

**US in Depression 1929-33:**  
**Chapter 5: "Brother Can You Spare a Dime?"**



**Learning Gain:**

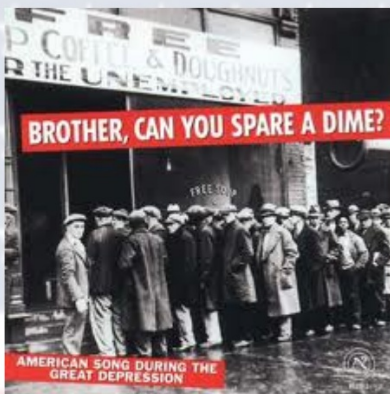
Will be able to explain the key effects of the Depression on the American People. To take an active part in a learner led facts treasure hunt on the effects of the Depression.



**Learning Steps:**

- Explore the context of the Depression through the biggest musical hit of the time.
- Treasure Hunt facts about the impact of the Depression on key social groups.





"Brother, Can You Spare a Dime," lyrics by Yip Harburg, music by Jay Gorney (1931)

They used to tell me I was building a dream, and so I followed the mob,  
When there was earth to plow, or guns to bear, I was always there right on the job.

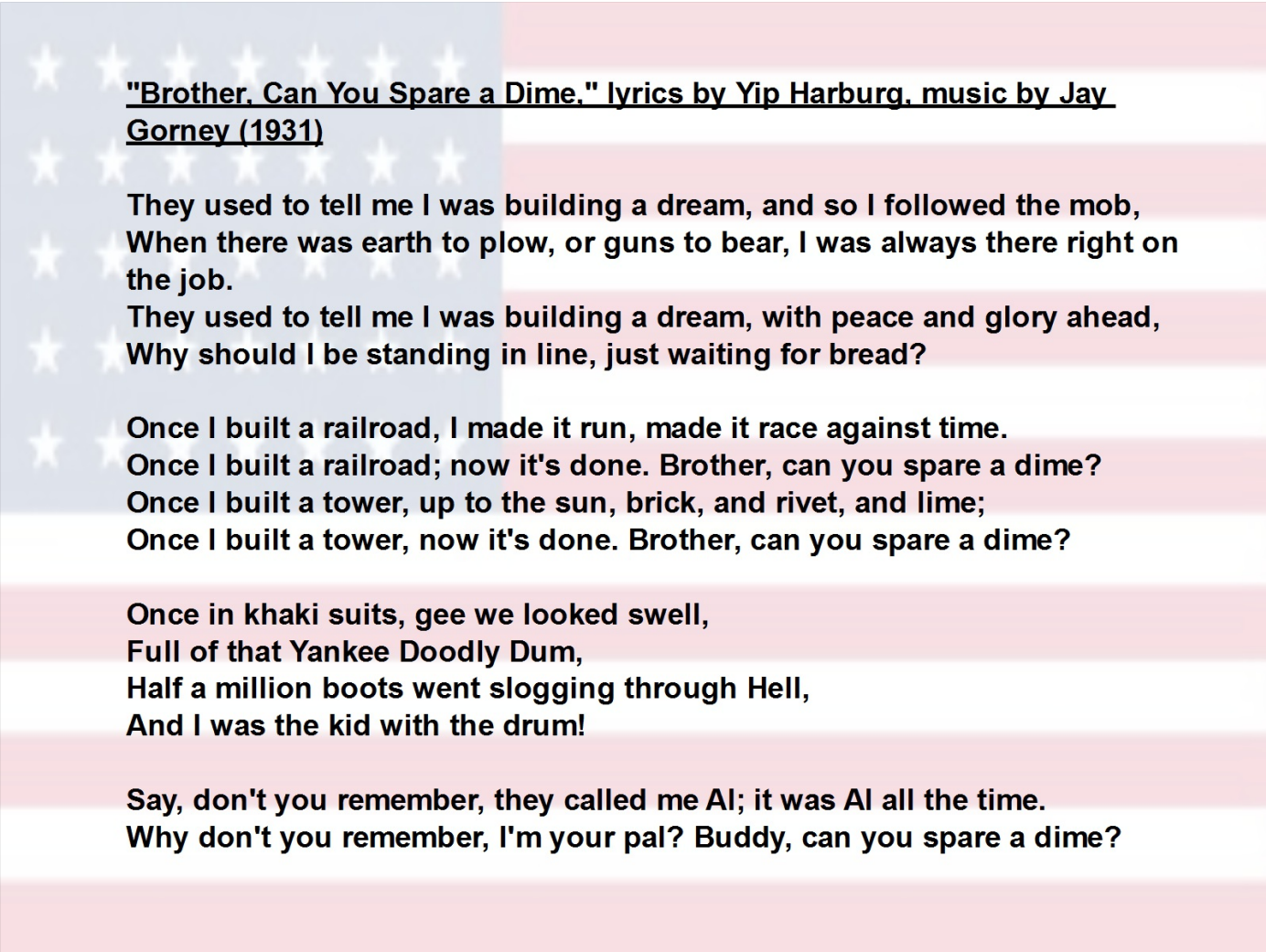
They used to tell me I was building a dream, with peace and glory ahead,  
Why should I be standing in line, just waiting for bread?

