

Name/Date:

**Social Studies 11 Unit 4 Crisis and Survival:  
The Great Depression and World War II**

# 4B Desperate Conditions during the Great Depression

**Reference:** Counterpoints Ch. 4, p. 94-100

[http://www.mccord-museum.qc.ca/images/webtours/GE\\_P4\\_1\\_illustration.jpg](http://www.mccord-museum.qc.ca/images/webtours/GE_P4_1_illustration.jpg)



**Slideshow/teacher talk notes:**

<b>DESPERATE YEARS</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Some wealthy and middle-class didn't experience hardship during the Depression</li><li>• The working class suffered the most</li><li>• Evictions, job loss, loss self respect</li><li>• Thousands lived on "pogey"- relief from government - difficult to receive</li><li>• Pogey difficult to receive - long line ups, proof of financial failure</li><li>• Offered vouchers for food purchases if granted "pogey"</li><li>• Private charities offered support through soup kitchens</li><li>• For some the economic hardships were humiliating and unbearable</li><li>• Winter 1933 25% of workforce was unemployed</li><li>•</li></ul>	Your thoughts
<b>DROUGHT ON THE PRAIRIES</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Conditions in the prairies were severe, worse than in other parts of the country</li><li>• Collapse of wheat market left many people destitute</li><li>• Drought hit prairies 1929 lasted 8 years</li><li>• Winds ripped across the prairies and stripped the land of topsoil in parts of southern Alta. &amp; Sask.</li><li>• Dust storms were common in the prairies</li><li>• Grasshoppers followed and contributed to the destruction of the remaining crops</li><li>•</li></ul>	Your thoughts
<b>THE DISADVANTAGED</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Minorities</li><li>• Women were accused of contributing to the Depression by taking work away from the men</li><li>• First Nations were offered minimal relief and were expected to live off the land</li><li>• Chinese population ( Vancouver) suffered from starvation and only after deaths did the Prov. Govt. show concern</li><li>• Immigrants were viewed with hostility - Competition for jobs</li><li>•</li></ul>	Your thoughts
<b>WHO TO BLAME?</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Prime Minister Mackenzie King unprepared to solve economic problem</li><li>• Thought Depression temporary and passed on responsibility to municipal &amp; provincial governments</li><li>• Many Municipalities were bankrupted</li><li>• Mackenzie lost election to R.B. Bennett ( Conservative) in 1930</li><li>• Bennett gave \$20 million to Provinces for work creation programs</li><li>•</li></ul>	Your thoughts



4. The depression must have been hard on single women also. Have you found anything to support this?

5. List the kinds of things our government provides for people today which we did not provide in the 1930's. We are talking about people who are in need.

the need	the safety net (government program or service)

**Questions from Counterpoints Ch. 4 THE DESPERATE YEARS (page 94):**

**Drought on the Prairies:**

1. What two factors made conditions in the prairie provinces particularly severe?

**Unemployment**

2. Explain the "twist" in men's minds described by Barry Broadfoot.

3. List three of the "humiliations" people were put through to collect relief.

4. What was the unemployment rate in 1933?

**The Disadvantaged:**

**Make some notes to describe how the Great Depression affected the following groups**

Group / p. ref	Impact of Depression
Jobless p. 95-96	
New immigrants p. 96	
Chinese p. 97	
Jews p. 97	
Aboriginal People p. 97	
Women p. 98-100	
People with secure jobs p. 100	