

## Grade 07 Social Studies Unit 11 Exemplar Lesson 01: Economic Depression

### Hill County Component, based on the Heart of Texas Tales website

#### Activities

##### I. Small-Group Reports:

[TEKS: 7.1A, 7.1B, 7.7E, 7.9C, 7.10A, 7.21A, 7.21B, 7.21C, 7.21D, 7.22B, 7.22C, 7.22D]

Referring to articles on the HoTT website, students prepare and present a report on how the Great Depression affected the lives of people in Hill County. Include such examples as:

- A. The move of the Buchers' Jewelry business ([People: Clyde Barrow Gang, Outlaws](#));
- B. The Depression's effect on the Interurban Electric Railway ([Everyday Life: Interurban Electric Railway](#));
- C. How the Depression led to desperate acts ([People: Clyde Barrow Gang, Outlaws](#));
- D. The life of Bonnie Parker (linked in [People: Clyde Barrow Gang, Outlaws](#)); and
- E. Results of desperate acts ([Everyday Life: Jailhouse Life](#)), including the Cell Block Museum exhibits.

##### II. Boom and Bust Charts: (Files for printing out hard-copy charts are available in [Teacher Resource Materials](#) for this Unit, along with Keys.)

[TEKS: 7.1A, 7.1B, 7.7B, 7.8A, 7.9C, 7.10A, 7.13B, 7.21A, 7.21B, 7.21C, 7.21H, 7.22C]

- A. Students read through the webpage for [Everyday Life: Interurban Electric Railway](#) while labeling (on the graph worksheet provided) the "boom & bust" effects on the Interurban Electric Railway.
- B. Students read through the webpage for [Everyday Life: Hotels](#) while labeling (on the chart worksheet provided) the "boom & bust" effects on the hotel industry in Hill County.
- C. As a culminating activity, students complete the chart, "Negative and Positive Outcomes from the Economic Depression in Hill County."

##### III. Decision Making with Today's Meet:

[TEKS: 7.1A, 7.1B, 7.7E, 7.9C, 7.10A, 7.21A, 7.21B, 7.21C, 7.21D, 7.22B, 7.22C, 7.22D]

*[Consider allowing the students the option of registering their responses simultaneously before the class using the Today's Meet app on their mobile devices.]*

- A. Name one aspect of your life today that you would really miss not having if you were living back during the days of the Depression instead of today.
- B. Imagining that you were a kid growing up during that time, what aspect of the Economic Depression do you think would have been the most difficult to endure (to deal with)?
- C. Which group of people or which person in particular who lived in Hill County during the days of the Economic Depression do you sympathize with the most? Why?
- D. Name a person whom you've learned about in this unit that you would like to hangout with for an afternoon and say why.

**IV. Creative Writing:**

[TEKS: 7.1B, 7.7B, 7.7E, 7.9C, 7.10A, 7.13B, 7.21A, 7.21B, 7.21C, 7.21D, 7.22B, 7.22C, 7.22D]

*[Consider allowing the students the option of creating their comic strip using the **Pixntell** free app on their mobile devices. They can create their own drawings or mix-and-match drawings with photos and record their voices reading the script they compose. Note that the free app limits the number of images they can use to five, which should be ample for any project.]*

- A. Draw a comic strip (getting inspiration from the [Gasoline Alley Comic Strip](#) in [Everyday Life: Grimes Garage](#), at the link in middle of the webpage) on one of the events listed below; or
- B. Write a newspaper article reporting on one of the following events:
  - 1. The Bucher family robbery and murder. (People: [Clyde Barrow Gang, Outlaws](#))
  - 2. The jail escape and ensuing capture of Clyde Barrow Gang member Raymond Hamilton and his two companion inmates. (People: [Clyde Barrow Gang, Outlaws](#))
  - 3. An editorial on the approval of funding of the Whitney Dam project, including hopes for aid to the economy with the new jobs created and the purchase and shipping of materials. (Events: [Whitney Dam Construction](#))
  - 4. Grimes Garage Mounts Publicity World-Wide Campaign. (Everyday Life: [Grimes Garage](#))
  - 5. Andrews Café Feeds the Hungry and the Famous Alike. (Everyday Life: [Andrews Café](#))
  - 6. Baseball Great Tris Speaker is Elected to Baseball Hall of Fame (having kept alive hometown followers' love of the game during otherwise depressing times) (People: [Tris Speaker Hall of Famer](#))

**V. Creative Role-play:**

[TEKS: 7.1B, 7.7B, 7.7E, 7.9C, 7.10A, 7.13B, 7.21A, 7.21B, 7.21D, 7.22B, 7.22C, 7.22D]

*[Consider giving the students the option of creating a sock puppet show with the **Popplet Lite** free app on their mobile devices. They can record their voices for the different puppet characters and the puppets' mouths will sync to go with the words.]*

In small groups, re-enact one of the following scenarios, using imagination to elaborate on the details.

- A. The Bucher robbery and murder by the Clyde Barrow Gang. (People: [Clyde Barrow Gang, Outlaws](#))
- B. The jail-break escape and ensuing capture of Raymond Hamilton. (People: [Clyde Barrow Gang, Outlaws](#))
- C. The Battle of the Benches. (Events: [Battle of the Benches](#))
- D. Receiving customers and offering special services at the Grimes Garage. (Everyday Life: [Grimes Garage](#))
- E. Creating and distributing publicity around the world for the Grimes Garage. (Everyday Life: [Grimes Garage](#))