

Student Worksheet

DIRECTIONS

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

STORY

U.S. Economy Officially in a Recession, 12/05/08

http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/features/us/july-dec08/recession_12-05.html

READING COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. When did the recession begin?

2. How did the National Bureau of Economic Research decide the economy is in a recession?

3. How many recessions have there been since the Great Depression?

4. What is the definition of a depression?

5. What percentage of the work force lost their jobs during the Great Depression?

6. Before Franklin Delano Roosevelt, what would happen to your money if your bank failed? What happens now?

7. How did FDR create jobs?

8. What are economists saying is the main thing that has to change before the economy can begin to recover?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (more research might be needed)

1. What effect do you think this recession will have on your community? Are there ways you or your class can lessen the pain caused by the economic problems?

2. Already, many Americans have stopped using credit cards, and are trying to spend less money and save more. Have you changed your habits? How long do you think these changes will last?

3. What lessons do you think should be taken from the Great Depression and applied to this situation?

4. What advice do you have for President-elect Obama?

5. What good could come from this recession?

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.