

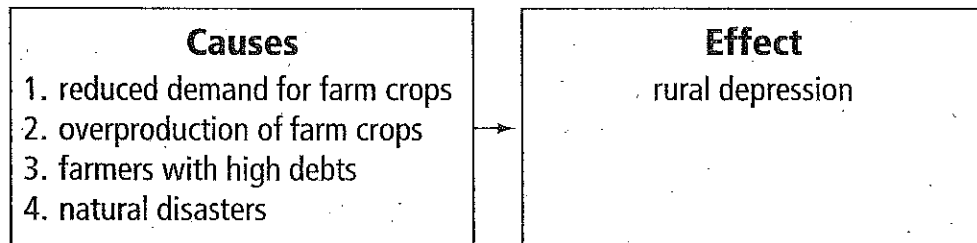
THE GREAT DEPRESSION
Reading Strategy

Recognize Multiple Causes

Many important historical events result from more than one cause. A **cause** is a reason that something happens. Recognizing and understanding the multiple causes of historical events will help you better understand how events happen and relate to one another. To recognize multiple causes, first identify their effect, or the event that you want to investigate. Then read for details, such as other events and conditions, that contributed to the event.

Read the following paragraph. Then look at the causes listed in the graphic organizer below.

After World War I, the demand for American crops fell sharply. Despite this drop, postwar production remained high because of increasingly mechanized farm equipment and more intensive farming methods. Farms were getting bigger and yielding bumper crops, but farmers were failing to sell of their huge crop surpluses and pay their debts. The result was a rural depression that affected millions of Americans. Hard-pressed to pay their debts, forced to sell in a glutted [oversupplied] and competitive world market, and confronted by several natural disasters, farmers did not share in the boom times of the 1920s.



Directions: Read the passage entitled "The Great Depression Begins" in Section 1 of your textbook. Then, on a separate sheet of paper, make a cause and effect graphic organizer for the Great Depression and answer the questions below.

Hint: Note the critical event identified below. Look for other events and conditions in the passage that helped lead to this event.

1. What conclusions can you draw about the causes of the Great Depression?
2. Read the final passage in Section 1 of your textbook under the heading "What Caused the Great Depression?" How do your conclusions compare with the conclusions drawn in this passage?