



Why do we come together in difficult times?

01 Work with a classmate. What are ways you can help a neighbor or a classmate?

Ways I can help

02 Read “Step up and Pitch in” and circle the writer’s main comparison between the Great Depression and the COVID-19 pandemic.

1. Community organizations filled the gap between need and government resources.
2. They were both difficult times financially, but governments gave everyone the money they needed.
3. Families helped each other and had sufficient resources to help everyone.



Step up and Pitch in

While the Great Depression, the most prolonged, profound, and devastating economic downturn in United States history, is known mostly for the trauma it caused, it also demonstrates the role of the **grassroots** community support in **dire** times.

One of the causes of the Great Depression was Black Thursday, October 29, 1929, when the stock market crashed. This caused a run on banks. Many rushed to withdraw their savings from the banks that had not yet collapsed. Uncertainty and **joblessness** led to lower spending, which led to even more unemployment. In the same period, a drought hit North America, devastating the farming communities and sending many of them to the cities looking for jobs that no longer existed.

In the face of such a crisis, citizens everywhere looked to their governments for help, but in most cases, communities helped each other.

Charitable organizations created soup kitchens and food pantries to help families. Other support included **tenant** strikes and protests to convince **landlords** not to evict those unable to pay their rent. These are just a few examples of how ordinary citizens, volunteers, and community organizations came together to help those in need, allowing many to survive the Depression.

In 2020, the world was caught up in the COVID-19 global pandemic. Communities were subjected to state-mandated lockdowns, which caused job losses as businesses closed. Those who contracted the virus and were quarantined found themselves **isolated** and without support, and again, community organizations and neighbors stepped up. Formal and informal organizations used digital tools like WhatsApp to reach out to and stay connected to people. Neighbors connected and helped those in need. In a period punctuated by fear, this kindness shone through.

03 Read the text again and identify if the statements are true “T,” false “F,” or not mentioned “NM.”

1. Governments required people to stay at home during part of the COVID-19 pandemic, causing isolation.
2. Many people lost their jobs in both crises.
3. There were no community organizations in the Great Depression.
4. Banks collapsed during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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04 Work with a classmate. Discuss how you would have felt if you had lived during the Great Depression. What would you have done to help your family and your community?

05

Complete the sentences with one homograph.

- During the Great Depression, neighbors offered each other emotional _____, while scrap wood was used to _____ makeshift shelters built in empty lots.
- In many cities, volunteers helped organize a food _____ to assist struggling families, showing the same _____ and determination seen in communities nationwide.
- Local musicians formed a _____ to perform at community events during lockdown, while residents had to _____ together to provide supplies and comfort to seniors.
- Community centers wanted to _____ up the area for those needing a safe space, and people told jokes to feel _____ during hard times.



06

Work with a classmate. Create four pairs of sentences with verb/noun homographs. Read them aloud, focusing on the different pronunciation of the verbs and nouns.

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

07

Work with a classmate. Write a conversation between two students comparing the community support during the Great Depression and the COVID-19 pandemic. Use the homographs from Exercises 5 and 6.

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08

Work together in a group to create a proposal for how you can help your community in a financial or health crisis. Follow the instructions.

- Brainstorm ideas.
- Choose the best one.
- Create a proposal to give to the community government explaining the benefits of your idea.
- Practice and present your proposal.

