

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

A P R E S I D E N T ' S V I S I O N

PRIMARY SOURCE WORKSHEET

JOHN T. MCCUTCHEON, "A WISE ECONOMIST ASKS A QUESTION," *CHICAGO TRIBUNE*,
AUGUST 19, 1931.



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QUESTIONS

Answer the following questions on a separate sheet of paper.

1. Describe what is happening in this cartoon.
2. What problem does this cartoon address? According to the cartoon, who is responsible for this problem?
3. Why did the cartoonist choose to depict the man speaking with a squirrel?
4. What assumptions might you make about a “down-and-out” man sitting on a park bench in the middle of the day? Does this cartoon confirm or challenge those assumptions? Explain your answer.
5. What effect do you think the cartoonist intended to produce in his audience? Explain your answer.
6. In Roosevelt’s first inaugural address, he emphasized “the interdependence of the various elements in all parts of the United States.” Which elements of American society does the cartoonist suggest are interdependent?
7. Look at the list of New Deal programs listed on the *President’s Vision* poster. Which ones have the potential to help this man?

ACTIVITIES

Use your textbook and other print and online resources to complete the following activities.

1. Visit the Opper Project online at <http://hti.osu.edu/opper/Document8>. In groups of three or four, choose a cartoon from the website and write three questions to help the class investigate its meaning. Choose one member of each group to lead the class through an examination of the cartoon using the questions you wrote.
2. According to many scholars, the New Deal initiated the modern welfare state. If a modern welfare state addresses the plight of the man in the cartoon, how would you define the phrase “welfare state”? Discuss the meaning of this term with a partner and share your ideas with the class.

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