FDR’S NEW DEAL: GOALS AND OUTCOMES

OBJECTIVES:

- 2.13.12.8 analyze the principal explanations of the causes of the Great Depression and steps taken by the Federal Reserve, Congress, and the President to combat the economic crisis (US 1.1.8, US 1.2.2, US 1.1.6)
- 2.13.12.10 explain the arguments for and against the New Deal (US 1.1.6)
- 2.13.12.11 evaluate the successes and failures of the relief, recovery, and reform measures of the New Deal and the expanded role of the federal government in society and the economy (US 1.1.6)

by:
- ✓ Reading portions of one of FDR’s fireside chats
- ✓ Interpreting the fireside chat and answering questions
- ✓ Discussing FDR’s options for dealing with the economic crisis of the 1930’s
- ✓ Writing a BCR

(1) DO NOW: Below are excerpts from a fireside chat (radio speech) made by Franklin Delano Roosevelt. The speech supports FDR’s New Deal programs. These excerpts are taken from the beginning of the speech. Read the excerpts and then answer the questions below and on the back. These should be thorough answers!

On the Works Relief Program

Address of the President Delivered by Radio from the White House, April 28, 1935

Since my annual message to the Congress on January fourth, last, I have not addressed the general public over the air. In the many weeks since that time the Congress has devoted itself to the arduous task of formulating legislation necessary to the country's welfare. It has made and is making distinct progress….

The objective of the Nation has greatly changed in three years. Before that time individual self-interest and group selfishness were paramount in public thinking. The general good was at a discount. Three years of hard thinking have changed the picture. More and more people, because of clearer thinking and a better understanding, are considering the whole rather than a mere part relating to one section or to one crop, or to one industry, or to an individual private occupation. That is a tremendous gain for the principles of democracy….

The most difficult place in the world to get a clear open perspective of the country as a whole is Washington. I am reminded sometimes of what President Wilson once said: " So many people come to Washington who know things that are not so, and so few people who know anything about what the people of the United States are thinking about." That is why I occasionally leave this scene of action for a few days to go fishing or back home to Hyde Park, so that I can have a chance to think quietly about the country as a whole. “To get away from the trees”, as they say, "and to look at the whole forest."…. [It is] particularly necessary for the Vice-President and for me to conceive of our duty toward the entire country. I speak, therefore, tonight, to and of the American people as a whole….

What is the title of the speech? ____________________________________________________________

When did the speech occur? _______________________________________________________________

What was happening in the United States during this timeframe? Be specific. ________________

____________________________________

____________________________________
**Who is FDR addressing? Why do you think that? (Think of the language he is using and the mode of communication he is using.)

**Would he speak differently if he was addressing Congress or another audience? Why? Would a president today give this much detail about policy?

According to these excerpts what does FDR identify as his goal or purpose?

(2) FDR’S PLAN: FDR continues his speech, describing how he plans on achieving his goal. Listen to portions of his speech (http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WZ8N2S3c1f0) and then return back to your starred (**) “DO NOW” questions and add more detail.

(3) As a class we will read the excerpts from the latter parts of FDR’s speech found on the handout. Then complete the chart (attached) using a partner. One section has been done for you as an example.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Law or legislation/Ideas</th>
<th>What does this really mean?</th>
<th>What will be the result or impact of this legislation? How will this support the common good?</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>“legislation to provide for the elimination of unnecessary holding companies in the public utility field”</td>
<td>This means to get rid of large companies that are not in tune with the public from owning public utilities. Public utilities include water supply, sewage, electricity, disposal, gas, telephone, etc.</td>
<td>It will result in cheaper electric and gas and it will protect the actual value and earning power of properties. This helps people save money and it helps the economy.</td>
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