and the banks that had loaned the money were wiped out.

The economic bad news continued. Factories closed, creating widespread **unemployment**, or loss of jobs. Unemployed people could not buy products, so even more factories closed. As prices of agricultural products dropped, the income of Texas farmers suffered. People could not afford new houses, so East Texas timber workers were laid off from their jobs.

President Hoover greatly underestimated the severity, or depth, of the **Great Depression**. He called on local churches and charities to increase their aid to the poor. He also asked people to hire their unemployed neighbors to do odd jobs around the house. Hoover believed relief efforts should begin at the state and city levels.

 **Reading Check Explaining** What were some results of the sharply falling stock market prices?

Too Much Oil

Texans elected an oil businessman, **Ross Sterling**, as governor in 1930. He was immediately confronted with economic crises, one of

which threatened the oil industry. In October 1930, a **wildcatter** named **Columbus Marion “Dad” Joiner** drilled an oil well in northern Rusk County. A wildcatter is a person who drills an oil well in an area not known to contain oil. That well, named the Daisy Bradford No. 3, was the first well of the East Texas Oil Field. This new field was so big that it was named for a whole region. Kilgore, Longview, Tyler, Henderson, Gladewater, and many smaller towns boomed as thousands of people descended upon East Texas.

Drilling in the new field provided high-paying jobs for farmers and timber workers. A driller could make as much as \$10 to \$12 per day. As automobile dealerships, pharmacies, and clothing stores all benefited from the East Texas Oil Field boom, the Great Depression seemed far away.

At first the major oil companies were reluctant to invest in the East Texas field, which they believed would not produce any oil. One company’s geologist even offered to drink every barrel of oil that the field produced. This left opportunities for hundreds of small oil drillers—called “independents”—scattered throughout Gregg, Rusk, Smith, and Upshur Counties. They drilled wells in unlikely places. Soon the East Texas field was producing more oil than all the

People of Texas

Columbus “Dad” Joiner 1860–1947



Columbus Marion Joiner was born in Alabama. After moving to Tennessee, he began a law practice in 1883. In 1897 he moved to Oklahoma and began speculating in oil. He made and lost two fortunes and moved to Texas in 1926.

Joiner was convinced there were oil deposits in Rusk County, so in 1930 he began drilling. After two unsuccessful attempts, his third well, Daisy Bradford No. 3, opened up the largest oil field in the world at that time. As “father” of the field,

Joiner was nicknamed “Dad.”

Overwhelmed by financial problems and lawsuits, he later sold his well and leases for \$1 million and retired. The city of Joinerville is named after him.



Analyzing Political Cartoons

Ideas for helping the cotton farmers poured into Governor Sterling's office, but which one would actually work?

Did the cartoonist think the government would find the right solution for the problem of too much cotton?



A Governor Sterling **B** Citizen

other fields in the rest of the state combined. As the **law of supply and demand** predicted, prices went down as supply increased and demand stayed the same. With the same demand, producers were willing to lower prices to make sure they were not “stuck” with the oil. In the early 1930s, the price of a barrel of oil dropped.

Even at low prices, producers believed they had to keep drilling. If they stopped to wait for prices to go up, they feared someone else drilling elsewhere would get the oil. Finally, in April 1931, the **Texas Railroad Commission** issued an order to limit production in the East Texas field. Independent operators believed this action favored the large oil companies. There was widespread cheating. Fake valves on pipes were installed that indicated “shut” when the valve was really open. Truckers carried “hot oil” at

night on back roads without using their headlights. “Hot oil” was petroleum produced in violation of the Railroad Commission’s orders and was smuggled out of the Texas boom towns.

To enforce the order, Governor Ross Sterling declared **martial law** and sent the Texas National Guard to the East Texas field. Eventually martial law ended, but overproduction continued for a time. By 1935, however, state and federal laws had successfully controlled production, and oil prices became more stable.

Crisis for Cotton Farmers

Even though cotton remained the most important crop raised by Texas farmers, its prices declined during the 1920s. The Great Depression forced them even lower. In 1931 the average price

for a 500-pound bale of cotton was only \$28.50. Because cotton did not spoil like other farm crops, it could be stored for years. The stored cotton and the new crop created even larger surpluses. As with petroleum, the answer was to limit production, not just in Texas but nationwide.

