### Presidential Election of 1932

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>HOOVER</strong></th>
<th><strong>ROOSEVELT</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>b. 1874</td>
<td>b. 1882</td>
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<td>d. 1964</td>
<td>d. 1945</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Incumbent/Republican</strong></td>
<td><strong>Challenger/Democrat</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Herbert Hoover</td>
<td>Franklin Delano Roosevelt</td>
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<tr>
<td>31st President, won 59 electoral votes</td>
<td>32nd President, won 472 electoral votes</td>
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#### Policies
- Hoover believed in lowering taxes and he refused to give out any national welfare, believing it demeaned proud Americans. His view was that while people must not suffer from hunger and cold, but caring for them must be a local and voluntary responsibility, not that of the federal government.
- FDR, promoted a platform with Three R’s: Relief, Recovery, and Reform. He introduced the New Deal saying: “I pledge you, I pledge myself, to a new deal for the American people.” However, he said little about the specifics of his plan. He felt that it was the federal government’s responsibility to care for the poor.

#### Bio
- Herbert Clark Hoover was born in Iowa into a poor family and felt that Americans should work hard the way he did. He studied engineering at Stanford University before he got into politics. After serving as Secretary of Commerce under Presidents Harding and Coolidge, he became the Republican Presidential candidate in 1928.

  - He was a fiscal conservative who opposed payments to the poor because he felt it created a dependency on a welfare system. He cited the importance of a balanced budget and low taxes. Homeless people began to make camps on the outskirts of cities and called them “Hoovervilles,” named after President Hoover who they blamed for the depression. He served one term after being defeated in 1932 by FDR. Many critics believe that Hoover failed to

- Franklin Delano Roosevelt was born into a wealthy New York family. He went to Harvard University, and Columbia Law School. He was married to Eleanor who became a very active first lady during his four terms in office.

  - Although he was stricken with polio in 1921, he did not give up his desire to be active in politics. In 1928, he was elected governor of NY, and in 1932 won the presidential election in a landslide victory.

  - He took the first 100 days to develop a New Deal plan. The federal government paid for these programs by raising taxes and by spending more money than it took in. FDR was reelected for four terms and died in office in 1945. FDR, a popular president, was a good communicator.
recognize the severity of the depression. who reassured people during hard times.

Lesson Three: Handout #2

Electoral College Results: Election of 1932

Herbert Hoover (Incumbent): 59 Electoral Votes
Franklin Roosevelt (Challenger): 472 Electoral Votes
To win reelection in 1932, Hoover would have to convince voters that his policies were bringing recovery. In this excerpt from an Oct. 22, 1932, campaign speech Hoover told a partisan crowd of twenty-two thousand in Detroit that success would have come even sooner if not for Democratic obstruction. In this speech, the audiences heard Hoover hail ten sure signs of “economic recovery.”

Play Audio Speech: [http://historymatters.gmu.edu/d/5062/](http://historymatters.gmu.edu/d/5062/)

**Herbert Hoover’s Speech:**
My fellow citizens, the most important issue before the American people right now is to overcome this crisis. What our people need is the restoration of their normal jobs, the recovery of agricultural prices and of business. They need help in the meantime to tide them over until these things can be accomplished and that they may not go hungry nor lose their farms and their homes.

Now I wish to present to you the evidence that the measures and the policies of the Republican administration are winning this major battle for recovery, and we are taking care of distress in the meantime. It can be demonstrated that the tide has turned and that the gigantic forces of depression are today in retreat. Our measures and policies have demonstrated their effectiveness. They have preserved the American people from certain chaos. They have preserved a final fortress of stability in the world.

Recovery would have been faster but for four months of paralysis during the spring months while we were defeating proposals of the Democratic House of Representatives.

Much has been accomplished despite the opposition of selfish groups and sections of our country and the unwillingness of a Democratic House of Representatives to cooperate, and much more must be done. The Democratic candidate says we have been extravagant, and in his various statements implies that we should make a defense of our actions. There will be no defense because none is needed.

**Hoover Quotes:**

*August 11, 1928:* “Unemployment in the sense of distress is widely disappearing. . . . We in America today are nearer to the final triumph over poverty than ever before in the history of any land. The poorhouse is vanishing from among us. . . . There is no guarantee against poverty equal to a job for every man. That is the primary purpose of the economic policies we advocate”

*November, 1929:* “Any lack of confidence in the economic future or the basic
strength of business in the United States is foolish.”

March 8, 1930: “Today the worst effect of the crash upon unemployment will have been passed during the next sixty days.” 1932: “The government should not support the people.”…. and its role should no “be extended to the relief of individual suffering.”

Lesson Three: Handout #4

An Anonymous Letter to Herbert Hoover

November 18, 1930

Could we not have employment and food to Eat. and this for our Children Why Should we hafto [illegible] now and Have foodless days and [illegible] days. and our children have Schoolless days and Shoeless days and the land full of plenty and Banks bursting with money. Why does Every Thing have Exceptional Value. Except the Human being--why are we reduced to poverty and starving and anxiety and Sorrow So quickly under your administration as Chief Executor Can not you find a quicker way of Executing us than to Starve us to death. . . . Why not End the Depression have you not a Heart. . . . Yet we are served from the Source of Life by setch an unjust System. . . . Why Isnt there an limitation to you people planning to get It all and Starve the rest of use. . . . Yet you have cut us of with plenty before our eyes--for your Selves. Yet You Can not use It. The people are desperate and this I have written, only typical of the masses of your Subjects. how can we be Law abiding citizens and Educate our children and be Happy Content with nothing to do nothing to Eat. when your System has Every Thing under control and cant use It. nor will you give any thing a way. why take more than you need. why make Laws. and allow Industry to take It all. why Isnt the Law fixed so Its Just as Just for one or the others then Industry
couldnt take it all. and make us all victims of your Special arrangement of things. . . . I am an Ignorant man and you are Supposed to have great Brains yet I appeal to you In behalf of thousands In your dominion who would be good americans Citizens If you would make It Possible.

-Anonymous

Lesson Three: Handout #5
-Optional

Hoovervilles were homeless camps built on the outskirts of cities to house the poor, This term was named after President Hoover who was blamed for the problems that led to the Great Depression.