

Objective

By the end of this lesson, you will be able to apply arithmetic skills to understand and analyze the impact of the Great Depression.

Materials and Prep

- Pencil and paper
- Calculator (optional)
- Prior knowledge of basic arithmetic operations

Activities

- Activity 1: Research the Great Depression and create a timeline of key events. Use arithmetic to calculate the number of years between significant events.
- Activity 2: Analyze historical data on unemployment rates during the Great Depression. Use arithmetic to calculate the percentage increase in unemployment from year to year.
- Activity 3: Investigate the impact of inflation during the Great Depression. Use arithmetic to calculate the change in prices for common goods over time.
- Activity 4: Explore the stock market crash of 1929. Use arithmetic to calculate the percentage decrease in stock prices and the financial losses experienced by investors.

Talking Points

- The Great Depression was a period of severe economic downturn that lasted from 1929 to the late 1930s.
- During the Great Depression, many people lost their jobs, resulting in high unemployment rates.
- Unemployment rates can be calculated by dividing the number of unemployed individuals by the total labor force and multiplying by 100.
- Inflation is the increase in the prices of goods and services over time. It can be calculated using the percentage change formula.
- The stock market crash of 1929 led to a significant decrease in stock prices. Percentage decrease can be calculated using the formula: $(\text{Initial value} - \text{Final value}) / \text{Initial value} * 100$.
- Understanding the impact of the Great Depression requires analyzing historical data and applying arithmetic skills to interpret the numbers.