The Texas Department of Agriculture urged voluntary reduction in the number of acres planted in cotton, but few farmers cooperated with that suggestion. A more radical solution was proposed by the governor of Louisiana, **Huey Long**. He called the Louisiana legislature into special session and pushed through a law prohibiting the planting of cotton in Louisiana in 1932. The law, known as “**drop-a-crop**,” had a provision that other cotton-growing states must also prohibit production in order for the law to go into effect.

Because Texas was the largest cotton-producing state, everyone knew that Texas must

agree if “drop-a-crop” was to become a reality. Governor Sterling did not think the idea would work. Eventually the Texas legislature passed a law calling for partial reduction. When a state court declared that measure unconstitutional, the whole plan collapsed.

Reading Check Explaining Describe the “drop-a-crop” plan.

Dust Storms Blanket the High Plains

After the arrival of the railroads, many of the large ranches of the High Plains were subdivided into farms. When wheat prices were high after World War I, farmers bought tractors and expanded their production. As prices declined throughout the 1920s, farmers tried to earn more money by planting more crops. The Plains seemed perfect for the **economies of scale** that





Picturing History

Dust storms such as this one could darken skies for hours and turn day into night. **What were some of the effects of these storms?**

came with mechanized agriculture. Economies of scale mean that the unit cost of operation decreases as the size of the operation increases. As with oil and cotton, however, overproduction drove prices down. In 20 years, wheat dropped from \$2.19 to 39¢ per bushel.

The decline in the price of wheat was only one of the problems for High Plains farmers. When farmers plowed grasses under, there was nothing left to hold the soil when winds blew. A severe drought in the 1930s added to the problem. The soil literally blew away as the residents of the Plains watched. Dust from what came to be known as the **Dust Bowl** was reported by ship captains in the Atlantic Ocean. Motorists in Amarillo, Lubbock, Dalhart, Muleshoe, and other Plains cities often could not see 20 feet (6 m) down the street. People became ill from lung

diseases. Between 1932 and 1937, the worst years of the Great Depression, many families lost their farms because of the difficult economic times.

Texans Look for Answers

At first, Texans and other Americans looked to themselves and each other for answers to their growing economic problems. As banks failed, some merchant associations printed coupons that could be used as money. Universities that could not pay salaries allowed professors and their families to eat in the university dining halls. Many rural churches paid their preachers with eggs, chickens, vegetables, and firewood.

Mexican Americans and African Americans in Texas were especially hard hit by the Great Depression. Between 1929 and 1931, large numbers of Mexicans and Mexican Americans left Texas for Mexico. Some migrated voluntarily, but many were deported, or forced to leave the United States. To open jobs for Texas citizens, some residents of Texas and some U.S. citizens were forced to go when they could not prove their citizenship. The percentage of African Americans who were unemployed was approximately twice that of the rest of the population. Many African Americans left the state looking for work.

 **Reading Check** **Describing** What happened to some Mexican Americans during the Great Depression?

SECTION 1 ASSESSMENT

Checking for Understanding

- Using Key Terms** Write a sentence using the terms **law of supply and demand** and **unemployment**.
- Reviewing Facts** Where did President Hoover believe relief efforts for the Great Depression should begin?

Reviewing Themes

- Economic Factors** Why did the “drop-a-crop” plan fail?

Organizing to Learn

- Creating Charts** As you read this section, create a chart like the one shown below. List the creative ways people were paid during the Great Depression.

Occupation	Payment
Professors	
Preachers	
Merchants	

Critical Thinking

- Making Comparisons** In what ways was the East Texas Oil Field different from other oil fields that had been discovered in Texas?



Organizing The Dust Bowl made life harder for people during this time period. Find three details in the text supporting this statement.



