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The Herbert Hoover Presidential Museum has a [timeline about the Great Depression](#). It also has an image depicting Wall Street as it appeared at the time of the market "crash." One of the first things President Hoover did, to try to lessen the impact of the crash, was to double "spending for public buildings, dams, highways, and harbors."

The "Great Depression" was a time of unprecedented [despair](#). After the 1929 stock market [crash](#), America (and many other countries) endured long, trying years of economic downturn, lost fortunes, and personal tragedies. People were [uprooted](#) when out-of-work families packed up everything they owned and moved to California. By 1932, the [worst year of the depression](#) (follow the link to see the dramatic downturn in U.S. rates of production), nearly 25% of the American work force was unemployed.

Without means of transportation, people had to [walk miles](#) just to see their families. Living in [squatter's camps](#) (called "[Hoovervilles](#)"), dislocated families tried to stay together.

In other parts of the country, men left their families "at home" while they went to the industrial north to find work. Their "[bachelor cabins](#)" were nothing more than shanty towns. But there was also "[No Work](#)" for people in the north. The bustling docks of New York City were quiet.

Before the days of the FDR along the East River, and the Westside Parkway along the Hudson, an artist (like Russian emigre Raphael Soyer) could walk to the water's edge where he drew [images](#) of human hopelessness. Employment agencies in New York City were inundated with applications from well-dressed, [out-of-work](#) people. The "land of plenty" had become the land of hard times.

See [Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:](#)

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/THE-GREAT-DEPRESSION-Bagger-Vance-and-the-Bhagavad-Gita>

See [Learning Tasks for this story online at:](#)

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/THE-GREAT-DEPRESSION-Bagger-Vance-and-the-Bhagavad-Gita>



Great Depression Bachelor Cabins

Photo by Lewis Hine, working for the federal government in the National Research Project, 1936-37. National Archives and Records Administration ARC Identifier 518625. Image online, courtesy the U.S. National Archives. Public Domain.

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<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Great-Depression-Bachelor-Cabins>



Despair of the Great Depression

Image by Dorothea Lange online, courtesy the U.S. National Archives.
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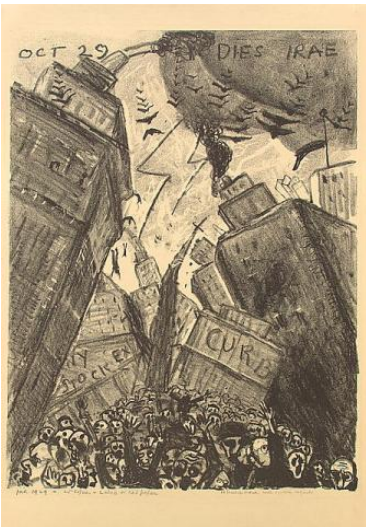
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Family Enroute to California

Image online, courtesy the U.S. National Archives.

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Ghosts of the Great Depression

Illustration online, courtesy Library of Congress.

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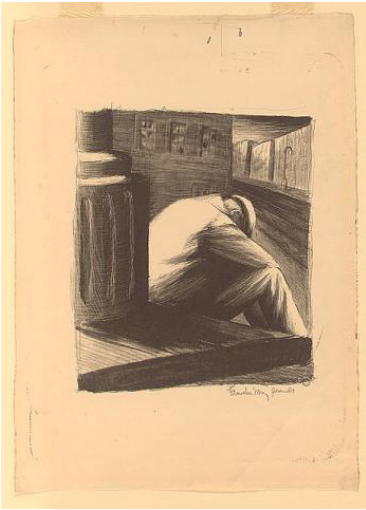
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Hooverville Homesite

Image online, courtesy the U.S. National Archives.

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No Work Anywhere

Illustration online, courtesy Library of Congress.

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Out-of-Work People Searching for Employment

Image online, courtesy the U.S. National Archives.

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Raphael Soyer Images of Depression-Era Life

Drawing by Raphael Soyer, online courtesy Library of Congress.

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Squatters during the Great Depression

Photo by Dorothea Lange, taken during November of 1936. Online via the Library of Congress, reproduction number LC-USF34-009995-C. Public Domain.

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Walking For Miles

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