



Causes and effects of changes to the welfare system



This sequence is intended as a framework to be modified and adapted by teachers to suit the needs of a class group.

Resources needed

- The making of a welfare state – Sources
- Life during the Great Depression – Worksheet
- Sources recording table – Template
- Writing paragraphs in History – Model and/or
- Writing paragraphs in History – Visualiser
- Writing a bibliography in History – How-to-sheet
- Bibliography example for History

Suggested activity sequence

Part A: Life during the Great Depression

- 1 As a class, develop a Y-chart of what living in Australia during the Great Depression might have looked like, sounded like and felt like.
- 2 Students:
 - read sources B, D, E, H-P
 - complete the *Worksheet*.

- 3 Revisit the Y-chart students completed at the beginning of the activity and invite students to add to it.
- 4 Conduct a class discussion on student findings. Possible discussion points include:
 - how the Great Depression affected different groups of people
 - what life would have been like for these groups of people
 - how people would have felt and thought and why.

Part B: Identifying cause and effect

- 1 Use a *grouping strategy* to organise students into groups of 4.
- 2 Give each group a set of *Sources*.
- 3 Groups refer to these sources to:
 - identify sources that demonstrate either a cause of changes to the welfare system, or effects of changes to the welfare system
 - sort these sources into causes and effects
 - discuss why changes to the welfare system may have happened.
 - discuss the consequences of changes to the welfare system and indicate whether these effects were intended or unintended.



- 4 Discuss findings with the class and record responses on the board under the headings 'Causes' and 'Effects'.
- 5 If applicable, invite students to revisit their initial or revised hypothesis. If it is no longer supported by evidence, have them generate a new hypothesis.

Part C: Writing an evidence-based historical explanation

- 1 Students develop a bibliography that lists the sources they organised into causes and effects. They will need:
 - *Sources recording table – Template*
 - *Writing a bibliography in History – How-to-sheet*
 - *Bibliography example for History*
- 2 Explicitly teach how paragraphs are structured using *Writing paragraphs in History – Visualiser* and/or refer them to *Writing paragraphs in History – Model*.

Students write 1-2 paragraphs explaining the causes and effects of changes to welfare in Australia, using evidence from the sources they identified.