Social Studies

TAKS Skillbuilder

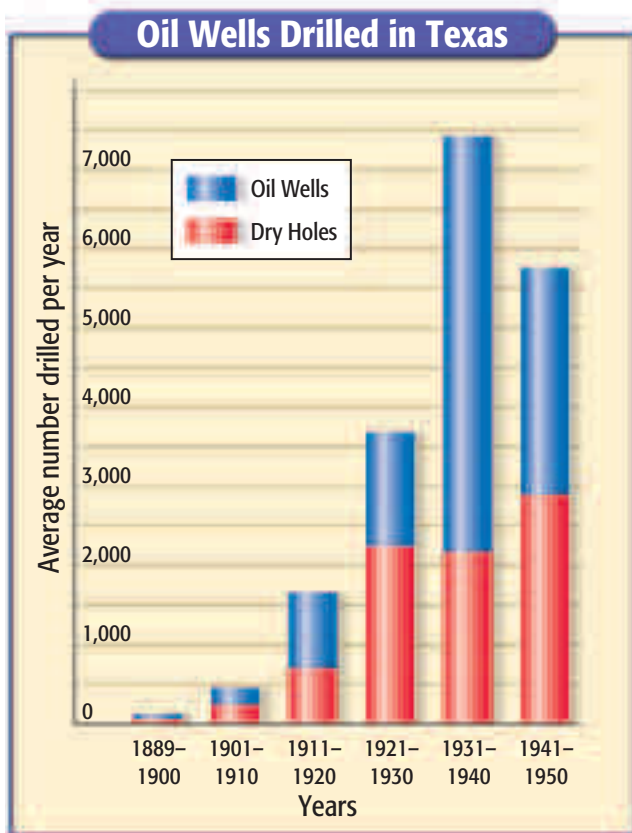


Reading a Bar Graph

Why Learn This Skill?

Bar graphs can be used to help compare facts involving numbers. Bars, or columns, represent quantities or totals. Bar graphs can show change over time. They can compare quantities during the same time period. A bar graph might compare the number of students attending five different schools during the same year.

Bar graphs have horizontal and vertical axes that describe the information. Sometimes a bar graph compares more than one set of facts. In the graph showing the oil wells of Texas, a key uses color to distinguish productive and unproductive wells.



Learning the Skill

Here are some steps to follow in reading a bar graph:

- Read the title to learn the subject of the graph.
- Look at the information on the axes.
- Compare the lengths of the bars on the graph.
- Use the information to draw conclusions.

Practicing the Skill

Study the graph and answer the questions that follow.

- 1 What is the subject and time period of this graph?
- 2 What information is represented on the two axes?
- 3 What does each color represent?
- 4 Why do you think the number of wells decreased from 1941 to 1950?
- 5 In what time period were the most dry holes drilled?
- 6 Create your own question relating to this bar graph.



TAKS PRACTICE

Reading a Bar Graph Create your own bar graph. Use numbers or amounts for the vertical axis and years for the horizontal axis. Possible topics include the number of students graduating from your school in the past 10 years or the population of your city in the past 10 years. Use books, encyclopedias, or the Internet to find information. Write three questions that relate to your bar graph.



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SECTION 2

Texas and the New Deal

Guide to Reading

Main Idea

President Roosevelt helped Texas and the United States to begin recovering from the Great Depression.

Key Terms

alphabet agencies
mural
cooperatives
contour plowing

Preview of Events

Reading Strategy

Classifying Information As you read this section, complete a chart like the one shown here by filling in the ways the New Deal helped Texans living in rural areas.

Rural Problem	How the New Deal Helped
Electricity	
Farming	
Soil erosion	

Read to Learn

- what the New Deal offered.
- how Texans cooperated with the Roosevelt administration.
- how rural Texans were affected by the New Deal.

Section Theme

Science and Technology Farmers used different farming methods to protect the land and raise prices.

◆ 1933

Franklin D. Roosevelt starts New Deal

◆ 1936

Dallas hosts centennial celebration of Texas independence



Texas bank, c. 1930

A Texas Story



The recollections, or stories, of everyday people can help bring history to life and give it personal meaning. Emma Tenayuca of San Antonio remembered how, as a teenager, the Great Depression hit her own family. "Times became even harder as many people lost their jobs. In 1929 Wall Street crashed. In 1932, the closing of the banks. My grandfather lost money in one of them . . . He came over to me and said, 'I've lost everything I have.'"

The New Deal Begins

President Hoover ran for reelection in 1932, but voters blamed him for the Depression. They believed Hoover had not acted quickly enough to provide help for needy people. His opponent, **Franklin D. Roosevelt**, won an overwhelming victory. Texans gave almost 90 percent of their

votes to Roosevelt, who had promised “a new deal for the American people.” He took office in March 1933, and his programs became part of what was called the **New Deal**.

President Roosevelt began with a flurry of activity during “the first hundred days.” Among his other actions was ordering all banks to close for a short time so examiners could determine which ones were strong enough to stay in business. He also asked Congress to pass laws to help solve the economic problems.

Vice President John N. Garner, a former Texas member of the U.S. House of Representatives, helped push New Deal programs in Congress. Texans occupied some of the most powerful positions in Congress, and Roosevelt needed their cooperation. The chart below shows Texans who chaired committees in the U.S. House of Representatives during the New Deal.

