

National Parks and Monuments

One way the government protected natural land was through national parks and monuments. In 1908 Natural Bridges National Monument was the first national monument in Utah. Articles about the site appeared in *National Geographic* magazine, which made people eager to see the natural wonders and Indian ruins there.

Rainbow Bridge National Monument was named in 1910. At their Indian trading post in Monument Valley, a couple heard of a “rainbow-turned-to-stone.” They told the news to University of Utah professor Byron Cummings, and that summer he took some students and two Paiute guides, Noscha Begay and his father, to find the natural rock bridge.

Cummings wrote:

We were all overwhelmed at the sight of this mighty towering arch. The wealth of color reflected from the cliffs and the deep shadows of the gorges make you feel you are in some giant paradise of long ago, and that any minute huge forms of man and beast might come stalking out of the shadows and ask why such puny creatures as we disturb their solitude.

Have you hiked in Utah’s first national park? Established in 1918, the majestic towering sandstone cliffs and emerald green river valleys of Zion National Park make it a favorite place to visit.



Rainbow Bridge is the world’s longest natural bridge.

You can find all of Utah’s national and state parks and monuments on a map in Chapter 1 of this book.

Linking the Past to the Present

Today, there is a lot of **controversy** about the use of public lands. Study news sources about grazing lands, cattle and sheep industries, water issues, mining rights, and other matters related to government-owned land. How do you think public lands should be saved or used?



A newspaper can be like a time machine, giving readers a peak into the past. What can you discover about the past from reading the front page of this newspaper?



Utah inventor John Browning from Ogden developed the first automatic machine gun purchased by the United States government. The early models were used during World War I. Browning Arms Company is now in Mountain Green in Weber County. Browning guns are still used in the military and for hunting.

World War I

Utah's attention from local issues was overshadowed by news of a war in Europe that had been going on for several years. Then families learned that German submarines, called U-boats, had fired torpedoes into four unarmed American merchant ships in the Atlantic Ocean. Germany was now clearly seen as an enemy of the United States. U.S. President Wilson addressed Congress and asked for a declaration of war in 1917.

Utah Helps in the War Effort

Utah men joined the nation and volunteered to help fight what came to be called the "Great War." The mines at Utah Copper Company (now Kennecott) produced copper and other minerals used to supply guns and ammunition.

U.S. wheat was needed not only to feed the troops in Europe but also to relieve the famine of the starving people there. By 1918 more than 200,000 bushels of wheat had been stored by Utah women. The federal government requested "all the LDS Relief Society wheat for use in the present war." The wheat was donated and shipped overseas.

Finally, on November 11, 1918, Utah greeted the news of the war's end with great celebration. At 11 o'clock in the morning—the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month—the guns in Europe fell silent. The terrible war ended. Over 10 million people in the world had died.

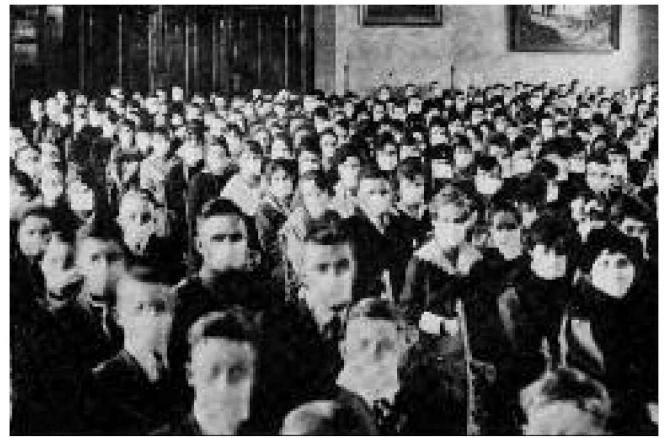
“ The great World War ends. . . . The bells ring and every whistle in factory and engine in Provo are turned on full force, the firing of guns and every noise-making appliance was brought into play. I never heard such a noise in all my life. ”

—Will Jones, November 11, 1918

Outbreak of Influenza

More soldiers in Europe died as a result of the dreaded influenza virus than in battle. Then many soldiers who survived the terrible ordeals of combat in the trenches and the **influenza** epidemic in Europe returned to find the same enemy spreading death at home. There was no medicine to help cure the disease.

In 1918, a Utah state health officer banned all public gatherings, including church services. Schools closed their doors for two to three months. As the numbers of sick people grew, streetcars limited the number of riders, business hours were shortened, and no special sales that would gather crowds were to be held. Funeral services were limited to fifteen minutes. The disease eventually ran its course, and life returned to normal.



