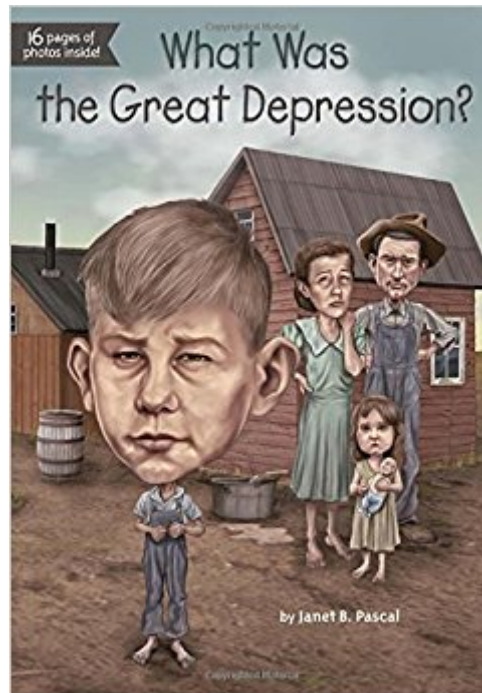




The book was found

What Was The Great Depression?



Synopsis

On October 29, 1929, life in the United States took a turn for the worst. The stock market crashed and the system that controls money in America plunged to a record low. But this event was only the beginning of many bad years to come. By the early 1930s, one out of three people was not working. People lost their jobs, their houses, or both and ended up in shantytowns called "Hoovervilles" named for the president at the time of the crash. By 1933, many banks had gone under. Though the U.S. has seen other times of struggle, the Great Depression remains one of the hardest and most widespread tragedies in American history. Now it is represented clearly and with 80 illustrations in our What Was? series.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 0790 (What's this?)

Series: What Was?

Paperback: 112 pages

Publisher: Penguin Workshop; Dgs edition (December 22, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0448484277

ISBN-13: 978-0448484273

Product Dimensions: 5.3 x 0.3 x 7.7 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 54 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #11,702 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #15 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > United States > 1900s

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

Customer Reviews

Janet Pascal is an Executive Production Editor at Viking Children's Books and the author of *Who Was Dr. Seuss?*, *Who Was Maurice Sendak?* and *Who Was Abraham Lincoln?* She lives in New York City.

What Was the Great Depression? In the fall of 1928, Herbert Hoover, future president of the United States, announced, "We in America today are nearer to the final triumph over poverty than ever before in the history of any land." Most citizens agreed. Life was the best

it had ever been. Only 4 percent of the population was unemployed—four out of every one hundred workers. A little more than a year later, financial panic had taken over. The New York stock market crashed. Millionaires were ruined. Ordinary citizens lost everything. The crisis spread from the stock market to the rest of the country. Banks and businesses closed. People's life savings disappeared. They lost their jobs and their homes. By 1933, one out of every four Americans was out of work. The crisis soon spread all over the world. This period is called the Great Depression. It remains the worst financial disaster the modern world has ever known. All the money, goods, businesses, and workers that make a country run are called its economy. During the Great Depression, the economy broke down almost completely. To those living through it, it seemed like a bad dream that would not end. What had happened? How did the good times end so quickly?

This is a very well written book about a very important time in American History. I bought this for my 9 year old daughter, but decided to read it first myself. I believe that many schools in this country have started to gloss over the history of our country, and do not get into much detail. Schools seem to preoccupied with spending time "teaching for the test" aka preparing students for the assessment tests that determine federal funding eligibility. As a parent I believe that it is crucial that our children understand the history of our country, and books like this are a great tool to help supplement that learning. What Was the Great Depression does a great job encompassing the events that led to the Great Depression all the way through to what pulled the country out of it. It essentially begins right after World War I and culminates with World War II. I am glad that it provided the background that showed our country living it up in the 1920s, and how then how quickly it all came crashing down. Janet Pascal has done a thorough job of explaining the essential details in a way that any 8-14 year old could comprehend. She talks about Prohibition, Wall Street, the Stock Market, President Hoover and Hoovervilles, Unemployment, the Dust Bowl, and FDR to name a few. What I really like is that along with the chapters there are 1-2 page side notes that go into more detail to help explain things like Wall Street, which you can see in the picture with my review. At the end of the book there are crisp and detailed photographs of the era, such as the infamous Dorothea Lange one I have also attached to my review. Overall this is a very thorough explanation of the Great Depression that is somehow kept to around 100 pages of very easy to read print. The "What Was" book series are a great learning tool, and this one is a must read for any child of today's generation. Our children live in a world where everything is readily available at a moment's notice, where they all get a trophy just for competing in something, where a hardship to them is something along the lines of their iPod

running out of battery. So to me I feel it is very important to teach our children what a real hardship is, and hopefully in some small way help them to appreciate what they have a little bit more by allowing them to see how quickly good times can turn bad even in our country. I HIGHLY recommend this book for every child anywhere between ages 8-16. For around \$5 this is well worth the opportunity for the children of our country to learn about a very difficult time in American History. If my review was helpful to you in any way please click YES below!

Love this book since I was born right after. My parents told me a lot about how you couldn't get sugar and things like that. They went through a hard time.

I loved the book as much as my 8 year old did. Great series.

I am a grown man but I thoroughly enjoyed reading this book about the Great Depression. The 1930's were definitely a turbulent time for most Americans, but President Franklin D. Roosevelt did what was in his power to improve America economically and socially.

Great books for kids who want to learn about historical people/events.

I absolutely love this series of books. A must have for any homeschool library.

This is an excellent book, appropriate for both youth and adults. Told in an engaging way. Very informative.

Bought for the grandkiddos, they love them, thanks!!!!

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