

Franklin D. Roosevelt: *A New Dealer in Hope*

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Group Website

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We chose our topic by brainstorming a list of historical figures that we considered to be good leaders with a significant legacy, and would fit well with this year's NHD theme of Leadership and Legacy. We shortened our list based on the availability of primary and secondary sources. Next, we conducted more research on our shortlisted topics to see whether the scope of the topic would be appropriate for our project. We finally narrowed down our list to Henry Ford, Clara Barton, and President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, but ultimately chose President Roosevelt as the focus of our project because we were especially interested in his leadership during the Great Depression after learning about it in history class.

After deciding on our topic, we began our research by looking for specific information about Roosevelt's leadership and legacy on the Internet and books at our local library. We took notes from these secondary sources, and used them as starting points to find specific primary sources that related to FDR's leadership during the Great Depression, including political cartoons, photographs, music, letters and more. We watched documentaries about Roosevelt's life, and conducted a phone interview with the writer and producer of the PBS documentary *The American Experience: FDR*. We also interviewed the educational specialist at the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum over email. In order to get a firsthand account of the Great Depression and how Roosevelt helped the country, we went to the Redmond Senior Center and interviewed four seniors who lived during that time. Additionally, we interviewed four professors with expertise on Roosevelt and the event coordinator from the National Park Service who works at Roosevelt's home in Hyde Park.

We knew we wanted to create a website because we had experience with the category from last year, and we found it both fostered creativity and was fun. There were so many great primary sources of different mediums about Roosevelt and the Great Depression, so we decided that a website that could show written information, pictures, video, music, and other multimedia in one simple place would present our research the best. The Weebly platform helped our team because we could simultaneously work on different components of the website and finish pages in a shorter amount of time; we split up responsibility for the pages and then edited each other's work. Since Roosevelt led the nation through dark times to a better and brighter era, we decided to keep the website's theme light colored and open. We used the color blue as our main theme color because it is one of the colors in the U.S. flag, yet isn't as distracting as red.

President Roosevelt's confidence, fearlessness, and empathy made him an effective leader during the Great Depression. Through his leadership, he helped the nation survive its greatest economic crisis, reformed the economy, raised America's confidence in its government, reshaped the American presidency, redefined the relationship between the President and the people, and united Americans for years to come.