New Deal Programs in Texas

The New Deal greatly increased the activity of the federal government in people’s lives. Before the 1930s the government’s main economic actions had been to collect taxes, print a money supply, and set up courts in which financial disputes could be settled. The New Deal created agencies to deal with the many problems faced by the nation as a result of the Depression. They were often known as the **alphabet agencies** because people called these organizations by their initials.

Some agencies such as the **Federal Emergency Relief Administration** (FERA) gave funds to states and local agencies for distribution directly to unemployed people. Other agencies tried to solve the unemployment problem by hiring people for various projects. The **Civilian Conservation Corps** (CCC) provided outdoor employment for young men while it helped preserve the nation’s resources. Nearly 50,000 Texans participated in the CCC. Living in camps, workers planted trees, built erosion control structures, and completed other projects that helped conserve natural resources. They were paid \$30 per month, \$25 of which they were expected to send home to their families. Many of the state parks they developed, such as Garner, Bastrop, and Palo Duro, are still in use.

The **National Youth Administration** (NYA) hired high school and college students to perform clerical and maintenance jobs. The students often worked at schools and playgrounds. They also helped build roadside parks and spread gravel on highway shoulders. Lyndon Johnson

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TEXAS HISTORY
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Self-Check Quiz Visit the texans.glencoe.com Web site and click on **Chapter 22—Student Web Activity** to learn more about the Works Progress Administration.

Texans and the New Deal		
Member	Hometown	Legislation and Contributions
Sam Rayburn	Bonham	Proposed the Securities and Exchange Commission to restore confidence in the stock market. Proposed the Rural Electrification Administration to help rural residents obtain electrical service. Proposed the Federal Communications Commission to regulate radio broadcasting.
James P. Buchanan	Brenham	Chaired the Appropriations Committee, which approved all government spending.
Marvin Jones	Amarillo	Worked to help farmers obtain loans and worked for soil conservation.
Hatton Sumners	Dallas	Worked to modernize federal courts.

TAKS PRACTICE

Problem Solving Each elected Texan listed in the chart helped to solve a problem facing America in the 1930s. Consider a present-day problem that Texas or America faces and propose a possible government solution.



People of Texas

Sam Rayburn 1882-1961



Sam Rayburn was elected 24 times to the U.S. House of Representatives, spanning the terms of eight presidents. “Mr. Sam,” as he was known, was raised on a cotton farm in the same rural area of Texas that he represented. That helped him understand the

people who elected him and their problems, and he worked hard to bring important projects to the district to improve life there.

After working his way through college, Rayburn won his first elected position to the Texas House of Representatives in 1906.

He attended law school between legislative sessions. After his 1912 election to the U.S. Congress, he never again had a Republican opponent. He was Speaker of the House for 17 years. As Speaker he was third in line for the U.S. presidency.

was head of the NYA in Texas. Years later, Johnson became president of the United States. Many of the programs President Johnson began in the 1960s reminded people of the New Deal.

The **Public Works Administration** (PWA) built bridges, dams, schools, and other structures of permanent value to the state. In Fort Worth alone, the PWA built 13 schools and expanded 13 more. The **Works Progress Administration** (WPA) hired 600,000 Texans during the Great Depression. Most of the jobs were in construction. Texans built swimming pools, recreation centers, stadiums, and parks. New Deal programs also involved the government in the arts. The WPA employed artists to paint **murals** in public buildings. Theater and musical groups were hired to provide entertainment in several Texas cities, and historians were given jobs writing community histories.

 **Reading Check** **Examining** How did the New Deal help people recover from the Depression?

Rural Texans and the New Deal

Almost 60 percent of Texans lived in rural areas in 1930. The New Deal created programs for farmers, ranchers, and other rural residents. Farmers still relied on kerosene lamps and hand-powered

machines long after city residents enjoyed electric lights and appliances. New Deal legislation helped rural people form **cooperatives**, or organized groups, that borrowed money from the government to pay for stringing electrical wires. Electricity eased the burden of house and farm work. Electric water pumps brought water into the house, and electric lights made reading possible at night. Farm families could now listen, as city families did, to the latest news broadcasts and radio programs.

Congress passed laws that paid farmers to reduce production by plowing crops under instead of harvesting them. Farmers cut down peach trees and poured excess milk into streams. The government paid them to destroy crops in an effort to drive prices up.

Dams were constructed on the Colorado River to generate electricity. The dams also provided flood control and water for rice farmers. The lakes that formed behind the dams created new economic opportunities in recreation and tourism.

