

ABOUT THIS ACTIVITY UNIT

This unit of study is designed to help your students understand how unemployment and recessions affect the American economy and their everyday lives. Each activity is self-contained so you may use them all or choose only those that best fit your lesson plans, time schedule, and students' abilities. A two page examination is also included.

The arithmetic used in this unit involves the four basic operations and percentages. The math activities vary in difficulty from simple addition and subtraction to multi-step computations.

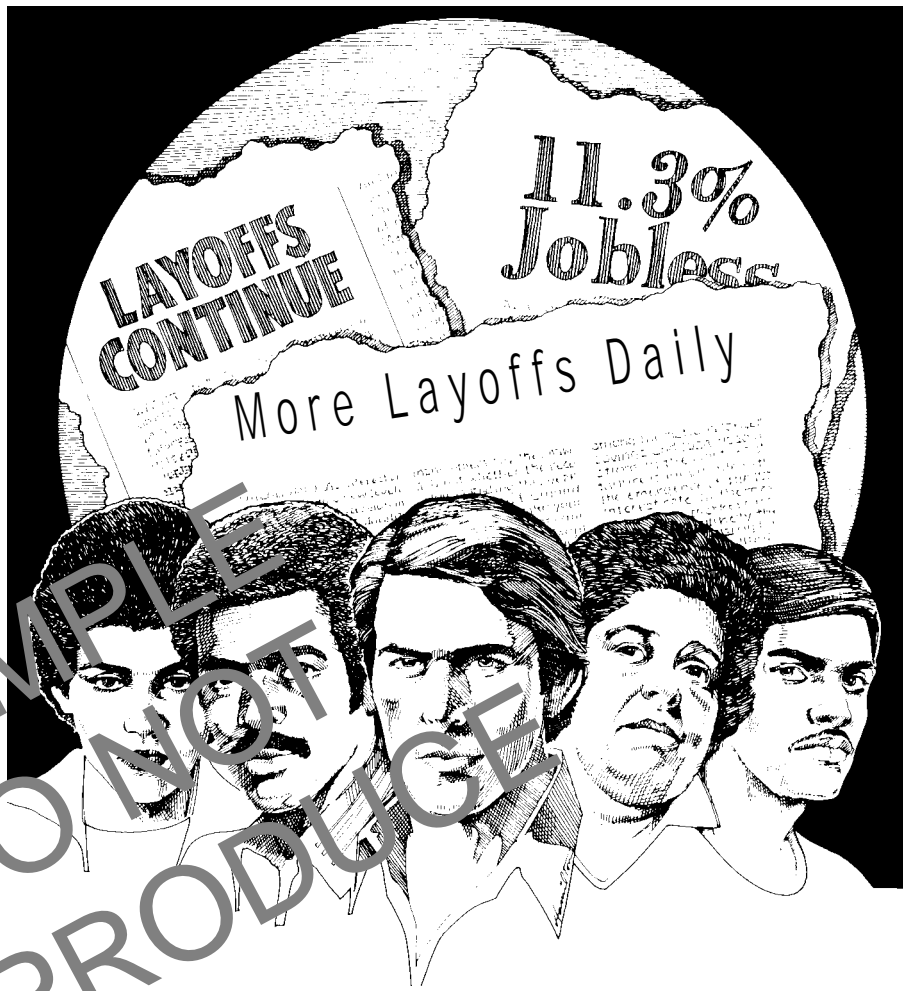
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The chart below lists the unemployment rate in the United States from 1950 through 1998.

Use the chart to compute the average unemployment rate during each of the following periods? Round your answers to the nearest 1/10th percent.


- 1950-1954 _____ %
- 1955-1959 _____ %
- 1960-1964 _____ %
- 1965-1969 _____ %
- 1970-1974 _____ %
- 1975-1979 _____ %
- 1980-1984 _____ %
- 1985-1989 _____ %
- 1990-1994 _____ %
- 1995-1998 _____ %



Year	Rate	Year	Rate	Year	Rate	Year	Rate	Year	Rate
1950	5.3%	1960	5.5%	1970	4.9%	1980	7.1%	1990	5.6%
1951	3.3%	1961	6.7%	1971	5.9%	1981	7.6%	1991	6.8%
1952	3.0%	1962	5.5%	1972	5.6%	1982	9.7%	1992	7.5%
1953	2.9%	1963	5.7%	1973	4.9%	1983	9.6%	1993	6.9%
1954	5.5%	1964	5.2%	1974	5.6%	1984	7.5%	1994	6.1%
1955	4.4%	1965	4.5%	1975	8.5%	1985	7.2%	1995	5.6%
1956	4.1%	1966	3.8%	1976	7.7%	1986	7.0%	1996	5.4%
1957	4.3%	1967	3.8%	1977	7.1%	1987	6.2%	1997	4.9%
1958	6.8%	1968	3.6%	1978	6.1%	1988	5.5%	1998	4.5%
1959	5.5%	1969	3.5%	1979	5.8%	1989	5.3%	1999	

Name: _____ Class: _____ Period: _____

You're a writer for the PBS series Living Today hosted by Ben and Bonnie McIntyre. You've been assigned the job of writing an outline for an upcoming episode titled Dealing With Unemployment. The program will cover day to day living while unemployed and how to look for new job.

