Life in the 1930s: The Great Depression
**An Internet WebQuest on The Great Depression**

TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD is a controversial novel written by Harper Lee. A young girl, Scout, tells about life in the 1930s small town of Maycomb, Alabama. She grows and learns more about herself and society as her father defends a black man accused of raping a white woman. Consider that Scout is only one person with on perspective; someone else may describe the same events very differently.

Before you begin working, take a look at the site below. (skim and scan- pick a few n discuss do not need to read the entire thing) Each question is worth two marks. Point form is fine.

* ['Jim Crow' Laws](http://www.nps.gov/malu/documents/jim_crow_laws.htm) - This site gives a brief description of what Jim Crow laws are. It also lists several laws in place for specific individuals. YOU WON'T BELIEVE THEM!!

<http://www.ferris.edu/jimcrow/what.htm>

1. What is your overall general impression of the laws given?
2. Would your opinion change if you were raised differently?

[**Photographs depicting discrimination**](http://www.loc.gov/rr/print/list/085_disc.html) - You may have heard your grandparents tell about social inequalities, but this site will show them to you. (Be sure to click on the photo to enlarge)

<http://www.loc.gov/rr/print/list/085_disc.html>

1. What is the most noticeable aspect of the photographs?
2. As a child in the 1930s with minimal reading skills, do you think you would be able to 'understand' what the signs mean?
3. What do a majority of the signs inform citizens?
4. As a white male, how might you be discriminated against or inconvenienced (or would you)? Why do you think these signs were necessary?

[Alabama Timeline](http://www.archives.state.al.us/timeline/timefr.html) - This site gives general information associated with Alabama between 1901-1951, specifically the 1930s. <http://www.archives.state.al.us/timeline/timefr.html>

1. Look at the population in 1930. What is the population of whites? What is the population of blacks? What is the difference?
2. Who are the Scottsboro Boys?
3. If you were a black child, who might you look up to in 1936?

[Franklin Delano Roosevelt](http://www.shmoop.com/fdr-new-deal/) - This site gives a brief overview of Roosevelt's life.

1. What were the two major crises while FDR was in office?
2. What is the “new deal?”
3. How many terms did he serve?
4. What famous phrase was spoken at the inaugural address?

STOCK MARKET

1. What were some of the causes of the crash?
2. Is the crash the reason for The Great Depression?
3. What was the WPA?
4. Why was the WPA created?
5. What event spurred the creation of the KKK?
6. Were blacks the only targets of KKK members? Explain. Give an example.

**The Role of Women:**

1. What rights did women have at this time?
2. What were women mainly responsible for?

1. How are women treated?

**Conclusion**

We frequently limit our opinions and understandings of experiences to only one point of view: OUR OWN! If we take the time to consider someone else's point of view, we may realize that our perceptions of the exact same event are very different. It is important to understand that while we do not have to accept these opinions, they still exist. Often the recognition and validation of various opinions and understandings lead to a greater tolerance of and better communication with others.

This WebQuest activity was intended to help you not only learn about a different time period associated with 'To Kill a Mockingbird,' but to help you appreciate and analyze this fascinating piece of literature from a point of view outside of your own.

It is my hope that you will consider others' perceptions in addition to your own. After all, 'perception is reality.'