

# INTERPRETING POLITICAL CARTOONS



## Activity 11

### THE GREAT DEPRESSION

By 1932—three years after the crash of the stock market—almost half of the banks in the United States had failed, unemployment was nearing 30 percent, and stocks had fallen to about 20 percent of their pre-crash value. It may seem that such a situation was no laughing matter and that political cartooning would, therefore, decline. As the following cartoon shows, however, people still found a way to satirize events even when conditions were at their worst.

**Directions:** Study the cartoon below, and then answer the questions that follow.

A WISE ECONOMIST ASKS A QUESTION



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(continued)

**ANALYZING THE CARTOON ACTIVITY 11** *(continued)*

1. What does the man on the park bench represent?

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2. What does the location of the man (sitting on a park bench) add to the cartoon?

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3. How is the man caricatured to show that he is a responsible citizen?

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**CRITICAL THINKING**

4. **Making Inferences** Why do you think the cartoonist chose a squirrel for this cartoon? What can you infer about the cartoonist's choice?

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5. **Determining Cause and Effect** What were the causes of the Great Depression?

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6. **Synthesizing Information** Read the next chapter in your textbook. What short-term and long-term measures did President Franklin Roosevelt take to handle the rash of bank failures?

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