New Deal programs also tried to slow down soil erosion. Farmers in the Dust Bowl regions planted alternating strips of wheat and grain sorghum. The sorghum was taller and protected the topsoil from being blown away. Farmers also plowed at right angles to the wind so ridges would collect the blowing earth. The federal

government provided money to farmers to plant trees as windbreaks. By 1938, the sand dunes that had formed around Dalhart were gone.

In the cotton fields of Texas, the federal government encouraged farmers to fill up gullies with brush to slow the water as it ran downhill. Farmers plowed around hills in a method called **contour plowing** rather than going straight up and down the hills. Farmers were paid to plant crops, such as clover, that would enhance the soil.

Texas Centennial

Some construction projects during the Great Depression celebrated the 100th anniversary of Texas independence in 1936. The three largest cities in the state—Dallas, Houston, and San Antonio—competed to determine which one would host the official celebration. Dallas was chosen because it was able to contribute almost \$10 million to help build the facilities. The Texas Legislature and the U.S. Congress each provided another \$3 million. The main celebration was held at the 185-acre (75-hectare) Fair Park in Dallas. New buildings were constructed, including the Hall of State and the Hall of Negro Life. Exhibits highlighted Texas history and proudly displayed examples of Texas products and culture. Other cities joined Dallas in observing the Texas Centennial. The San Jacinto Monument was erected on the battlefield to the



Picturing History

The Texas Centennial in 1936 was a statewide event that celebrated Texas's past and present achievements. The state legislature provided funds for buildings, exhibitions, and special events. **What is the message in this poster?**

east of Houston. Museums were built at the Alamo grounds in San Antonio, on the campus of the University of Texas, and at Canyon, Huntsville, Goliad, and Gonzales.

 **Reading Check Analyzing** How did electricity change life for Texans?

SECTION 2 ASSESSMENT

Checking for Understanding

- Using Key Terms** Define **alphabet agencies**, **murals**, **cooperatives**, and **contour plowing**.
- Reviewing Facts** What percentage of Texas votes went to Roosevelt in the 1932 presidential election?

Reviewing Themes

- Science and Technology** How did dams built in Texas during the Great Depression contribute to the state's economic prosperity?

Organizing to Learn

- Creating Charts** Create a chart like the one shown here, and fill in the appropriate information for each New Deal agency.

Agencies	Full Name	Purpose
FERA		
CCC		
NYA		
PWA		
WPA		

Critical Thinking

- Explaining** What had been the federal government's main economic actions before the 1930s?

TAKS PRACTICE

Supporting Generalizations Some construction projects during the Great Depression were in celebration of the 100th anniversary of Texas's independence. Find three statements in the text supporting this fact.

Politics in the 1930s

Guide to Reading

Main Idea

Politics in the 1930s dealt with a variety of issues.

Key Terms

pardon
strike
arbitration

Reading Strategy

Organizing Information As you read this section, complete a table like the one shown here, outlining the significant acts of the governors in the 1930s.

Governor	Significant Acts
Ferguson	
Allred	
O'Daniel	

Read to Learn

- what Dr. Lawrence Nixon accomplished for African Americans.
- why LULAC was important for Mexican Americans.

Section Theme

Civic Rights and Responsibilities
African Americans and Mexican Americans fought for their rights in court.

Preview of Events

1929	1932	1935	1938
League of United Latin American Citizens is founded	<i>Nixon v. Condon</i> case	James Allred becomes governor	Pecan shellers' strike



Garment worker

A Texas Story

At age 21, Emma Tenayuca was already a veteran labor organizer when she led the San Antonio pecan shellers' strike in 1938. The passion for justice she had learned from the speakers at La Plaza de Zacate inspired her.

"Garment workers averaged about \$3 to \$4 per week . . . Sales girls earned about \$6 weekly. The few Mexicans who were fortunate enough to find jobs in the cement plants and packing houses earned about 25 cents per hour."

—Emma Tenayuca Brooks, Oral History interview, 1978

1930s Governors

Despite economic problems in his term, Ross Sterling ran for re-election in 1932. His main opponent was Miriam Ferguson, who had already served a term as governor. Ferguson defeated Sterling in the Democratic primary



TEXAS FACT

The state song “Texas, Our Texas” was not written by a native Texan, but by an Englishman, William J. Marsh, while living in Fort Worth. Gladys Yoakum helped him write the words, and together they won a statewide contest, sponsored by the legislature in 1929, to find a state song. The words “Biggest and grandest” were changed to “Boldest and grandest” in 1959 when Alaska became a state.

election by fewer than 3,800 votes out of more than 900,000 cast. She then won the general election and was sworn in shortly before Franklin Roosevelt became president.

