

**SS8H9 The student will describe the impact of World War II on Georgia's development economically, socially, and politically.**

- d. Discuss President Roosevelt's ties to Georgia including his visits to Warm Springs and his impact on the state.

### FDR'S IMPACT ON GEORGIA

One of President Roosevelt's New Deal programs that did not work was the National Industrial Recovery Act (NIRA). The NIRA was designed to help workers by setting minimum wages, permitting them to organize unions, and allowing factories to cut back on production. (A **minimum wage** is the least amount an employer can pay an employee for a certain number of hours worked.) In Georgia, this legislation mainly affected the textile industry. Although labor unions had been active in the North for many years, most manufacturers in the South had forbidden unions.

Roosevelt's NIRA posed a major threat to mill owners. They reacted by using the **stretch out**, a practice requiring workers to tend more machines. Under this practice, workers had to do the same amount of work in an 8-hour shift that they had previously done in a 12-hour shift. It was a brutal, if not impossible, schedule and clearly against the intent of the law.

In August 1934, textile workers all over the South joined in a strike called by the Textile Workers of America union. (A **strike** is a work stoppage in protest over some grievance.) In Macon, for example, 3,500 mill workers walked off their jobs. Across Georgia, some 45,000 union workers took part. The strike caused financial hardships for the workers, and on September 22, the union called off the strike. In 1935, the U.S. Supreme Court declared the NIRA unconstitutional. To replace it, Congress quickly passed several laws to protect workers.

One New Deal program was more popular in Georgia. As a result of the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), we now have Blue Ridge Lake (which was actually created in 1925), Lake Chatuge, and Lake Nottely.

In 1924, Franklin D. Roosevelt began visiting Warm Springs as treatment for his polio. He made so many trips to the springs that he built a comfortable but small house there in 1932. When he became president, it became known as the "Little White House." On March 30, 1945, the president returned to the Little White House. He planned to rest and work on a speech for the United Nations. On April 24, Roosevelt was sitting for a portrait. Suddenly, the president put his hand to his head and said, "I have a terrific headache."

At 5:48 p.m., a stunned nation learned of the death of the man who had led the country through recovery from the depression, through the New Deal, and to the brink of victory in World War II. He had suffered a massive stroke.

As Roosevelt's body was carried by train from Warm Springs back to the nation's capital, the tracks were lined by thousands of crying Georgians who had come to think of Roosevelt as one of their own. Whole families stood alongside the railroad tracks to say goodbye to their beloved president.

\_\_\_\_\_ **383. How did the NIRA affect Georgia?**

- A. It outlawed unions in the textile industry.
- B. It resulted in a strike in the textile industry.
- C. It enabled factory owners to hire more workers.
- D. It created better working conditions in the textile industry.

\_\_\_\_\_ **384. Why did Franklin Roosevelt spend so much time in Georgia?**

- A. Roosevelt used the warm mineral waters of Warm Springs to ease his polio.
- B. Roosevelt was a native of Augusta and traveled widely across the state.
- C. Roosevelt's wife was a native of Calhoun and visited relatives.
- D. Roosevelt had originally been a farmer and he loved farm life.