



## **Conducting an Interview**

Ask students to talk to their grandparents, great grandparents or older members of their community who lived during the Great Depression and can remember it. They will have to be at least 80 years old. Before conducting an interview do some research about what the Great Depression was like. If possible tape or video record the interview. Record the name of the interviewer, date, time and place of the interview, as well as the person being interviewed, spelling out their complete name and date of birth, at the beginning of the tape. If you are not recording the interview, take extensive notes, including the same information as mentioned above. Ask permission to use your interview as part of an assignment that you will be sharing with your fellow students. Students can select and take FSA photographs of Indiana with them to the interview. The photographs may be helpful in having people recall the past. Another possible project might be to bring together a group of older people and have them share their memories about the Great Depression. Often these photos will trigger memories for one another. Possible questions you might want to ask include:

**When were you born?**

**Where did you live during the Great Depression?**

**Did you live on a farm, in a small town or in a city?**

**Who lived with you in your family when you were a child?**

**How did your family support itself?**

**Who worked in the family?**

**What type of work did they do?**

**How did the Depression affect the daily life of your family?**

**Did you know what the Great Depression meant when you were a child?**

**Did the Great Depression have a direct effect on your life as a child?**

**Did the Depression influence how you thought about things later in your life?**

**Is there anything else you would like to tell about the Great Depression?**

Share the results of the interview with fellow students, either as a formal written report or a presentation to the class about the person you interviewed and their experiences. Students can include segments from the actual interview.