Ferguson asked President Roosevelt to lend farmers money to help make up for lost income from lower cotton prices. She succeeded in getting the state constitution amended to allow \$20 million in bread bonds to feed the poor. She also proposed a tax on oil. However, the Ferguson administration also was clouded by controversy. One of her first acts was firing several experienced Texas Rangers. She used her **pardon** power to release many criminals from state prisons. The governor and the legislature struggled unsuccessfully to meet the needs of the state when there was not nearly enough money available.

James Allred was sworn in as governor in 1935. He moved to restore confidence in law enforcement by reorganizing the Texas Rangers. They became part of the Department of Public Safety and earned high marks for their ability to solve difficult cases. Allred helped found the **Board of Pardons and Paroles** to establish an orderly system to control the release of prisoners. He also helped create retirement systems for teachers and state employees.

The governor’s election of 1938 provided both politics and entertainment. At that time, W. Lee O’Daniel had been sales manager for a Fort Worth flour company. As part of his job, he hosted a daily radio show, broadcast on WBAP to several stations around the state. He had never been involved in politics, but he decided to run for governor. He campaigned around the

state, promising to raise pensions, abolish capital punishment, and veto any sales tax. His theme song, “Beautiful, Beautiful Texas,” became sort of an unofficial state song. Its chorus was:

“Beautiful, Beautiful Texas, where the beautiful
bluebonnets grow,
We’re proud of our forefathers who fought at
the Alamo,
You can live on the plains or the mountains,
Or down where the sea breezes blow,
And you’ll still be in beautiful Texas,
The most beautiful place that I know.”

He won an overwhelming victory. Once in office, however, he was unable to deliver on his campaign promises.

African American Voting Rights

Even after the creation of the poll tax and other devices to keep African Americans from voting, some African Americans continued to vote. In 1923 the state legislature tried to reduce African American voting even further. It passed a law declaring that only white persons could vote in the Democratic Party’s primary election. Since Texas was overwhelmingly Democratic, a win in the primary meant victory in the general election. **Dr. Lawrence Nixon**, an African American



TEXAS TODAY

Michael L. Williams was appointed to the Texas Railroad Commission by former Governor George W. Bush in 1998 to serve the unexpired term of Carole Keeton Rylander. His fellow commissioners elected Williams commission chairman. In 2000, the people of Texas elected him to the term expiring in 2002. He is the first African American in Texas history to hold a nonjudicial statewide post and is the highest ranking African American in Texas state government.



Dr. Lawrence A. Nixon

physician from El Paso and a member of the NAACP, presented his poll tax receipt and tried to vote in the Democratic primary. He was turned away. Nixon then filed suit to win the right to vote. He won the case of *Nixon v. Herndon* (1927) in the Supreme Court of the United States when the

justices declared that his rights under the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments to the U.S. Constitution had been violated.

The state continued to try to exclude African Americans from voting. The legislature said that the party, not the legislature, had the power to determine who voted in the primaries. The leaders of the Democratic Party then drew up discriminatory rules. Dr. Nixon filed suit again, and in 1932 he won again in the case of *Nixon v. Condon*. The fight for African Americans' right to vote did not end, however. The issue would come before the Supreme Court again in 1944 when, in the case of *Smith v. Allwright*, the Court would rule that the all-white primary was unconstitutional. Dr. Nixon's courageous struggle was an inspiration to a younger generation who would carry on the struggle for civil rights in the 1950s and 1960s.

Reading Check Identifying Which of the discriminatory laws did Dr. Lawrence Nixon challenge in the courts?

Mexican Americans Fight for Their Rights

The **League of United Latin American Citizens**, or LULAC, was founded at Corpus Christi in 1929 with **Ben Garza** as the first president. LULAC worked for Mexican American rights in the court system, in hiring, and in education.

Mexican American children attended segregated schools in the border city of Del Rio. In 1930, LULAC supported **Jesús Salvatierra** in his lawsuit against the Del Rio schools. Although Salvatierra eventually lost his suit, LULAC had

shown that it intended to be a strong voice for Mexican American rights. By the 1930s LULAC had branches in many cities and towns, including Brownsville, McAllen, San Angelo, and Roma.

