

## **Who was FDR?**

- Franklin Delano Roosevelt born in 1882, from a rich family.
- Law degree from Harvard
- Married his cousin Eleanor Roosevelt, niece of President Theodore Roosevelt.
- New York law firm in 1907, so rich didn't need to work, shifted to politics.
- Ran for New York state senate, voted for him because of name, was rather boring and not pleasant.
- WWI became Assistant Secretary of State for the Navy.

## **Good Leader?**

- 1921, at the age of 39 he was crippled with Polio, slow recovery, became governor of New York in 1928
- 1932, ran against Republican President Hoover.
- Good orator, made 15 speeches a day during campaign
- Rode the rails around the country, even with Polio.
- Was shocked by the poverty that the Great Depression caused, wanted people to be as lucky as he had been
- He put out different views that he thought people wanted to hear, said to the actor Orson Welles "you know Orson, you and I are the two best actors in America"

## **1932 Election**

- 1932, no end in sight for unemployment, millions were out of work looking for food, shelter and work
- Protests in many cities, 5000 marched on the Ford factory in Detroit demanding work, four men were killed
- Hoover was not a good speaker, blamed Depression on foreign bankers, still pushed laissez-faire

- Hoover had created cardboard cities for the homeless, high rate of crime, garnered the nickname "Hooverilles", newspapers were known as "Hoover blankets"
- Hoover refused to help veterans of WWI who asked for their war pensions early, looked like he was not supporting the armed forces
- 1932 Democratic National Convention, his opponent Garner, joined his ticket as VP which brought support from California and Texas
- During his acceptance speech he stated he was breaking from tradition and promised a "New Deal for the American people"
- Portrayed confidence in America and that things would improve, never actually gave details.
- Won the election, only lost in states Penn., Delaware, Connecticut, Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine.