**Contextualization Tool**

* **Broad**: Does the context represent broader themes, trends, events, eras, or regions related to the historical development at hand? Does it represent a long-term (underlying) cause or contributing factor?
* **Narrow**: Does the context represent themes, trends, events, eras, or regions that are more closely tied in time/place to the historical development at hand? Does it help us see the short-term (immediate) causes or contributing factors?

**Directions:** Respond to each of the prompts below.

1. Write the date(s) and location(s) of the historical event being studied.

|  |
| --- |
| 1929 to 1940, worldwide |

1. Take the event cards and divide them up into broad and narrow context.
	* Broad context:
		+ From the fifteenth century through the nineteenth century, European nations established colonies around the world.
		+ Imperial nations and their colonies were politically and economically tied to one another.
		+ The First World War was the first total war. It included nation-states and colonies from every region of the world.
		+ After the First World War, European nations took out loans from the American government, banks, and investors to rebuild Europe.
		+ After the Allies won the First World War, consumerism increased, with many people buying goods through loans or credit.
	* Narrow context:
		+ In America, the top 1 percent of the population owned more than half the nation’s wealth.
		+ Wealthy Wall Street financiers made risky investments in the stock market.
		+ In 1929, the US stock market crashed, which negatively impacted financial markets around the world.
		+ Global manufacturing and trade significantly declined after 1929.
		+ As manufacturing and trade declined, global unemployment rates skyrocketed.
		+ People cut back on buying non-essential goods.
		+ Many governments responded to the financial crisis by placing taxes on foreign goods.
2. Place them on the funnel in their appropriate location. Be prepared to explain your placement.
3. Write three to four sentences that describes the broad context.

|  |
| --- |
| Starting in the fifteenth century, the world became more interconnected as Europeans invaded the Americas and Australasia and began to establish colonies around the world. Imperial nations were closely tied to their colonies politically and economically. After the Industrial Revolution, European nations and the United States were able to establish more colonies, which were also politically and economically tied to their respective colonizing countries. Global interconnections increased as new alliances were made and networks thickened. In 1914, the First World War (which was the first total, global war) left Europe devastated. European nations sought to rebuild their countries with loans financed through the American government and banks. After the war, consumer spending increased as manufacturers that were once devoted to the war effort began transitioning to consumer goods. People began to buy these goods on credit because they didn’t hold enough wealth to buy them outright. |

1. Write three to four sentences that describes the narrow content.

|  |
| --- |
| America recovered from the First World War quickly, especially wealthy Americans, or the 1 percent who owned about half the country’s wealth. Many of these wealthy Americans made risky investments in the stock market. In 1929, the US stock market crashed, and people panicked, taking their money out of banks. Since global financial systems were interconnected, the American stock market crash impacted people around the world, especially European nations that relied on American loans and financing. As a result of the crash, global production and trade decreased, unemployment skyrocketed and people could no longer afford non-essential goods, and governments began placing tariffs on foreign-produced goods. |

1. Write one to two sentences analyzing how the broad and narrow context help you better understand the historical event.

|  |
| --- |
| The broad context helps us understand the historical background related to how global systems became more interconnected from the fifteenth century through the First World War. The narrow context helps us understand the specifics of how the American stock market crash impacted global financial markets, the production and distribution of goods, and unemployment rates around the world. |

1. Use information from the Contextualization Tool and the article “Global Great Depression” to write a three-paragraph mini-essay that answers the following prompt: *What was it about the* ***economic and political*** *situation of the early twentieth century that allowed for the global disaster that was the Great Depression?*

|  |
| --- |
| Student answers will vary. |

**Broad Context**

**Narrow Context**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Historical Event/Development: |  |

## Contextualization: Feedback Form

**Directions:** Check the criteria met for each category and leave notes for your students specifying what they did well and what they can do to improve. Any crossed-out areas will not be evaluated as part of this activity.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Broad Context** | [ ]  No broad context is identified. | [ ]  Historical context is described | [ ]  A brief analysis of the historical context is provided. | [ ]  An extended analysis of the historical context is provided. |
| **Notes** |

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Narrow Context** | [ ]  No narrow context is identified. | [ ]  Narrow context is identified. | [ ]  A brief analysis of the narrow context is provided. | [ ]  An extended analysis of the narrow context is provided. |
| **Notes** |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Analysis** | [ ]  No description of how context helps to explain the historical event is provided. | [ ]  A brief description of how context helps to explain the historical event is provided. | [ ]  An extended description of how context helps to explain the historical event is provided. |
| **Notes** |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Historical accuracy** | [ ]  Incorrectly refers to historical content and may include misconceptions of that content.[ ]  There are many minor errors or a major error in applying historical content.[ ]  Uses many unsupported opinions. | [ ]  Avoids explicit misconceptions of the content.[ ]  May make an occasional minor error in applying historical content.[ ]  Uses some unsupported opinions. | [ ]  Avoids misconceptions.[ ]  There are no errors in applying historical content.[ ]  Avoids using unsupported opinions. |
| **Notes** |