

Period: _____

Name: _____

New Deal and Social Security Document Based Question Activity

CLASS SET - DO NOT WRITE ON THIS PACKET

Document A - New Georgia Encyclopedia - Roosevelt's New Deal

After Franklin D. Roosevelt at Warm Springs he was stricken with polio, Roosevelt began visiting the therapeutic waters of Warm Springs in the mid-1920s to strengthen his paralyzed legs. He established the Warm Springs Foundation (later the Roosevelt Warm Springs Institute for Rehabilitation), and he became actively involved in the local community. Through Warm Springs, Roosevelt began to study the connections between Georgia's difficult agricultural conditions and its social and educational problems. His New Deal programs, begun immediately upon his inauguration in 1933 and aimed first at economic recovery, would ultimately address the nation's and Georgia's social conditions as well. By the time Roosevelt came to office, Georgia's farmers, in desperate straits from years of depression and low cotton prices, were echoing the demands of the 1890s Populists for government intervention in agricultural affairs. A New Deal relief worker along the Georgia coast reported, "The school teachers, ministers, relief officials, and recipients alike stated that... if emergency aid had not been provided a revolution would have resulted." Within a year 20 percent of Georgia's urban residents were receiving some kind of federal relief, as were more than 15 percent of those living in the Piedmont region and along the coast. During the early years of the depression, before Roosevelt took office, churches, the Salvation Army, and a few local governments offered limited assistance to the poor. State aid was negligible. Between 1933 and 1940, however, the New Deal brought \$250 million to Georgia and established a series of agencies that offered a broad range of public works programs, including the construction of libraries, roads, schools, parks, hospitals, airports, and public housing projects. As a way of raising long-depressed cotton prices, the Agricultural Adjustment Act, established during Roosevelt's first 100 days in office, paid farmers to plant less cotton as a means of restricting the supply and driving up the price. The Bankhead Cotton Control Act of 1934 controlled cotton production even more tightly. In 1929, at the start of the depression, farmers had received twelve cents a pound for cotton. By 1932 cotton had fallen to five cents a pound. By setting quotas to limit the acreage of farmland planted with cotton, the price quickly returned to twelve cents, and by 1936 it had reached fifteen cents a pound. Prices fell again before new programs late in the 1930s helped rescue the growers. Roosevelt's intention was to turn Georgia's struggling, debt-ridden tenant farmers and sharecroppers into self-supporting small farmers. In economic terms, however, the small landowner actually gained less from the federal programs than did planters who owned larger and more mechanized farms. New Deal programs also provided work relief for Georgia's rural poor through the Works Progress Administration (WPA), the Civilian Conservation Corps, and the National Youth Administration (NYA). Greene County, in Georgia's Piedmont region, became an experimental site for the Unified Farm Program, where federal, state, and local officials worked to provide farmers with loans to move to improved farms and homes. Such programs helped only a fraction of the state's poor and landless, but to the state's rural population—its African American and white farmers and sharecroppers—for whom the federal government had been a distant entity, the New Deal became a source of recovery they could see in their own communities. The New Deal

Class Set 1

GeorgiaStandards.Org

GATEWAY TO EDUCATION & PROFESSIONAL RESOURCES

One Stop Shop For Educators

Attachment 1:

The New Deal in Action in Georgia

Directions to the student: You are to define the New Deal programs listed below. Give the initials by which these programs are known. Then using that information, you should complete the activity below.

Define:

1. Agricultural Adjustment Administration:

2. Civilian Conservation Corp:

3. Rural Electrification Administration:

4. Social Security Act:

Name: _____ Date: _____ Period: _____

Roosevelt vs. Talmadge - New Deal Venn Diagram

Complete the Venn diagram comparing and contrasting the ideas of Franklin D. Roosevelt and Eugene Talmadge, and their beliefs regarding the New Deal.

