

A Lemony Story

*Planting the Seed:
Gardens, Growing, and Agriculture in Art*



Objective:

By the end of this lesson, students will:

- Be familiar with the history of the Great Depression
- Write about an event in their own lives

Core Curriculum Ties:

- **K-6 Social Studies Core Benchmarks:**
The geography of a community influences the cultural development of the humans who inhabit the community. The unique characteristics of an area influence where and how communities develop, their relative wealth and power, and how they adapt to changes.
- **K-6 Language Arts Core Benchmarks:**
Generate ideas for writing by reading, discussing, researching, and reflecting on personal experiences. Write to communicate effectively for a variety of purposes and audiences and write in different forms and genres. Produce personal writing.
- **K-6 Character Education Core Benchmarks:**
Students participate in activities that promote cultural understanding and good citizenship. Students participate in activities that promote responsibility, dependability, accountability, and self-discipline.

Materials:

- Background material on the Great Depression
- Pencils, Pens & Lined Paper for Stories
- Copies of the Sliced Lemon Template

Time:

- Adaptable at the discretion of the teacher. Can be spread over several days in 15-30 minute increments or can be a brief 60-90 minute assignment.

If Life Gives You Lemons...:

There is a well-known axiom that says, “*If life gives you lemons, make lemonade.*” Sometime difficult, strange or bizarre experiences happen, like the lemon, which is a sour and bitter fruit, but lemons can be used as an ingredient to produce lemonade, something good, sweet and delicious.

History Link:

- During the Great Depression, many people were hungry and went without. Many people had to just live with what they had, rather than getting new things.
- Many people lost their jobs and were out of work. In some cases, as many as one in four people didn't have a job, even though they wanted one.
- Dale Carnegie said, “When fate hands us a lemon, let's try to make a lemonade.”
- Another well-known slogan from that era was, “Use it up, wear it out, make it do or do without.” It is similar to today's slogan of “Reduce, Reuse, Recycle.”
- The Stock Market Crash of 1929 marked the beginning of the Great Depression in the United States.
- October 29, 1929 is called Black Tuesday because many people lost a lot of money all at once.

- Banks defaulted on their loans, which means banks didn't have the money they had promised. As a result, many banks also closed, which caused a greater loss of money for the country at large.



Additional Lemon References:

FICTION

- **Lemony Snicket, *A Series of Unfortunate Events***
 - Discuss the ways in which the Baudelaire children survive unhappy circumstances.
- Sarah Stewart and David Small, *The Gardener*
 - A delightful collection of depression era letters in this beautifully illustrated picture book.
- Harriet Brown, Walter Rane and Jean-Paul Tibbles, *Welcome to Kit's World, 1934: Growing Up During America's Great Depression (The American Girls Collection)*

NON-FICTION

- Russell Freedman, *Children of the Depression*

- Tim McNeese, and Richard Jenson, *The Great Depression: 1929-1938 (Discovering U.S. History)*

WEBSITES

- www.carolhurst.com/subjects/ushistory/depression.html

Conversations:

- How many of you eat lemons?
 - What is the difference between sweet & sour in terms of taste?
 - What about sweet and sour experiences?
- What would it feel like to not have money to buy food?
- How would you feel if you lost your job or something really important to you?
- What would you do to survive? What would you do to make the best of the situation, or to make “lemonade?”

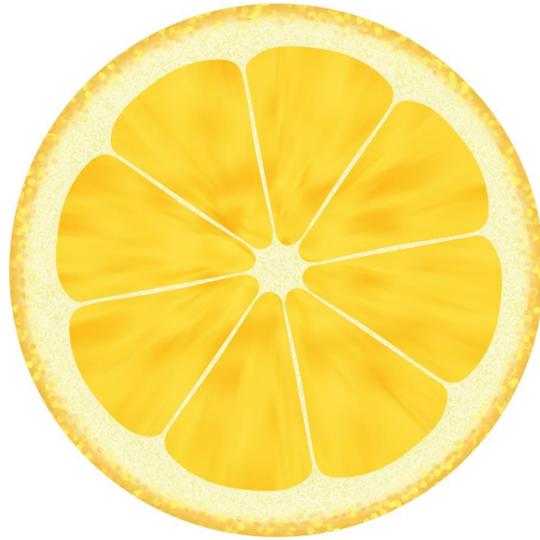
Activity:

