

To the Teacher

Major Theme

Highways bind the nation, Route 66 becomes an icon of road travel

Subtheme

Depression, the Dust Bowl, and post–World War II

Preparation

Make 4 copies of the image cards (cut apart), the Clues sheet, and the Mapping the Big Idea sheet.

Activity One: Image Cards

Grade Level: All

1. Sort the Images

Divide the class into 4 groups. Give each group a photocopy of the 6 image cards and questions for visual analysis. Assign an image to each student. Direct students to answer the questions for their image. Based on this looking activity, sort the cards into two groups: images related to people migrating for work and images related to people vacationing for adventure. If desired, provide the Clues sheet before sorting the image cards. (20 minutes)

2. Using Secondary Sources

Pass out the Clues sheet to each group. Ask students to read the additional information about their images to each other (perhaps in a round-robin format), then adjust their group hypotheses. Each group should share their conclusions with the class. (15 minutes)

Activity Two: Mapping the Big Idea

Grade Level: Elementary and Middle School

Each group should review the map and synthesize the information by answering the questions. (20 minutes)

Activity Three: Taking a Deeper Look

Documenting History

Grade Level: Middle and High School

Primary-source document: migrant mother photographs

Explore this topic by answering the document-based questions.

Activity Four: What about Your Neighborhood?

Grade Level: Elementary and Middle School

Students research the region they live in and learn more about the Great Depression and their immediate community.

National History Standards: ERA 7 1890–1930 Emergence of Modern America

3B new car industry, road infrastructure, travel-related retail stores

National History Standards: ERA 8 1929–1945 Great Depression and World War II

1B impact of the Great Depression and the Dust Bowl on migrations; 2A New Deal projects