

**0. Great Depression - Story Preface**

1. THE GREAT DEPRESSION
2. STARVING PEOPLE
3. COLOR PHOTOS of the GREAT DEPRESSION
4. CAUSES OF THE GREAT DEPRESSION



During the Great-Depression era, many Americans - like other people around the world - did not have enough money to build homes. In warmer parts of the U.S., people "dug out" the ground, then used logs to put the finishing touches on shelter for their families. This image, by Russell Lee, depicts a dugout home in Pie Town, New Mexico during October of 1940. Online, courtesy Library of Congress.

*The only thing we have to fear is fear itself.*

Franklin D. Roosevelt  
1933 Inaugural Address

It was a time of utter despair, nearly unimaginable today. The memory of those years still lives in the minds of people who experienced unemployment, insufficient food, homelessness and lost family wealth.

For those born after World War II, it is inconceivable that such a time ever existed in America. In the days before Interstates connected the country, people were forced to travel west in search of a better life.

Destitute mothers had few, if any, options to provide for their children. Out-of-work fathers, throughout the country, had to leave home to find jobs elsewhere. Their "bachelor cabins" were nothing more than shacks.



Photographs from the National Archives paint the picture of harsh times during those not-so-distant days.

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

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/Great-Depression>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/Great-Depression>

## Media Stream



### 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.

View this asset at:

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



### People Living Out of Their Cars - Photo

Image by photographer Dorothea Lange online, courtesy the U.S. National Archives. [ARC Identifier 521732](#).

PD

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/People-Living-Out-of-Their-Cars-Photo>



### Despair of the Great Depression

Image by Dorothea Lange online, courtesy the U.S. National Archives.

PD

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Despair-of-the-Great-Depression>



### 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.

View this asset at:

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



### 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.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Squatters-during-the-Great-Depression>