To help prevent the spread of Influenza, students at Brigham Young University were required to wear face masks.

The Posey War

While the fighting in Europe was going on, there was a much smaller battle going on at home. Land use was still an important issue between Utah's Indians and ranchers. Cattle companies, settlers, and Navajo herders were competing with the Utes and Paiutes for land. There were small battles in 1915 and 1921, and several Paiutes were killed.

Then friction between the groups reached a new crisis point two years later when sixty-year-old Posey and two Indian boys were accused of robbing a sheep camp, killing a calf, and burning a bridge. The three were arrested, but escaped during their trial in Blanding.

To "end the Indian problem," a sheriff's posse rounded up about forty Indian men, women, and children in the small Indian community of Westwater near Blanding. The Indians were guarded first in the basement of the school. Then they were moved to a small barbed-wire stockade in the center of town. To avoid arrest, other Indians fled towards Navajo Mountain, where they were later found and taken to the stockade back in town.

In the meantime, Posey and others fought back. The Indians killed a horse,

their shots barely missing three passengers in a Model T automobile. The event made it into newspapers all over the country.

Unknown to the settlers, Posey had been wounded in the battle and later died. When a U.S. marshal finally learned of Posey's death, he set the rest of the Indians free and gave them land on Blue Mountain so they would have more hunting grounds. Sadly, however, Indian children were sent away to school at the Ute Mountain Reservation in Colorado. The last Indian battle was a very sad time for Indian families.



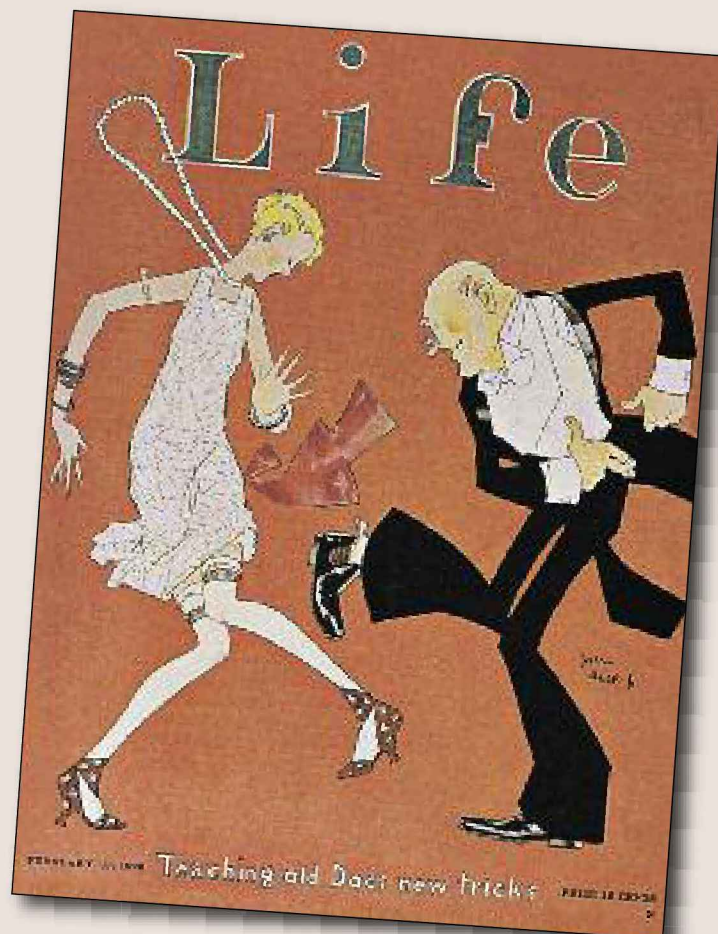
In his later years, Posey typically wore a dark vest with an army belt buckle as a badge. The badge was perhaps seen by him as an emblem of his military leadership. Posey often referred to himself as General Posey.



The Roaring Twenties

During World War I, life was hard on everyone at home and overseas. After the war, daily life got better. There were jobs and money to buy all the new inventions. The 1920s came with high hopes. The twenties are remembered for women's short skirts and short hair, fancy clothes, and a dance called the Charleston. There were dance contests and stories called "soap operas" on the radio and in the newspapers.

In the United States, African Americans developed a new musical form that became popular. Jazz came to Utah in a flurry. Along with the craze for jazz music, local theaters installed sound systems and showed the first "talkie" movies.