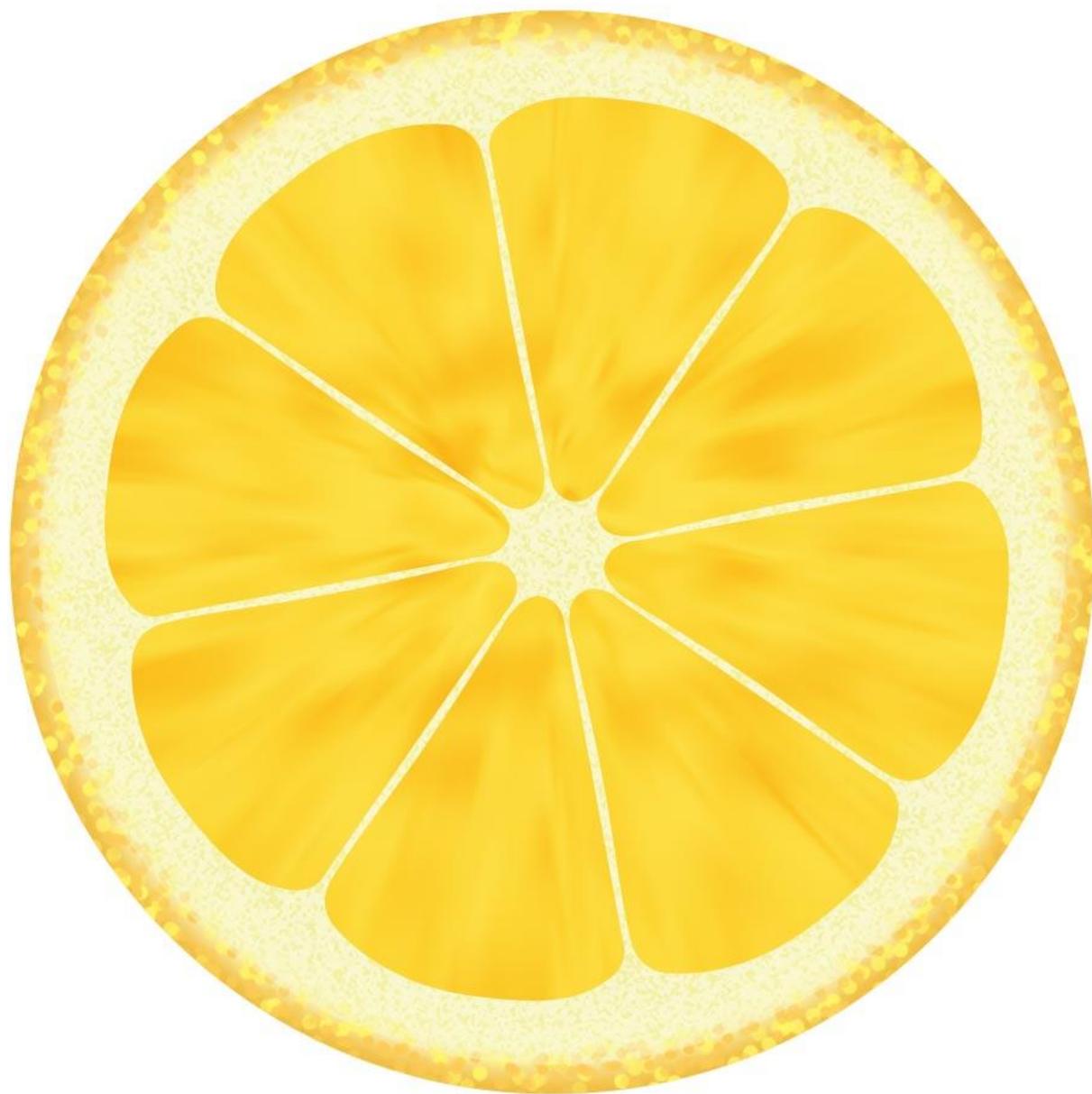
Write a story about something that was hard for you to overcome. Explain why the situation was difficult and what obstacles were in your way. Then make a list of the things you did and the people who helped you along the way. Use the lemon story map provided below to help you organize your thoughts before you write.



Adaptation:

- Upper level grades can expand this lesson to include more in-depth research regarding the Great Depression.
- Grades K-2 can use the lemon image to create a visual art object by layering tissue paper on each of the slices.





A Lemony Story Map