



Vocabulary List

“Alphabet Agencies”	Government agencies created during the Depression to make jobs for the unemployed and to regulate business affairs. They became known by their initials, for example CCC was the Civilian Conservation Corps.
Collective bargaining	A meeting of owners and workers to bargain or work- out the terms of hours, wages, and working conditions for the workers. Unions and “collective bargaining” were illegal until the Wagner Act (National Labor Relations Act) of 1935.
Company	A group of people joined together in some kind of work or activity.
Depression	A time when business is bad and many people lose their jobs.
“Dust Bowl”	An area of the country in the Middle West from Nebraska to Texas, centered in the region where Oklahoma borders Texas and Kansas, where drought or lack of rain caused many crops to wither and the soil to blow away in large dust storms.
Economy	The control of money that is earned and spent in a home, business, or government.
Financial	Having to do with the business of taking care of money matters.
Luxury	Something that gives comfort or pleasure but is not needed.
Migrant	A person who moves from place to place to find work.
Necessities	Something which is needed.
Over production	The act of making more of a product than is needed.
Panic	Wild fear that is not controlled or based on rational thoughts.
“Penny Auction”	During the dust bowl years, banks auctioned many farms when



	farmers could not pay their debts. Sometimes neighboring farmers agreed beforehand that only one person would bid on any item and only pay one “penny” for the object. The objects purchased for a penny would then be returned to the original owner.
Prosperity	The condition of being successful and comfortable financially.
Regulate	To control something according to rules or a system, usually used by government.
“Roaring 20’s”	Historic period from 1920-1929 when there was widespread prosperity.
Stock Market	A place in New York City where shares of ownership in many different companies are offered for sale (traded). Due to unrealistic buying and selling of shares, there was a “crash” of this market in 1929. Many shares lost much of their value when people panicked and almost everyone tried to sell at the same time.
Unemployed	The condition of being out of work.
Union	A group of workers joined together to protect their interests.
Wages	Money paid to an employee for work done.