

Unit 7: The 20th Century

In this unit, you will read about events that happened in the 20th century. These include a drought, the Great Depression, and World Wars I and II. You will learn about the invention of aircraft, the destruction of the boll weevil, the lend-lease program, and the Savannah and Brunswick shipyards.

KEY TERMS

Agricultural Adjustment Act: A federal law passed in 1933, ruled unconstitutional, and then modified and passed again in 1938. It set quotas on farm produce in an attempt to keep farmers in business during the Great Depression. (H8d)

Bell Aircraft: A corporation that manufactured aircraft and was active during World War II. (H9b)

Boll Weevil: A beetle that feeds on flowers and cotton buds. Not native to the United States, it proved disastrous to cotton producers in the American Southeast, including those in Georgia, during the Great Depression. (H8a)

Civilian Conservation Corps: A Great Depression-era work relief program that put young American men to work in rural areas. (H8d)

Drought: A period of little or no rainfall. A widespread drought in the United States during the 1930s created a dust bowl in parts of the Midwest and West. (H8a)

The Great Depression: A sustained period of American economic decline. It lasted from 1929 until the mid-1940s. U.S. entry into World War II led to the end of the Great Depression. (H8b)

Holocaust: The mass murder of Jews and other groups by Nazis during World War II. (H9c)

Lend-Lease: The Lend-Lease Act in 1941 let the United States aid the Allies in World War II. It was signed by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, and it allowed the United States to provide aid to Great Britain. (H9a)

New Deal: A series of laws enacted by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt during the Great Depression, aimed at rebuilding the American economy. (H8d)

Pearl Harbor: A naval base in Hawaii that was attacked by Japan on December 7, 1941, prompting the United States' entry into World War II. (H9a)

Franklin Delano Roosevelt: President of the United States from 1933 until his death in 1945. He governed the nation during both the Great Depression and World War II. He first visited Brunswick, Georgia, in 1913 on business for the U.S. Navy. After contracting polio in 1921, he returned to the state, this time to visit Warm Springs, where he hoped the waters would restore him to health. He later purchased a home there and visited it often. (H9d)

Rural Electrification Act: An act signed into law by President Roosevelt in 1935 to bring electricity to rural areas throughout the United States. (H8d)

Richard Russell: Former governor of Georgia and United States senator. He was known for working to strengthen national defense as well as for opposing civil rights. (H9b)

Savannah and Brunswick Shipyards: Ports in Georgia where ships were built. Both were extremely important to the United States during World War II. (H9b)

Social Security: A government program established during the Great Depression. It provides an income to elderly people who can no longer work by giving them benefits based on what they paid into the system while working. (H8d)

Eugene Talmadge: A three-term governor of Georgia who served in the 1930s and 1940s. (H8c)

Carl Vinson: A Georgia native who served in the U.S. House of Representatives. He was the first to hold congressional office for a period of fifty years. He is known as “The Father of the Two-Ocean Navy.” (H9b)

World War II: The largest war in history. Conflict extended into Europe, Africa, Asia, and both the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans. (H9a)

Sample Items 11–12

Item 11

Which group of people was MOST affected by the boll weevil in the years between World War I and World War II?

- A. cotton farmers
- B. factory workers
- C. railroad workers
- D. government officials

Item 12

How was Georgia significant in the life of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt?

- A. Georgia politicians led the anti-Roosevelt opposition in Congress during the 1930s.
- B. President Roosevelt traveled to Warm Springs frequently to recover from complications of polio.
- C. Georgia’s Electoral College votes gave Roosevelt enough votes to win the presidential election in 1932.
- D. President Roosevelt tested his New Deal programs in the state before spreading them across the country.