

Student Worksheet

DIRECTIONS

Read the following news story and answer the reading comprehension and discussion questions. Use additional paper if necessary.

STORY

Higher Unemployment Rates Hamper Economic Recovery,

06/09/09

http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/features/us/jan-june09/jobs_06-09.html

READING COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. What is the current national unemployment rate?

2. What was the function of the Obama administration's stimulus package?

3. Why is the unemployment rate a complicated statistic?

4. What are "underemployed" workers?

5. Name the two car companies that recently filed for bankruptcy.

6. What spurred the Great Depression of the 1930's?

7. What was the highest rate of unemployment during the Great Depression?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (more research might be needed)

1. Does the current unemployment number surprise you? Why or why not?

2. Do you see unemployment in your own community? Where?

3. Are you worried about finding a job yourself? Why or why not? What are your strategies?

4. Have any of your older relatives talked about living in the Great Depression? What do you think it would be like in modern America if unemployment was that high again?

Extension Activity

Have students write a 300-500 word essay on this topic providing clear examples. Send your completed editorial to NewsHour Extra (extra@newshour.org). Exceptional essays might be published on our Web site.