Education also was an important issue for other organizations. The School Improvement League (*La Liga Pro-Defensa Escolar*) was founded in 1934 in San Antonio. **Eleuterio Escobar, Jr.**, and **María L. de Hernández**, the founders, were distressed by the inadequate school facilities for San Antonio's Mexican American children. The schools were overcrowded and poorly maintained. The League organized a rally attended by 10,000 people. It also prepared documents that proved their claims of unequal treatment.



The Pecan Shellers' Strike

San Antonio was also the place where workers organized for better working conditions. There, women at the **Finck Cigar Company** formed groups in the early 1930s to protest against poor sanitation in the company's factory and unfair work rules.

Another target of labor activists was the pecan shelling industry. More than 10,000 people, mostly Mexican Americans, were employed in

A Shared Past...

The Great Depression was especially hard on working women. Popular opinion held that the scarce jobs should be reserved for men, the traditional "breadwinners" for families. Accordingly, it was common for school boards to release women who married and for companies to fire women so men could have their jobs. On the other hand, President Roosevelt appointed Frances Perkins as the first woman cabinet member. Roosevelt was also the first president to appoint women as federal judges and as ambassadors to foreign nations.



picking the nut meats out of pecans. Working conditions were inhumane. People worked in crowded, dirty rooms. They breathed pecan dust all day. In 1938 the company cut their wages. **Emma Tenayuca Brooks** and other organizers led more than 10,000 workers on a **strike** (a refusal to work) that lasted three months. Police arrested more than 700 of the strikers, but eventually both sides agreed to **arbitration** (allowing an impartial observer to solve a dispute). The workers went back to their jobs for higher pay.

Miners and Farmers

Two other groups of workers saw their living conditions worsen during the Great Depression. New Deal farm programs that paid farmers not to grow crops specified that payment would go to the landowners. Many Texas farmers were tenants who did not own the land they farmed. Payments to the landowner meant eviction for the tenants since their labor was no longer necessary. Coal miners also suffered. The discovery of the East Texas Oil Field and low prices for petroleum meant that the demand for coal decreased. Coal mines were closed and the miners were laid off.

Reading Check Explaining What were the main objectives of the League of United Latin American Citizens?



Picturing History

Women who worked at the Finck Cigar Company in San Antonio went on strike in 1933 to protest working conditions and wore sashes bearing their message. **Why did the workers use both English and Spanish to get their point across?**

SECTION 3 ASSESSMENT

Checking for Understanding

- Using Key Terms** How are **strike** and **arbitration** related? Use the term **pardon** in a sentence that defines it in context.
- Reviewing Facts** What group supported Dr. Nixon in his lawsuit for the right to vote?

Reviewing Themes

- Civic Rights and Responsibilities** Why did LULAC support a lawsuit against the Del Rio school system in 1930?

Organizing to Learn

- Sequencing** Create a chart like the one shown here and add the year next to each event.

Year	Event
	Sterling loses bid for reelection.
	Allred becomes governor.
	Supreme Court rules that the all-white primary is unconstitutional.
	LULAC is founded.
	School Improvement League is founded.

Critical Thinking

- Evaluating Differences** What were Governor Ferguson's controversial actions involving the Texas Rangers and criminals? How did Governor Allred's actions differ from those of Governor Ferguson?

TAKS PRACTICE

Summarizing Summarize the reasons that the pecan shellers went on strike in San Antonio in 1938.

Chapter Summary

The Great Depression

1929

- President Hoover takes office.
- ★ The stock market crashes in October, and the Great Depression begins.

- The League of United Latin American Citizens is founded.

1930

- Unemployment spreads.
- ★ Oil is discovered in the East Texas field.

1931

- The price of oil, cotton, and other products decreases.
- Governor Sterling declares martial law in the East Texas Oil Field.

1932

- Franklin D. Roosevelt is elected president.
- Miriam Ferguson is elected governor.
- ★ *Nixon v. Condon* is decided by the U.S. Supreme Court.
- ★ The "Dust Bowl" affects Texas.

1933

- Roosevelt starts the New Deal to provide jobs and creates "alphabet agencies."

1936

- Texas celebrates centennial.

1938

- ★ Pecan shellers organize a strike in San Antonio.