What do you think?

How do you think movies might have changed Utahns' perceptions of the nation and world? How do movies and radio impact our society today?



Radio in the Twenties

Utah's first radio station, KZN (now KSL), began when several employees of the *Deseret News* put together a small radio studio on the roof of the newspaper building in Salt Lake City. In the first broadcast, LDS President Heber J. Grant spoke the opening words. Then the mayor of Salt Lake City spoke over the radio:

It is fitting to have this word of greeting come in the springtime, as the beginning of new things. Here in Salt Lake City, we are now enjoying beautiful spring weather. . . . We have passed through a rather severe winter, but . . . we all feel that we have withstood the storm, and now that things are brighter, it is a pleasure to congratulate each other over this wonderful invention. I send . . . greetings to you all, and will now bid you good night.

—Mayor C. Clarence Neslen

The closing remarks reflected inventions of the century:

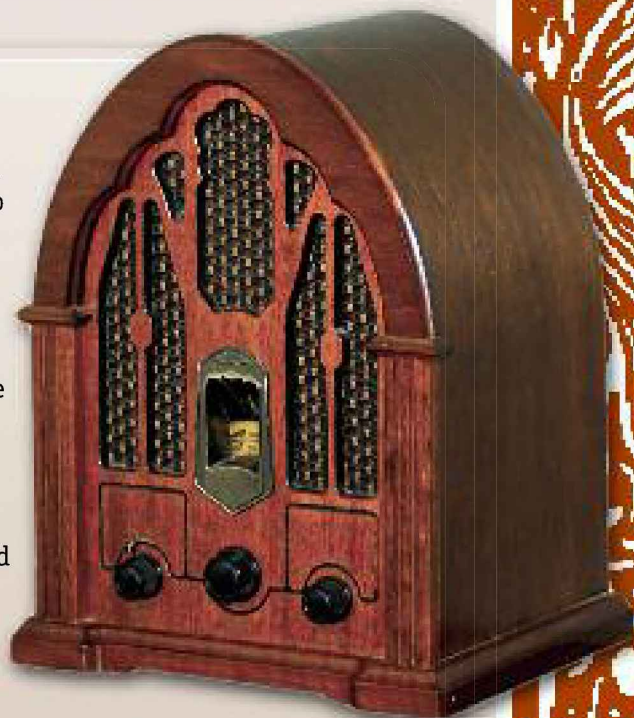
I have had many unique experiences in my life. I had the privilege of riding the first bicycle that came into Salt Lake City. . . . I talked on the first telephone that came here. . . . I have also had the pleasure of riding in an airplane from Brussels to London, at the rate of 100 miles an hour. . . . And now, we have the opportunity of talking over a wireless telephone and having it broadcast to many stations . . . from 500 to 1,000 miles away. . . . I am grateful indeed that my lot has been cast among a people who look forward to every good thing for the benefit and uplift of mankind.

—George Albert Smith

At first, the station came on the air each night from 8:00 to 8:30. Later, program time went to an hour and a half. Early programs combined live music from the studio orchestra with music played on records.

Over the next twenty years other towns started their own radio stations, including KLO in Ogden, KUEB in Price, KSUB in Cedar City, KVNE in Logan, and KOVO in Provo. Radio grew in popularity, and before long almost every home had one.

An important national event was celebrated in 1920 when the Nineteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution gave women the right to vote. Had Utah women voted before this time?



The Great Depression

The 1920s were a time of prosperity and change. Then everything changed quickly when a wave of panic spread over Wall Street—the nation’s financial center—in New York City. On October 29, 1929, later called “Black Tuesday,” the largest selling day in the history of the New York Stock Exchange began. Since so many people were selling their stock, and few were buying, prices dropped quickly.

Some people lost everything they had overnight. Millionaires went *bankrupt*. The country was falling into the worst *depression* in its history. By 1930, the country was in a state of gloom and fear. People lost their jobs, savings, and homes. The Great Depression spread across the United States.

Utah was among the hardest-hit states. Utah had a very high *unemployment rate*. In Duchesne and Uintah Counties, unemployment was 75 percent. Only a fourth of the people who wanted jobs were working. Three-fourths could not find jobs. All over the state, many people worked only part-time for low pay.

Families suffered. Families without places to live moved in with other families. Fathers and even children as young as thirteen sometimes left home to hunt for work.

Mining and Farming Prices Plunge

Profit from Utah’s industries fell sharply. The value of Utah mine products dropped 80 percent. By 1932, farm income plunged from \$69 million to \$30 million. With prices and production so low, the farming community of Smithfield, north of Logan, lived almost completely on welfare payments or charity.

