

america the story of us episode 9 bust answer key

America the Story of Us Episode 9 Bust Answer Key provides an in-depth look at one of the critical periods in American history. This episode, titled "Bust," focuses on the economic turmoil of the late 19th and early 20th centuries, examining the causes and consequences of the financial crises that shaped the nation. This article will delve into the key themes, historical events, and figures portrayed in the episode, along with a comprehensive answer key to help viewers understand the material better.

Overview of Episode 9: Bust

The ninth episode of "America: The Story of Us" explores the Great Depression and the economic struggles that plagued America during the 1920s and 1930s. The episode highlights the following key components:

- The Roaring Twenties: A time of prosperity and excess that ultimately led to economic collapse.
- Stock Market Crash of 1929: The event that marked the beginning of the Great Depression.
- The Dust Bowl: A natural disaster that compounded the economic hardships faced by many Americans.
- New Deal Programs: The government response to the economic crisis, which aimed to provide relief, recovery, and reform.

The Roaring Twenties: A Prelude to Bust

The 1920s was characterized by significant economic growth, cultural shifts, and technological advancements. This era, often referred to as the Roaring Twenties, was marked by:

1. Economic Prosperity:

- Industrial production surged, leading to job creation.
- The rise of consumer culture with new inventions like automobiles and radios.

2. Cultural Change:

- The Jazz Age: A flourishing of jazz music and dance clubs.
- The Harlem Renaissance: A cultural, social, and artistic explosion centered in Harlem.

3. Increased Stock Market Investment:

- More Americans began investing in the stock market, often on credit.
- Speculation became rampant, driving stock prices to unsustainable levels.

However, beneath this facade of prosperity, there were warning signs of an impending economic crisis.

The Stock Market Crash of 1929

The stock market crash of October 1929 was a pivotal moment in American history. Key points to consider include:

- Trigger Events:

- On October 24, known as Black Thursday, panic selling began as stock prices plummeted.
- By October 29, known as Black Tuesday, the market had lost nearly 90% of its value.

- Consequences:

- Bank failures surged as banks had invested heavily in the stock market.
- Unemployment rates skyrocketed, reaching approximately 25% by 1933.

The crash was not just a financial calamity; it led to widespread despair and a loss of faith in the American economy.

The Dust Bowl: A Natural Disaster Compounding Hardship

While the stock market crash devastated the economy, the Dust Bowl added an environmental catastrophe to the mix. This section focuses on:

- Causes of the Dust Bowl:
 - Poor farming practices and drought led to severe soil erosion.
 - Over-farming of the Great Plains exacerbated the situation.
- Impact on American Families:
 - Thousands of families, particularly from Oklahoma, were forced to migrate westward in search of better living conditions.
 - The term "Okie" emerged as a colloquial reference to these displaced farmers.
- Cultural Representation:
 - The Dust Bowl inspired literary works, including John Steinbeck's "The Grapes of Wrath," which depicted the struggles of the disenfranchised.

The Dust Bowl illustrated the interconnectedness of economic and environmental factors, highlighting the vulnerability of American society.

The New Deal: Government Response to Crisis

In response to the economic devastation, President Franklin D. Roosevelt implemented a series of programs known as the New Deal. The key components include:

1. Relief Programs:
 - The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) provided jobs for young men in environmental projects.
 - The Works Progress Administration (WPA) aimed to create millions of jobs through public works

projects.

2. Recovery Strategies:

- The National Industrial Recovery Act (NIRA) sought to stimulate industrial growth.
- The Agricultural Adjustment Act (AAA) aimed to stabilize prices for farmers by reducing surpluses.

3. Reform Initiatives:

- The Social Security Act established a safety net for the elderly and unemployed.
- The Securities Exchange Act created the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) to regulate the stock market.

The New Deal programs transformed the role of the federal government in American life, establishing a precedent for government intervention in the economy.

Key Figures of the Episode

The episode features several significant figures who played crucial roles during this tumultuous period:

- Franklin D. Roosevelt: The 32nd President of the United States, who introduced the New Deal to combat the Great Depression.
- John Steinbeck: The author whose works highlighted the struggles of ordinary Americans during the Dust Bowl.
- Herbert Hoover: The 31st President, often criticized for his handling of the economy during the early years of the Great Depression.

Each of these individuals contributed to the narrative of resilience and recovery that defines the American spirit.

Answer Key for Discussion Questions

To aid in understanding and discussing the episode, here is an answer key for some common questions viewers may have:

1. What were the primary causes of the Great Depression?

- Over-speculation in the stock market, bank failures, and the agricultural collapse due to the Dust Bowl.

2. How did the Dust Bowl impact migration patterns in the United States?

- It caused millions of families to leave their homes, particularly from the Great Plains, and migrate to California and other states in search of work.

3. What were some major New Deal programs, and what did they aim to achieve?

- CCC (jobs for young men), WPA (public works jobs), AAA (stabilizing farm prices), and Social Security Act (safety net for citizens).

4. How did the stock market crash affect the average American?

- It resulted in widespread unemployment, loss of savings, and a general sense of hopelessness.

5. What role did cultural movements play during the 1920s and 1930s?

- Cultural movements reflected the societal changes and challenges of the time, providing a voice for marginalized populations and fostering a sense of community.

Conclusion

America the Story of Us Episode 9 Bust Answer Key serves as a powerful reminder of the struggles faced by the nation during one of its most challenging periods. By examining the causes and effects of the Great Depression, the Dust Bowl, and the New Deal, viewers gain a deeper understanding of the

resilience and innovation that define the American character. This episode not only chronicles historical events but also encourages reflection on the lessons learned, making it an essential part of America's ongoing story.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the main focus of Episode 9 of 'America: The Story of Us'?

Episode 9 focuses on the impact of the Civil War and how it shaped the future of the United States.

How does Episode 9 depict the experiences of soldiers during the Civil War?

The episode highlights the harsh realities of battle, the camaraderie among soldiers, and the emotional toll of war.

What significant events are covered in Episode 9?

Key events include the major battles such as Gettysburg, the Emancipation Proclamation, and the ultimate surrender of the Confederacy.

Which historical figures are prominently featured in Episode 9?

The episode features significant figures like Abraham Lincoln, Robert E. Lee, and Ulysses S. Grant.

How does Episode 9 address the theme of unity and division in America?

The episode explores the conflicting ideologies that led to the Civil War and the struggle for unity in a divided nation.

What role does the Emancipation Proclamation play in Episode 9?

The Emancipation Proclamation is portrayed as a pivotal moment that shifted the war's focus to the abolition of slavery.

How does the episode illustrate the effects of the Civil War on civilians?

It showcases the devastation of towns, the impact on families, and the social changes that arose from the conflict.

What is the significance of the Battle of Gettysburg in Episode 9?

The Battle of Gettysburg is depicted as a turning point in the war, marking a shift in momentum towards the Union.

How does Episode 9 conclude regarding the aftermath of the Civil War?

The episode concludes with the challenges of Reconstruction and the ongoing struggle for civil rights.

What educational resources are available for Episode 9 of 'America: The Story of Us'?

Educational resources include study guides, discussion questions, and online platforms that provide additional context and materials related to the episode.

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