

Indiana Farm Security Photographs



Objectives

These curriculum activities have been developed for teachers to use in the classroom or as homework. Each activity has been designed to allow students to utilize a variety of research skills including: reading for understanding, researching historic evidence, interpreting primary and secondary sources and analyzing primary sources. Primary sources include letters, reports, speeches, diaries, cartoons, newspaper and magazine articles, films and photographs. Students will learn that a primary source is a record created by someone who participated in or who witnessed the event. Interpreting primary sources and historical documents helps students gain a more complete understanding of history. It helps them develop their critical thinking skills. It is important for students develop a passion for learning about history and in order to understand history, students need to examine and evaluate history. Each of the activities can be adapted to different teaching styles, classroom and students' needs and the local resources at hand. These activities are intended to enable students to improve their research skills.

These skills include being able:

- Find, organize and evaluate information
- Examine and analyze primary sources
- Examine and analyze data, evidence and factual information
- Identify differing points of view and varying interpretations
- Compare and contrast information and weigh generalizations
- Describe and interpret events
- Establish perspectives and form opinions
- Prepare, present and defend arguments
- Draw conclusions

Another goal is to help understand the economic and social conditions faced by Americans during the Great Depression and New Deal. These activities will help students understand the government efforts to document those economic and social conditions. To do that, students need to be able to:

- Identify the economic conditions people faced during Great Depression
- Describe the living conditions of people during Great Depression
- Empathize with people during the Great Depression
- Explain the behavior and attitudes and of people living during the Depression

In particular, these activities will involve the use of photographs as primary documents. Students should also be able to:

- Realize the importance of photographs as primary sources
- Analyze and interpret photographs
- Collect historical information from photographs
- Integrate photographs with other primary sources
- Historically document current events using photography

Students can use the Study Guide as a text for understanding the history and role of the Farm Security Administration, the FSA photographs taken in Indiana and background for all the activities.