Name: Block:

***TKAM* and Harper Lee Historical Context and Background Information**

**Directions**: Fill in the information according to the Prezi and videos.

1. The author of *To Kill a Mockingbird* is **Harper Lee.**
2. She grew up in **Monroeville, Alabama**, which is town that is very similar to **Maycomb.**
3. She was born in **1926.** The setting of the book is in the early **1930**, and the narrator (**Scout**) is the same age as Lee was at that time in history.
4. Her father was a **lawyer**. The narrator’s father is a lawyer, and this very significant to the plot.
5. The crash of the **stock market** in October 1929 signaled the beginning of the **Great Depression,** the worst economic crisis of the 20th century. Everyone was selling, but no one was buying. Caught between bad loans that could not be repaid and nervous depositors who wanted to close their accounts, banks ran out of money and were forced to close. Businesses that needed credit to operate had to shut down.
6. In **1933,** the lowest point of the Depression, one of every **4** was unemployed🡪 over **13** million people.
7. American famers by the thousands lost their farms because of **falling prices** for farm products.
8. Several years of **drought** only made things worse for farmers in what came to be known as the **dust bowl area** of the country.
9. Many farm families, forced from their homes, became migrant laborers in California. Jobless and **homeless**, huge numbers of Americans were thrown into extreme poverty.
10. Charities set up soup kitchens and bread lines, but hunger and misery stocked the streets and countryside. Camps of homeless people sprang up in the vacant lots and open spaces of cities across America. These collections of shacks and tents were called **Hooverville** after Herbert Hoover, the President of the United States when the Depression began.
11. Frustrated and demoralized, many Americans took their protests to the streets demanding government action.
12. Franklin D. Roosevelt, elected President in **1932**, promised a New Deal for the people.
13. His **administration** started many programs designed to put people to work and bring the country out of the Depression.
14. But the Depression did not end until after the United States entered **WWII** and began producing large quantities of **war materials**.
15. Stock market crash:
    1. Many Americans lost all of their **savings** and **investments**.
    2. Many had borrowed on credit to buy the stocks, so now they were also in debt to their creditor.
16. Dust Bowl:
    1. **Droughts** led to dust storms that destroyed crops, causing many farmers to lose their farms.
17. Bank closures:
    1. Banks make money by **lending money**, but with so many people suddenly jobless and broke, people were unable to pay back their loans.
    2. People also panicked and **withdrew** all of their money from the bank. Banks would run out of money and have to close. If you had an account there when they closed, you lost your money!
18. Effects:
    1. People lost their **savings** if their bank went bankrupt. Surviving banks could not **afford** to make any loans.
    2. People could not afford to buy anything extra, which caused many factories and businesses to shut down, causing even more people to lose their jobs.
    3. Since so many people were out of work, tax revenue went down, so **schools** and other government services shut down due to lack of **funds**. This, of course put even more people out of **work**.
19. **Herbert Hoover** was president when the Depression hit.
20. His philosophy:
    1. **The markets would eventually correct themselves.**
    2. **The government should not deliver aid to individuals.**
    3. **Private charities should help those in need.**
21. New President in 1933- **Franklin D. Roosevelt (**FDR).
22. Jim Crow Laws enforced segregation in the South.
    1. **Blacks were treated as 2nd class citizens**
    2. **Public places were segregated**
       1. **schools**
       2. **parks**
       3. **courthouses**
       4. **stores**
       5. **restaurants**
       6. **museums**
23. Failure of the justice system:
    1. In many southern states, **blacks** could not serve on a jury.
    2. **Racism** was so rampant that it was almost impossible to receive a fair trial in the south.
    3. Examples:
       1. **Scottsboro Boys**
          1. Nine black teenage boys were falsely accused of rape in Alabama in 1931. The case included a frame up, an attempted lynching, angry mobs, and a complete miscarriage of justice as an all-white jury sentenced the men to death despite abundant evidence of their innocence.
       2. **Emmett Till**
          1. 14-year-old Emmett Till allegedly “flirted” with a white woman in Mississippi. That night, several men kidnapped him from his home and brutally murdered him.
    4. Eventually, these types of injustices mobilized the **Civil Rights Movement**, but at the time of our story, segregation was largely accepted as a way of life.
24. Gender Roles:
    1. Women were expected to work in the home.
       1. Considered “**weaker**” and “less intelligent” than men.
       2. Generally not encouraged to pursue occupations outside of the home.
       3. Not allowed to vote until **1920**.
       4. Not allowed to serve on juries.
       5. From a book on manners (1920)
          1. “The young girl who acts in such a manner as to attract attention in public; who speaks loudly, and jokes and laughs and tells stories,…who expresses opinions on all subjects with self-confidence, is rightly regarded by all thoughtful and cultivated people as one of the most disagreeable and obnoxious characters to be met with in society.”
    2. Men were expected to be providers and work outside the home.
       1. Not considered capable of **nurturing children**.
       2. Expected to be “**tough**”- discouraged from showing emotions.
25. Europe:
    1. Hitler is rising.
       1. Jews were removed from all **govenment**, state, and **cultural** positions.
       2. Jews were segregated in **restaurants** and schools.
       3. Jews were required to wear a **Star of David** on their clothing and were given a curfew.