

**FDR: The Alphabet President**  
**Middle Grades through High School level**  
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**Summary:**

This activity sheet is for either a review of the material learned, or can be used to teach the various programs implemented by FDR during his presidency.

**Time Allotted:**

Depending on how it is used- as a review, one 60 minute class period. As an on going learning (note taking) activity- two to three 60 minute periods.

**Materials Needed:**

Paper, writing utensils, and text describing the various programs. If you wanted to manipulate what was on the worksheet for the students, this activity would/could be computer based.

**Directions:**

Each student is to get a worksheet. If it is used as a review, the students can use their books and notes to fill in the missing categories. If it is to be used in conjunction with text book reading, lecture or computer based learning, they may fill it out as they go.

**Background Information:**

FDR was known as the “Alphabet Soup” president because of the acronyms of his many programs. Each of his programs was designed to give relief, recovery, or reform to some aspect of the economy. The following is a quote from his fireside chat on June 28, 1934...

“...I have continued to recognize three related steps. The **first was relief**, because the primary concern of any government dominated by the humane ideals of democracy is the simple principle that in a land of vast resources no one should be permitted to starve. Relief was and continues to be our first consideration. It calls for large expenditures and will continue in modified form to do so for a long time to come. We may as well recognize that fact. It comes from the paralysis that arose as the aftereffect of that unfortunate decade characterized by a mad chase for unearned riches, and an unwillingness of leaders in almost every walk of life to look beyond their own schemes and speculations.

In our administration of relief we follow two principles: first, that direct giving shall, wherever possible, be supplemented by provision for useful and remunerative work; and second, that where families in their existing surroundings will in all human probability never find an opportunity for full self-maintenance, happiness, and enjoyment, we shall try to give them a new chance in new surroundings.

The **second step was recovery**, and it is sufficient for me to ask each and every one of you to compare the situation in agriculture and in industry today with what it was fifteen months ago. At the same time we have recognized the necessity of **reform and reconstruction-reform** because much of our trouble today and in the past few years has been due to a lack of understanding of the elementary principles of justice and fairness by those in whom leadership in business and finance was placed-reconstruction because new conditions in our economic life as well as old but neglected conditions had to be corrected. "

I have placed the worksheet on its own page so that you may print it out individually if you wish. The following page is an answer key for you.

Acronym	Complete Name	Relief, Reform, or Recovery	Description of Program
AAA			
CCC			
FDIC			
NIRA			
CWA			
PWA			
TVA			
FHA			

Acronym	Complete Name	Relief, Reform, or Recovery	Description of Program
AAA	Agricultural Adjustment Act	Recovery	Limited crop production in order to increase crop prices & help reduce surplus
CCC	Civilian Conservation Corp	Relief	Designed to put young men to work. Planted trees to prevent soil erosion.
FDIC	Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation	Reform	Provided federal insurance for bank depositors
NIRA	National Industrial Recovery Act	Recovery	Established a code of fair practices for business. Set minimum wage and maximum hours.
CWA	Civil Works Administration	Relief	Created 4 million jobs. Built 40,000 schools and ½ million miles of roads.
PWA	Public Works Administration	Recovery	Provided cash to states so they could build schools, libraries, and community buildings.
TVA	Tennessee Valley Authority	Reform	Built dams that provided electricity, flood control, and jobs for poor farmers.
FHA	Federal Housing Administration	Relief	Created low interest rate home loans