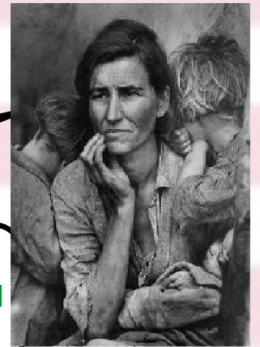




Can a blind person be racist...?



## US in Depression 1929-33: Chapter 6: "Hoover Sucks?"



### Learning Gain

By the end of this lesson you will be able to summarise the policies followed by Hoover to address the Depression and begin to assess these policies.

### Learning Steps



- We will explore why Hoover was ill equipped politically and psychologically to deal with the Crash.
- We will investigate what action he attempted.
- We will analyse whether his actions helped.
- We will summarise the period 1929 - 32.



My government believes in "rugged individualism" - the spirit of the American People will see us through this terrible crisis.

My economic policy is based upon: "Laissez Faire" - it is not the role of the government to get involved to solve this crisis.



1928: We have come closer to abolishing poverty than any other nation on Earth. I can not see why the prosperity of the last 8 years can not continue

This depression will be shortlived and America will return to the boom years of the 1920s.

So Hoover who was elected in 1928 on an understanding that the good times would continue to roll was politically and psychologically ill-equipped to deal with the shock of 1929 and the Depression.



So what did I do?

### Hoover's Reaction to the Depression:

Taxes: Hoover cut taxes in 1930.

Why?

**Main**



To try and boost peoples' spending power.

**Capital Investment:** The Republican Government provided \$4000 million for major building works - to create jobs and improve infrastructure. The Hoover Dam began in 1931 for example.



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

### Unemployment:

In 1932 Hoover's government gave \$300 million to the States to help them cope with unemployment in their areas in his **Emergency Relief Act**

### Failing Businesses:

Also in 1932 he created the Reconstruction Finance Corporation. The RFC provided loans to businesses to help them recover from the Depression.

However Hoover was handicapped by his beliefs and these actions were simply underestimating the scale of the crisis and could be likened to using a fire extinguisher on a forest fire.

Millions of Americans blamed Hoover for the Depression



The Bonus Army was just one group who argued:

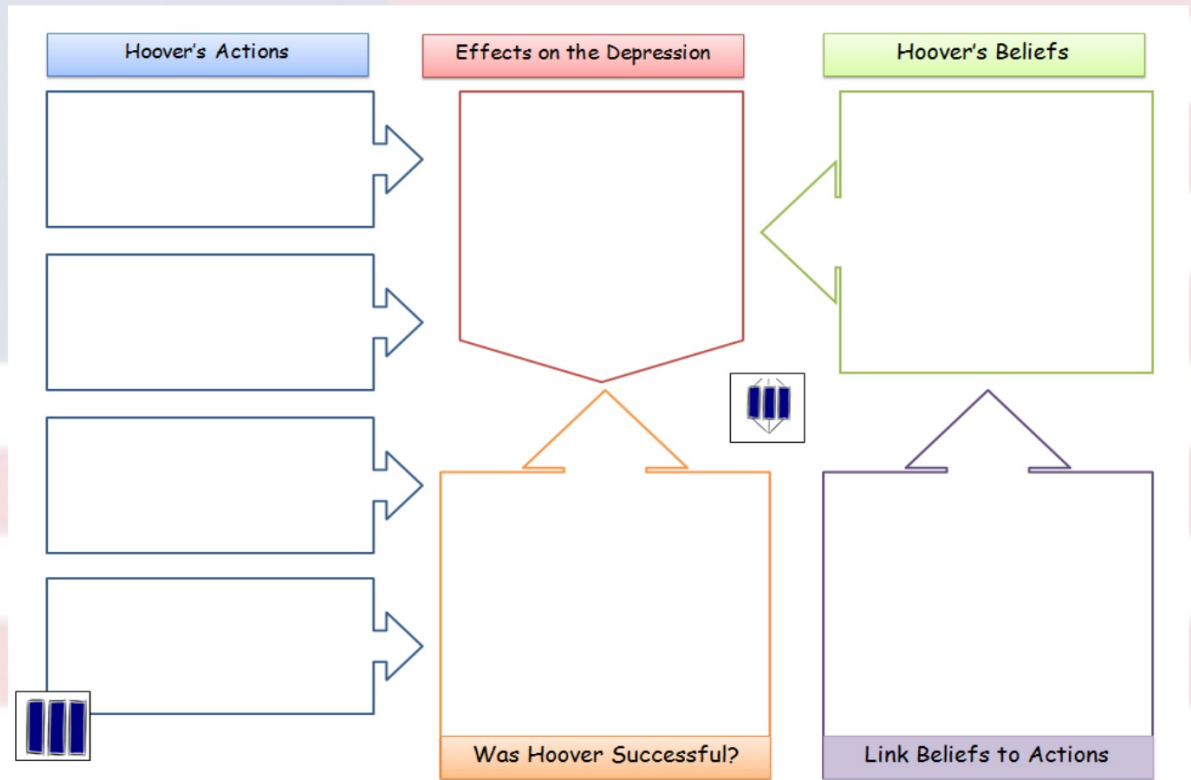
"In Hoover we trusted and now we are busted!"

In 1932 they were looking for a more positive approach to solving the terrible hardships of the Depression -





Plenary



Plenary



Write an argument in favour of Hoover - that he did try and solve the depression.



Write an argument against Hoover - that he did not try and solve the depression.



Write an argument that Hoover couldn't solve the Depression because of his beliefs.