A man in Hooper said he could not afford gas for his old Model T Ford, so he could not take his eggs to market. His chickens had almost no market value. The cows he bought for \$50 would sell for only \$20. It was a great time to buy if you had money, but few people did.

Groups Work Together to Give Aid

County and city governments opened storehouses stocked with food, clothing, and bedding. Boy Scouts often collected flour, sugar, potatoes, and cereal for the storehouses. Local governments paid men two dollars a day to shovel snow and cut wood.

The Red Cross collected and passed out food. Coal companies donated fuel to heat homes. The Catholic Women’s League, the Jewish Relief, the LDS Relief Society, and the Protestant Ladies Aid Society helped people help each other.

Despite the best efforts of local governments and relief groups, resources had been strained to the breaking point. The U.S. Congress started providing loans to states, counties, and cities.

“Use it up, wear it out, make it do, or do without.”

—a saying from the Great Depression

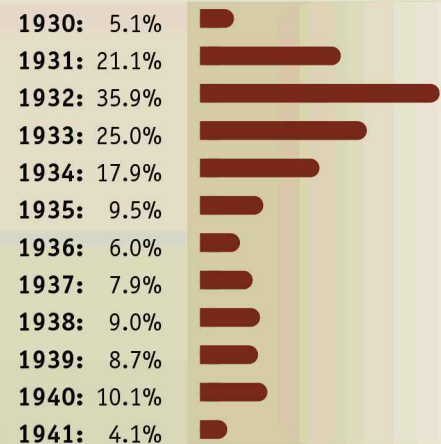
“No one thinks of those depression days as happy times, but they were not all bad. We all learned things about work and pulling together and making the most of what we had—things that have stood us in good stead these past fifty years.”


—Helen E. Bunnell

Unemployment in Utah, 1930-1941

Thousands of Utahns had no work and no way to earn a living during the Great Depression. According to this graph, in what year was unemployment the highest? What year was it the lowest?

Percentage of
Workers
Unemployed





Families living in Utah's mountain mining camps were hard hit by the depression. What signs of poverty are obvious in this photograph?



Ogden High School was built by WPA workers in 1937. The classic art-deco marble hallway, library, and auditorium are still used by students. New Deal workers also built high schools in Hurricane, Nephi, Richfield, Cedar City, and Copperton. School gymnasiums were built in Brigham City and Murray.

The New Deal

By 1932, Americans had suffered through three years of depression. Many voted for a new leader. Franklin D. Roosevelt took office and called a special session of Congress. He presented a plan called the New Deal. The president thought the unemployed workers, farmers, and small business owners had been dealt with poorly. He offered them "a new deal" of the cards. The New Deal created many agencies that provided jobs.

The CCC

The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) employed young men and sent them to camps away from home. For one dollar a day the boys built roads and trails in the forests. They carried heavy rock to build retaining walls and dug holes to plant trees to stop erosion. They built dams, bridges, and campgrounds in Utah.



CCC workers in Hobbie Creek Canyon east of Springville worked to build a log dam for soil conservation.

Men working for U.S. Forest Service conservation projects lived at the Duck Creek Camp in Iron County.

The WPA

The Works Progress Administration (WPA) paid men to build highways, roads, and streets. They built new buildings, including schools. They made parks, athletic fields, and swimming pools. They built sewers and water lines, and improved the Salt Lake Airport runways.

The WPA also set up programs for artists, musicians, and writers. For \$80 a month artists painted murals in the Utah State Capitol dome and murals in other buildings. The Utah Symphony began as a WPA project and gave concerts all over the state. Writers preserved Utah's history by typing copies of pioneer diaries and interviewing older residents.

Men from Ferron, Orderville, Mt. Pleasant, and Orangeville worked at a CCC construction site.

Juanita Brooks

1898–1989



Juanita Brooks was a Utah historian, author, and educator. After her husband died, leaving her a widow with a small son, Brooks earned degrees from Brigham Young University in Provo and from Columbia University in New York City. She taught English at Dixie College, but resigned to marry a widower with four sons.

While helping raise her own son, four stepsons, and the couple's four more children, Brooks worked on a typewriter at night on her kitchen table. She wrote about the history of southern Utah and about growing up in Nevada. She was very successful in locating pioneer diaries, which she collected for the WPA program and later for a large library in California.

