

OUT OF THE DARKNESS: The Tennessee Valley Authority and the Great Depression

Name _____ Date _____ Class _____

Directions: Use the information, tools and resources provided online at currentsofchange.net to answer the following questions. Use complete sentences to respond to the short-answer questions.

1. Which President authorized the creation of TVA? If you had been president, would you have authorized the creation of TVA? Why or why not?
2. What year did the President sign the legislation creating TVA?
a) 1909 b) 1929 c) 1933 d) 1945
3. What was the name of the first dam TVA built?
a) Norris Dam b) Wilson Dam c) Douglas Dam
4. Before dams were constructed, large natural disasters would hit the Tennessee Valley each year that would destroy homes and farmland. What were these natural disasters, and how did the dams help?
5. Why did one Tennessee Valley resident once say, "I never even knew when the Depression had come"?
a) They did not have a TV to watch the event
b) Newspapers did not report it
c) They were already too poor to notice the change
d) The Depression was an easy time
6. What name did some Southerners give electricity when it was first introduced?
7. Approximately how many people were moved from their land so that TVA could construct Norris Dam?
8. During the building of the Norris Dam, approximately how many graves did TVA relocate?
a) 100 b) 500 c) 1,000 d) 5,000
9. Imagine you are living in the early 1930s. President Roosevelt has just signed a bill into law creating the Tennessee Valley Authority. You know TVA will bring many changes to your area, but it will also bring economic help. Do you support or oppose these changes? Does this scenario relate to anything happening in our current economy? Use specific examples from the film to back up your response.
10. Look at the chart on currentsofchange.net, which shows the USA GDP (Gross Domestic Product) from 1910-1960. What trend do you see occurring from 1929-1939? Why do you think we see this trend?
11. Look at the chart on currentsofchange.net, which shows the unemployment rate in the U.S. from 1910-1960. What trend do you see occurring from 1929-1939? What events contributed to these changes in the unemployment rate?