1932

Franklin D. Roosevelt vs Herbert Hoover

A 20-minute lesson on the 1932 U.S. presidential election. Includes lesson plan, student worksheet, answer key, and discussion prompts.

ERA New Deal Coalition	ELECTORAL VOTES 531 total
WINNER Franklin D. Roosevelt (Democratic) · 472 EV	RUNNER-UP Herbert Hoover (Republican) · 59 EV
KEY ISSUE Great Depression; unemployment; New Deal relief, recovery, and reform	TURNOUT 56.9%

CONTENTS

1. Cover
2. Story (with a picture)
3. Three questions
4. Teacher notes

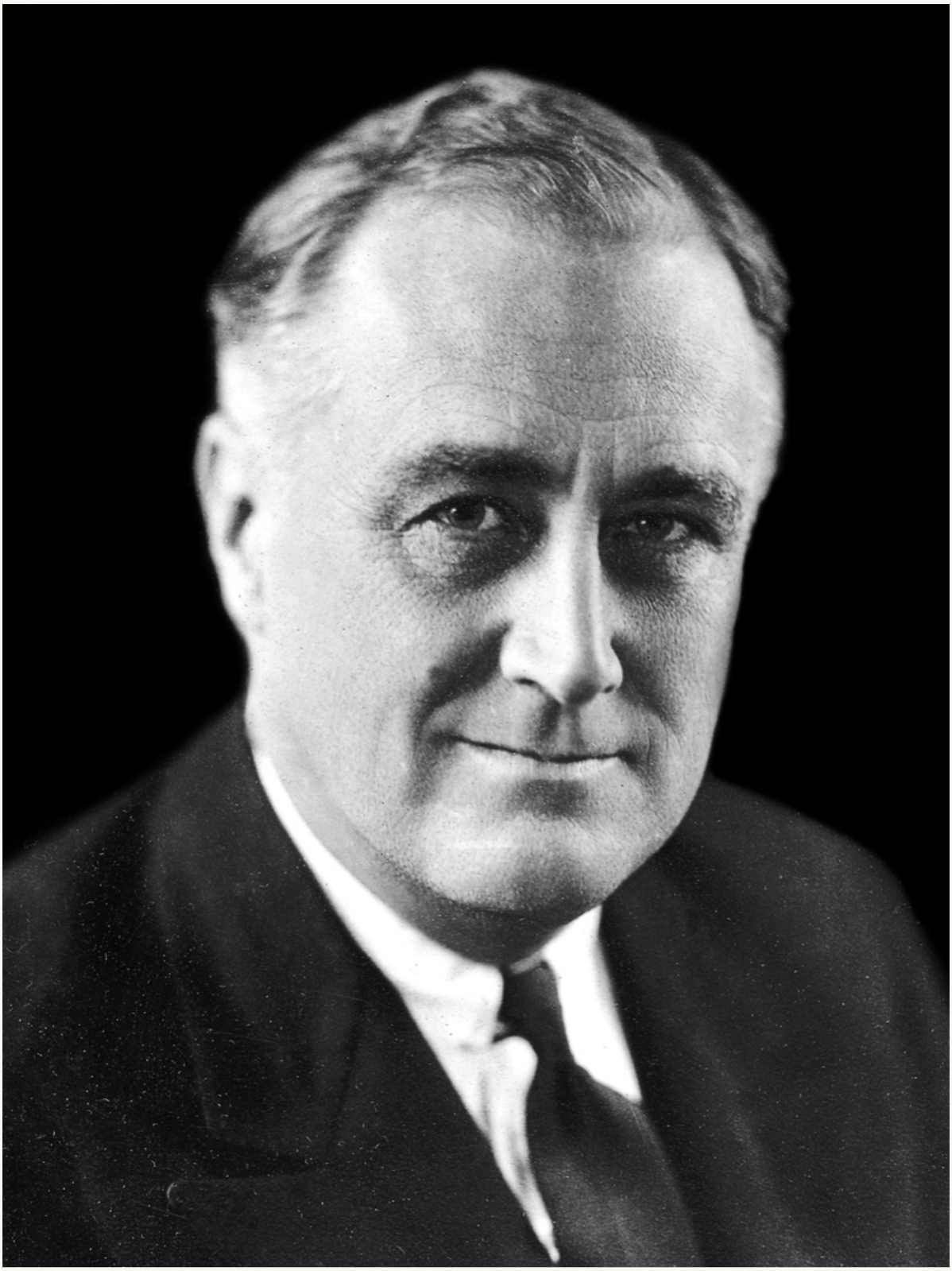
1932

A long time ago, in the year 1929, something terrible happened in the United States. The stock market crashed. That means a lot of businesses lost their money. Then those businesses had to close. Then the workers at those businesses lost their jobs. Soon almost one out of every four grown-ups in the country could not find work.

When people did not have jobs, they could not pay their rent. They could not buy food. Some families had to leave their homes and live in shacks. Children sometimes went to school hungry. People called this hard time the Great Depression.

In 1932 it was time to vote for a new president. The president at the time was Herbert Hoover. Many people thought he had not done enough to help. The man running against him was Franklin Roosevelt. Look at his picture. Franklin Roosevelt promised to try new ideas. He said the government would put people back to work. He said the country needed a New Deal.

Franklin Roosevelt won the election by a huge number of votes. After he became president, he did exactly what he had promised. He started programs that gave people jobs. He started a program called Social Security that helps older people who can no longer work. He used the radio to talk to families at home. He called those talks fireside chats.



Franklin D. Roosevelt, photographed shortly after becoming the 32nd U.S. president in 1933. He started his job in the middle of the Great Depression.

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Let's talk about the story

1.

Who became the new president of the United States after the 1932 election?

2.

What is the Great Depression? Use two sentences.

3.

Name one program Franklin Roosevelt started that helped people in the United States.

Warm-up (5 min)

Look at the man in the picture. His name is Franklin Roosevelt. In 1932, lots of people did not have jobs. Many were hungry. The country needed help. He said he would help.

Answer key

1.

Franklin D. Roosevelt became the new president. He started his job on March 4, 1933.

Roosevelt defeated Herbert Hoover, the incumbent, by a huge margin in November 1932.

2.

The Great Depression was a long time when many people did not have jobs. It started in 1929 when the stock market crashed and lasted about ten years.

The Depression is the central context for the 1932 election. Almost any age-appropriate framing should earn credit.

3.

Accept any: Social Security (money for older people); the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) (jobs planting trees and building parks); the Works Progress Administration (WPA) (jobs building roads, schools, and bridges); banking reform (made banks safer); fireside chats. Award credit for any specific New Deal program.

The New Deal was huge - dozens of programs. A child who can name even one shows comprehension.