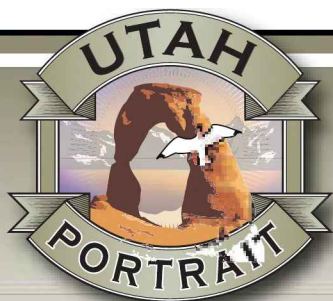




“ Even the grasshoppers were starving during the drought. ”

—Leonard J. Arrington,
Utah historian

The peach harvest provided a welcome source of food for these farm families in Springdale.



Henry H. Blood

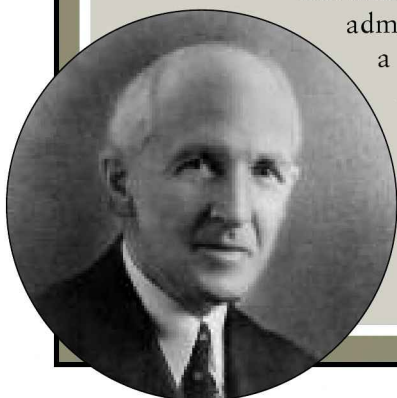
1872–1942

Henry Hooper Blood was a prominent businessman and the seventh governor of Utah. When he took office in 1933, more than a third of Utah's workforce was unemployed, and the percentage of Utahns on relief was among the highest in the nation.

Governor Blood supported President Roosevelt's relief programs and obtained many federal programs for Utah.

The building of dams was important to his administration. He urged the passing of a 2 percent sales tax to help in the relief efforts, approved the creation of the Department of Welfare, and promoted tourism.

Blood's family was the first to live in the Governor's Mansion in Salt Lake City.



Help for Farmers

Other New Deal programs helped Utah farmers. The **Farm Security Administration (FSA)** funded camps for migrant farm laborers and gave long-term loans at low interest rates to small farmers. Farmers and ranchers became more interested in learning the science of agriculture.

A Long Drought

Utah farmers experienced a very hard time when very little rain fell for the fourth year in a row. In 1934 Utah Lake had only one-third its usual amount of water, and Bear Lake was down fourteen feet. Sheep and cattle suffered when grass dried up along with the water holes. Utah's farmers were in desperate need of irrigation water to keep crops alive.

Utah's Governor Blood asked for financial help from the federal government. Utah's administrator of the **Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA)** sent an urgent telegram to the national FERA, asking for help. The request was made to President Roosevelt the very next morning, and within two days the federal government announced a grant of thousands of dollars to help Utah. The funds were used to dig 276 wells, develop 118 springs, line 183 miles of irrigation ditches, and lay 98 miles of pipeline to carry water.

As the drought continued, Governor Blood went to Washington and asked President Roosevelt and the **Public Works Administration (PWA)** to make the Deer Creek Dam and reservoir in Heber City a top priority. A dam was built, and water from the Provo and other rivers was stored in the new reservoir and used to irrigate farms and provide water for animals.

Dams were also built in Sanpete County and at Moon Lake in the Uinta Mountains. Pineview Dam, east of Ogden, was built with money from the federal government, and a water project in Hyrum was approved. Rain finally fell in early November, too late to rescue the summer crops.

Marriner S. Eccles • 1890–1977

During the 1930s, Marriner Eccles directed the Utah Construction Company, one of six companies chosen to construct the huge Hoover Dam in Nevada. During the depression, building the dam provided jobs for thousands of men from many states.

Eccles was also in the banking business and helped the First Security Corporation in Ogden withstand several serious runs on its banks. He told the tellers at a bank to count money very slowly as people lined up to withdraw their funds, giving the illusion that the bank still had plenty of money. He also arranged for federal money to be delivered. Men lugged in large bags of the money through the front door, showing customers the money was not running out. Eccles hoped many customers would feel their money was safe and not want to withdraw all their savings.

When the acts of the banker in Utah were brought to the attention of President Roosevelt, Eccles was called to help create the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC). It would guarantee people would not lose their savings if a bank failed. A year later Eccles headed the Federal Reserve System. The Federal Reserve Building in Washington, D.C., is named for Marriner Eccles.



Ethnic Groups During the Depression

By 1930, more than 4,000 Mexican immigrants were living in Utah. Life was always hard, but as the depression got more serious, they were among the first to lose their jobs and most were sent back to Mexico by the U.S. government. This happened in other places in the United States, not just in Utah.

