

LIFE DURING THE DEPRESSION

Chapter 11 Section 2

LIFE DURING THE DEPRESSION

- THE DEPRESSION WORSENS
- Main Idea
 - Hunger and fewer homes became severe problems by the early 1930s; then a terrible drought divested the Great Plains

THE DEPRESSION WORSENS

- Struggling to Get By
 - People with out jobs went hungry
 - New York City's YMCA fed up to 12,000 people daily – soup kitchens
 - Families or individuals that couldn't pay rent lost their homes
 - Some feared of humiliation wouldn't leave and landlords would go to court for eviction notices
 - Court officers known as **bailiffs** then ejected the nonpaying tenants piling their belongs outside on the street

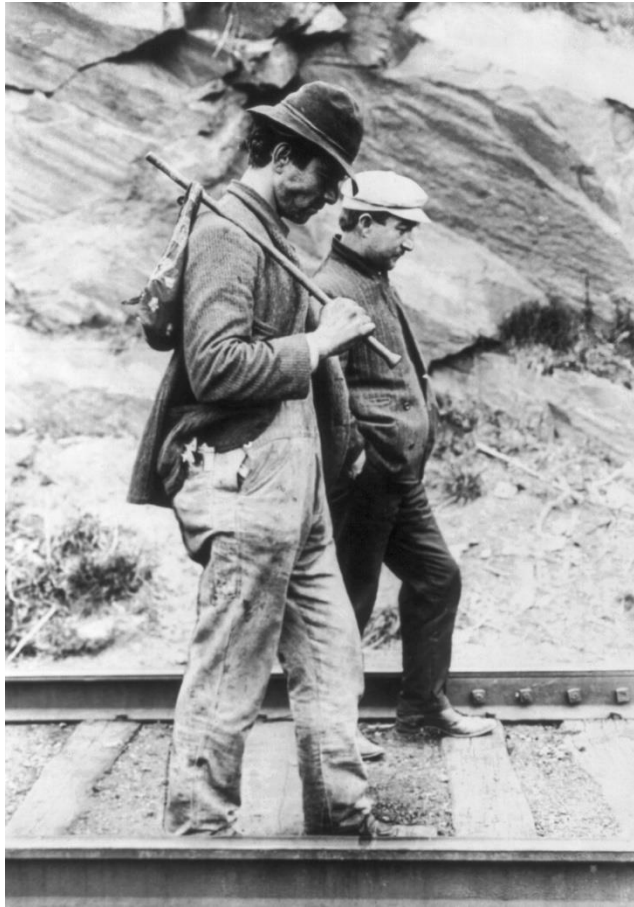
THE DEPRESSION WORSENS

- Newly homeless formed communities called shanty towns
 - Often referred to as Hoovervilles



THE DEPRESSION WORSENS

- In search of a better life
 - The Homeless and unemployed wandered around the country
 - The wanders were called **hobos**
 - They would sneak past railroad police into open box cars on freight trains to “ride the rails”



THE DEPRESSION WORSENS

- The Dust Bowl
 - When crop prices dropped in the 1920s, farmers left their fields uncultivated with uprooted wild grasses
 - Then a terrible drought struck the great plains
 - With neither grass nor wheat to hold scant rainfall, the soil dried to dust
 - From the Dakotas to Texas, Americas wheat fields became a vast “dust bowl”

THE DEPRESSION WORSENS

- The Dust Bowl
 - The wind blackened the sky for hundreds of miles
 - When it settled the dust buried livestock
 - Humans and animals caught outside would die of suffocation
 - Number of yearly dust storms grew from 22 in 1934 to 75 in 1937
 - Carolyn Henderson who farmed in Western Oklahoma wrote a series of articles for the Atlantic monthly about their life during the drought

THE DEPRESSION WORSENS

- The Dust Bowl
 - Many had no chance of holding onto their land
 - Many families headed west hoping for a better life in California
 - Became known as the Okies
 - They remained homeless and impoverished