Once I built a railroad, I made it run, made it race against time.  
Once I built a railroad; now it's done. Brother, can you spare a dime?

Once I built a tower, up to the sun, brick, and rivet, and lime;  
Once I built a tower, now it's done. Brother, can you spare a dime?

Once in khaki suits, gee we looked swell,  
Full of that Yankee Doodly Dum,  
Half a million boots went slogging through Hell,  
And I was the kid with the drum!

Say, don't you remember, they called me Al; it was Al all the time.  
Why don't you remember, I'm your pal? Buddy, can you spare a dime?

The background of the page is a stylized American flag with a blue field of white stars on the left and horizontal red and white stripes on the right.

**"Brother, Can You Spare a Dime." lyrics by Yip Harburg, music by Jay Gorney (1931)**

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When there was earth to plow, or guns to bear, I was always there right on  
the job.**

**They used to tell me I was building a dream, with peace and glory ahead,  
Why should I be standing in line, just waiting for bread?**

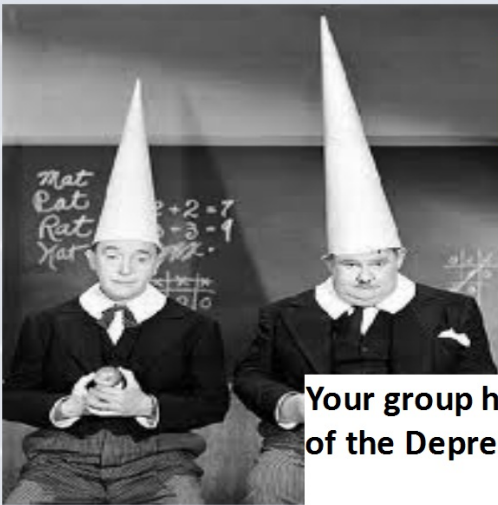
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**Say, don't you remember, they called me Al; it was Al all the time.  
Why don't you remember, I'm your pal? Buddy, can you spare a dime?**



This challenge is not for Dumbo's



Your group has 30 minutes to research the key effects of the Depression on selected individuals.

**Success criteria:**

- Around the public areas of the school are biographical information on people who suffered in the Crash.
- You need to get into groups of no more than 4.
- Only two of your group can be out at any one time.
- You can only bring information back about one individual at a time.
- You should swap group members each hunt.
- Use the information to complete the sheet.
- You may use modern technology to aid you.





You now have three minutes to sort yourselves out and get ready.



3 minutes - oh my!

Plenary



**Do you feel you have a good sense of the consequences of the Crash on the USA as a whole and on groups and individuals within the USA?**

**PROVE IT!**