Reviewing Key Terms

Number your paper from 1 to 4. Write the letter of the vocabulary term that goes with each supplied definition.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| a. law of supply and demand | c. unemployment |
| b. stock | d. wildcatter |
1. a claim representing investment in a corporation that gives the buyer a share of ownership
 2. an oil operator who drills for wells in an area not known to have oil
 3. having fewer jobs available than the people needing them
 4. general economic principle that states if supply increases and demand stays the same or decreases, the price will go down

Reviewing Key Facts

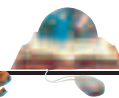
5. Explain how independent oil operators kept producing oil in the East Texas field after the Texas Railroad Commission issued the order to limit production.
6. Which governor in the 1930s helped create retirement systems for teachers and state employees?
7. Name the U.S. vice president during the Roosevelt administration who was a former Texas member of Congress.
8. Describe how cooperatives helped Texans living in rural areas.
9. Explain why farmers destroyed some of their crops during the New Deal.
10. What happened when the pecan shellers agreed to arbitration?
11. Why was Governor Ferguson able to release many criminals from state prisons?

Critical Thinking

12. **Differentiating** Create a table like the one below to show how the Great Depression affected oil workers, cotton farmers, and Mexican Americans.

Group	Effect of Great Depression
Oil workers	
Cotton farmers	
Mexican Americans	

13. **Making Comparisons** How is contour plowing different from other plowing?
14. **Identifying** What was the result of Jesús Salvatierra's lawsuit against the Del Rio schools?



Geography and History Activity

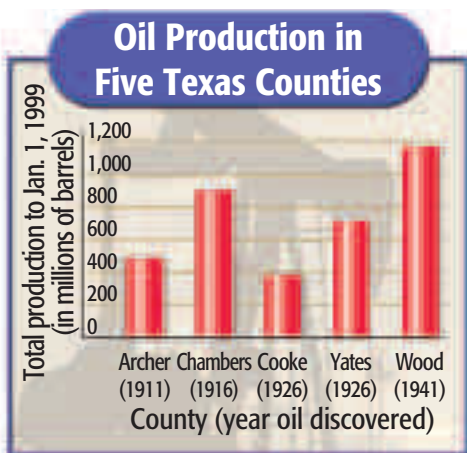
15. Sketch a blank map of Texas. Put a dot and a symbol or image on the locations where special Texas Centennial buildings were constructed or celebrations were held. Label the buildings on the map.

Cooperative Learning Activity

16. **Writing a Research Report** Organize into groups of four. Choose a topic about the growth and development of the oil industry in Texas. Topics could include, but are not limited to, the beginning of the oil industry in Texas, lives of oil workers, or life in a Texas oil town. Your school or public librarian or the public information department of a large oil company can help you find information. After finding your information, write a short report. Include artwork, maps, and diagrams.

Practicing Skills

Reading a Bar Graph Study the bar graph and answer the questions that follow.



17. What does the graph compare?
 18. Which two counties have produced the most oil?
 19. How much oil has been produced in Chambers County?



Portfolio/TAKS Writing Activity

20. **Descriptive Writing** Imagine you are a farmer in Texas during the Hoover and Roosevelt presidencies. Write a one-page paper describing what is happening to your farm and the changes you see during the Great Depression and the New Deal. Save your work for your portfolio.

Self-Check Quiz

Visit the texans.glencoe.com Web site and click on **Chapter 22—Self-Check Quizzes** to prepare for the chapter test.

CLICK HERE

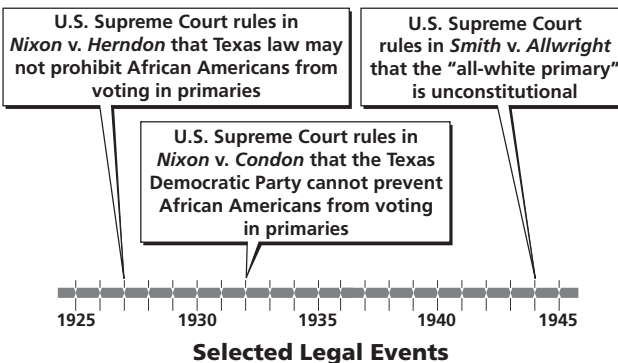


Building Technology Skills

21. **Using the Internet** Visit the American Memory Web site hosted by the Library of Congress or another Web site to find a photograph relating to the Great Depression. Share this with your class.



Use the time line to answer the following question.



Which of the following statements best summarizes the events on this time line?

- F African Americans could vote in all elections between 1925 and 1945.
 G The U.S. Supreme Court did not voice opinions about voting laws.
 H *Nixon v. Herndon* ruled that segregated schools were illegal.
 J Some African Americans used the court system to make sure they could vote in all elections.

Test-Taking Tip:

Read the events on the time line carefully. To summarize this time line, ask yourself how the events are similar.