The following quotes are from *Missing Stories: an Oral History of Ethnic and Minority Groups in Utah*, by Leslie Kelen and Eileen Hallet Stone:

Every once in a while I'll see people going up and down the railroad tracks with sacks, picking up aluminum cans, and it reminds me of [the depression] days and what we kids were doing. I remember a group of us, all about eight or nine years old, started going junking. We'd take our gunny sacks and pick up bottles, scraps of metal, copper wire, aluminum, anything we could see. . . . those were rough times.

—Dan Maldonado

Italian immigrants, like most other people, had trouble getting jobs. But, as this quote shows, often the young people still mixed in sports, just like they had before the depression:

We'd go down to the [local church]. It was the only place that had a gymnasium. The caretaker lived next door, and we'd ask him if we could play ball. He'd say, "Sure, as long as you don't wreck the joint." So, we used to play basketball all the time. Everybody played. Gee, we had blacks, Greeks, Italians, Mormons. We all grew up together. As children it didn't make a difference.

—Eugene Robert Barber

The Depression Ends

The scope of the New Deal was immense. Its programs brought relief to millions. Yet, these programs did not end the Great Depression. It was the country's entry into World War II that provided jobs for both men and women and got the economy going again. You will read about World War II in the next chapter.



Memory Master

- Describe reasons immigrant groups came to Utah during the early 1900s.
- Describe some of the changes in transportation during this time.
- Who were the Wobblies?
- Why did workers form labor unions?
- Explain why progressive reformers were concerned about living conditions.
- Why were reclamation projects important to Utah's farmers?
- How did Utahns change the way they used public land during this time?
- Why was land use a major factor of the Posey War?
- What were the sources of music on Utah's first radio programs?
- Summarize the ways the Great Depression affected Utah's people.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of federal programs in helping Utah's farmers during the depression.
- What world event finally ended the Great Depression?



Activity | From the World to Utah

This chart shows how many people from some foreign countries were living in Utah from 1900 to 1930. Study the chart and answer the questions below.

- Did the percentage of foreign-born people in Utah increase or decrease from 1900 to 1930?
- The number of immigrants decreased each year from which countries?
- In all the years combined, the highest number of immigrants came from which country?



Utah's Foreign-Born Population

COUNTRY	1900	1910	1920	1930
Canada	1,331	1,694	1,466	1,196
Denmark	9,132	8,300	6,970	4,883
England	18,879	18,082	14,836	10,851
Germany	2,360	2,360	3,963	3,589
Greece	3	4,039	3,029	2,197
Ireland	1,516	1,656	1,207	584
Italy	1,062	3,117	3,225	2,814
Japan	419	2,062	2,359	1,730
Mexico	41	145	1,083	2,386
Netherlands	523	1,392	1,980	2,325
Norway	2,128	2,128	2,310	1,698
Scotland	3,143	2,853	2,310	1,669
Sweden	7,025	7,227	6,073	4,389
Switzerland	1,469	1,691	1,566	1,419
Wales	2,141	1,672	1,304	862
% of Utahns who were foreign-born	19%	18%	13%	9%



Go to the Source

Understand the Great Depression Through Popular Music

Both film and radio were fairly new technologies during the difficult years of the Great Depression, yet these industries thrived. Music in movies and on the radio reflected the nation's longing for better times. Popular music was often an escape from the hard realities of life.

Study the lyrics from these depression-era songs, then answer the questions below.

New day's comin',
As sure as you're born!
There's a new day comin',
Start tootin' your horn,
While the cobbler's shoeing,
The baker will bake,
When the brewer's brewin',
We'll all get a break!

Now, a new day's comin',
For Levee and Burke,
New day's comin',
For boss and for clerk,
No more bummin',
We'll all get to work,
There's a new day coming soon!

— From “There’s a New Day Comin’,”
1932

We're in the money, we're in the money;
We've got a lot of what it takes
to get along!
We're in the money, that sky is sunny,
Old Man Depression you are through,
you done us wrong.

We never see a headline about
breadlines today.
And when we see the landlord we can
look that guy right in the eye

We're in the money, come on, my honey,
Let's lend it, spend it,
send it rolling along!

— From “We’re in the Money,” 1933

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?

— From “Brother Can You Spare a Dime?”, 1931

1. State the overall message of “There’s a New Day Comin’” and “We’re in the Money.”
2. Music during the depression era was almost always optimistic. Why do you think this was so?
3. How do the lyrics in “Brother Can You Spare a Dime?” reflect the frustrations of out-of-work Americans at the time?
4. What are the lyrics to one of your favorite songs? What does the music you listen to say about how you view the world around you?