Major New Deal Acts (1933)

United States bank holiday, 1933: closed all banks until they became certified by federal reviewers. Closed the banks from March 5 to March 13 to keep depositors from bankrupting the banking system by withdrawing all their money.

Abandonment of gold standard, 1933: allowed more money to be put in circulation to create a mild inflation.

Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), 1933: employed young adults to perform unskilled work for the federal government. Work and relief program that sent young, unemployed men from the cities to work on conservation projects in rural areas at a dollar a day. The CCC is credited with constructing many buildings and trails in state and national parks still treasured today, and other work related to land conservation, etc.

Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), 1933: a government program that ran a series of dams built on the Tennessee River. Created to generate electric power and control floods in a seven-U.S.-state region around the Tennessee River Valley.

Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA), 1933: provided breadlines and other aid to the unemployed. FERA's main goal was alleviating adult unemployment. In order to achieve this goal, the FERA provided state assistance for the unemployed and their families. About 500 million dollars were granted to the states. Although costly, this administration provided work for over 20 million people and developed facilities on public lands across the country.

Agricultural Adjustment Act (AAA), 1933: paid farmers to not grow crops. Its purpose was to reduce crop surplus so as to effectively raise the value of crops, thereby giving farmers relative stability again. The farmers were paid subsidies by the federal government for leaving some of their land idle.

National Recovery Act (NRA), 1933: created fair standards in favor of labor unions. Established codes of fair competition aimed at supporting prices and wages and stimulating economic revival from the Great Depression. The law created a National Recovery Administration (NRA) to promote compliance on the part of corporations. Firms which voluntarily complied could display the Blue Eagle.

Civil Works Administration (CWA), 1933: provided temporary jobs to millions of unemployed. Create jobs, for millions of the unemployed. The jobs were to be merely temporary, for the duration of the hard winter. Replaced by FERA in 1934.

Public Works Administration (PWA), 1933: employed middle-aged skilled workers to work on public projects, cost $4 billion. PWA funded and administered the construction of more than 34,000 projects including airports, electricity-generating dams, aircraft carriers, and bridges, as well as 70% of the new schools and 1/3 of the hospitals built between 1933-1939. Some of the most famous PWA projects are the Triborough Bridge and the Lincoln Tunnel in New York City, the Grand Coulee Dam in Washington, and the Key West Highway in Florida. The PWA also electrified the Pennsylvania Railroad between New York and Washington, DC.

Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) / Glass-Steagall Act: insures deposits in banks in order to restore public confidence in banks.

Securities Act of 1933, created the SEC, 1933: codified standards for sale and purchase of stock, required risk of investments to be accurately disclosed. Requires that investors receive financial and other significant information concerning securities being offered for public sale; and prohibited deceit, misrepresentations, and other fraud in the sale of securities.
Major New Deal Acts
1934 and Beyond

Indian Reorganization Act, 1934: The Indian Removal Act of 1934 (called the "Indian New Deal," reversed the forced-assimilation policies in effect since the Dawes Act of 1887. The IRA tried to stop the loss of Indian lands and encouraged Native American tribes to establish local self-government and to preserve their native crafts and traditions.

Social Security Act (SSA), 1935: provided financial assistance to: elderly, handicapped, delinquent, unemployed; paid for by employee and employer payroll contributions.

Works Progress Administration (WPA), 1935: a reiteration of the PWA, created useful work for skilled workers. Provided jobs and income to the unemployed during the Great Depression. WPA projects primarily employed blue-collar workers in construction projects across the nation, but also employed white-collar workers and artists on smaller-scale projects, and even ran a circus. The WPA built 650,000 miles of roads, 78,000 bridges, 125,000 buildings, and seven hundred miles of airport runways... It presented 225,000 concerts to audiences totalling 150 million, and produced almost 475,000 works of art.

National Labor Relations Act (NLRA) / Wagner Act, 1935: granted right of labor unions to exist. Protects the rights of most workers in the private sector of the United States to organize unions, to engage in collective bargaining over wages, hours, and terms and conditions of employment, and to take part in strikes and other forms of concerted activity in support of their demands.

Judicial Reorganization Bill, 1937: FDR requested power to appoint a new Supreme Court judge for every judge 70 years or older; failed to pass. The president proposed that the federal judiciary be expanded by adding one new judge for each sitting justice over the age of seventy; a total of fifty new judgeships could be created, including a maximum of six on the Supreme Court.

Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA), 1938: established a maximum normal work week of 40 hours, and a national minimum wage of 40 cents/hour. Also guaranteed time and a half for overtime, and prohibited most employment of minors.