<p>LIVING TODAY</p>  <p>WITH BEN AND BONNIE MCINTYRE</p>	<p>Episode Title: <u>Dealing With Unemployment!</u></p> <p>Episode Outline:</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
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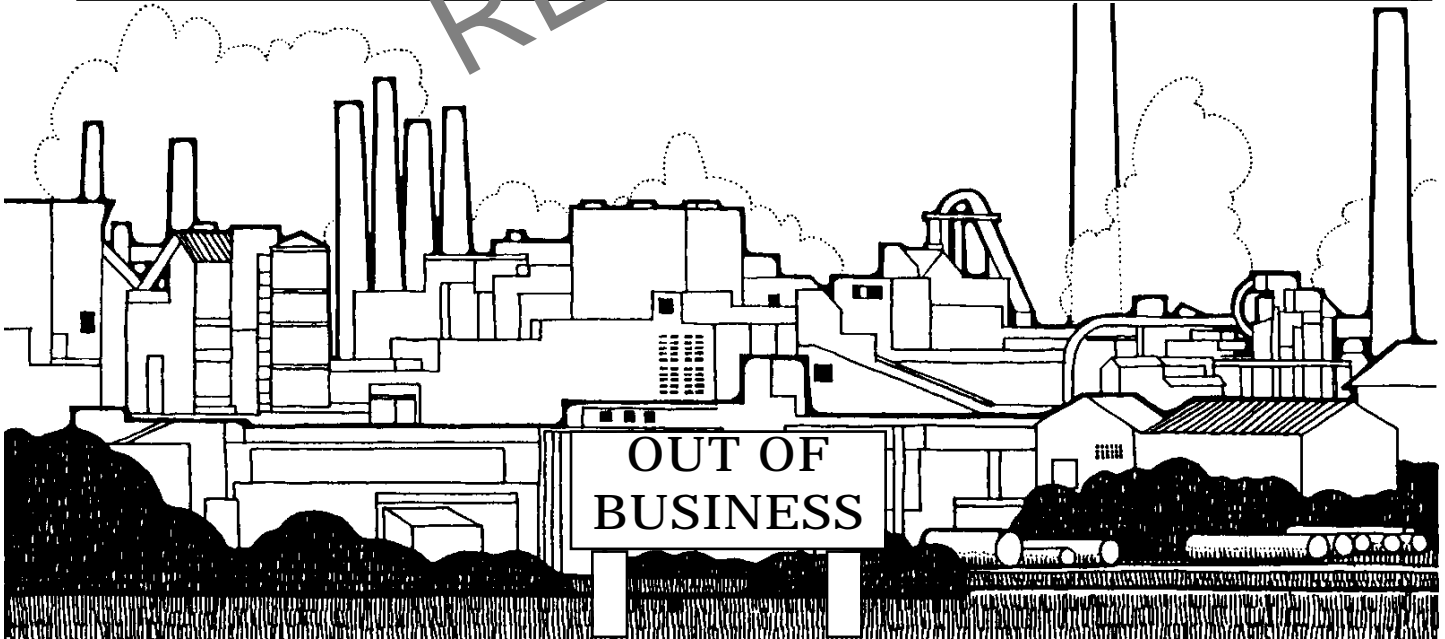
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Name: _____ Class: _____ Period: _____

The chart below lists the highest unemployment rate during the Great Depression of 1929-33 and 11 other periods of recession since that time. Complete the chart by constructing a bar graph comparing the high unemployment rate during each of these periods.

Recession Period	Highest Unemployment Rate	0 2 4 6 8 10 12 14 16 18 20 22 24 26												
		[Blank grid for bar graph construction]												
1929 - 33	24.9%													
1937 - 38	20.0%													
1945 - 45	4.3%													
1948 - 49	7.9%													
1953 - 54	6.1%													
1957 - 58	6.5%													
1960 - 61	7.1%													
1969 - 70	6.1%													
1973 - 75	9.0%													
1980 - 80	7.8%													
1981 - 82	10.8%													
1990 - 92	7.8%													

SAMPLE
DO NOT
REPRODUCE



Name: _____ Class: _____ Period: _____