LIFE DURING THE DEPRESSION

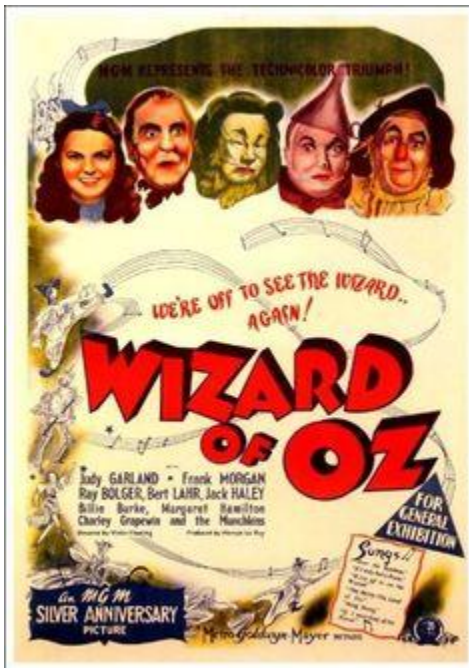
- ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT
- Main Idea
 - Movies and radio shows were very popular during the 1930s, a period that also produced new art and literature

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

- In the 1930s Americans looked for entertainment to suppress the feelings of poverty
- Movies and Radios became very popular
- Comic books also became popular during this time
- The first comic book was created from old newspapers
- Super heroes became popular in the late 1920s like Superman in 1938 and Batman in 1939

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

- Hollywood
 - During the 1930s over 60 million Americans went to the movies each week
 - Walt Disney who brought Mickey Mouse to life in 1928
 - He also produced the first feature length animated film “Snow White and the 7 Dwarfs (1937)”
 - In 1937 MGM produced “The Wizard of Oz”
 - Hattie McDaniel was the first African American to win an Academy Award



ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

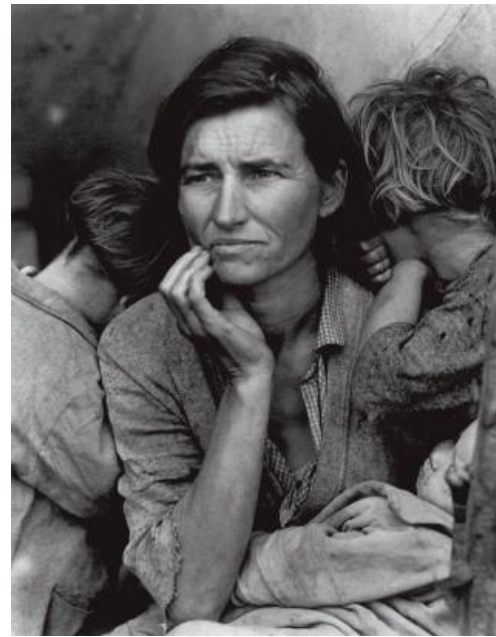
- On the Air
 - Radio offered information and entertainment
 - Popular Radio comedians- Jack Benny, George Burns, and Gardic Allen
 - Superhero Radio Adventures – Green Hornet and the Lone Ranger
 - **Soap Operas** originated on the radio and were named because laundry soap makers usually sponsored them

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

- Literature and Art
 - Literature and art flourished during the 1930s. Writers and artists often used the homeless and unemployed as subjects in stories and pictures
 - John Steinbeck, the write of “The Grapes of Wrath” added flesh and blood to journalists reports of poverty and misfortune
 - His book was awarded the Pulitzer Prize and was made into a movie
 - Steinbeck tells the story of the Joad Family escaping the dust bowl to live in California after losing their farm

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

- Literature and Art (continued)
 - Novelists began to develop new writing techniques
 - William Faulkner, writer of “the Sound and The Fury” , shows what his characters are thinking and feeling before they speak
 - Using this technique he exposes hidden attitudes of southern Whites and African Americans in an fictional Mississippi county
 - In 1936 Time Magazine showed how the Great Depression affected average Americans



ARTHS AND ENTERTAINMENT

- Literature and Art (continued)
 - Thomas Hart Benton and Grant Woods work emphasized traditional American Values mostly those of the rural south and Midwest
 - Woods painting style is best known as American Gothic

