

Dorothea Lange and the FSA Photographers



"Migrant Mother" (1936)

Directions: Read the passage below. Then, answer the questions that follow.

During the Great Depression, many workers in America lost their jobs. The government started a program called the Farm Security Administration, or the FSA, to help those that needed it. As part of the program, they sent out a team of photographers to take pictures of struggling families, and later, of daily life during World War II. Many of the photographers were women.

The most famous woman on the team was Dorothea Lange. Her photograph, "Migrant Mother," is the most famous photo taken during that time. Her work helped show the consequences of the Great Depression.

Marion Post Wolcott was another FSA photographer. Before she started with the FSA, she had been working as a newspaper photographer. She was frustrated with her work because she was always being asked to photograph "ladies' stories," like fashion shows. However, her photographer friends believed in her, and convinced the FSA to hire her.

A similar thing happened to Louise Rosskam. When she and her husband, also a photographer, both applied to a magazine, they hired him but refused to hire her. They both later found jobs with the FSA. Ann Rosener liked to take photos of women working in factories and other "men's" jobs to support their families.

The women that worked for the FSA showed the world that photography could do more than just make people look pretty — it could be used to reveal real problems in the world. Exposing problems can help change peoples' minds about important issues.

1. Complete the graphic organizer below.

| <p>What is important? Record the important information in the boxes.</p> | <p>Why? Explain why the information is important.</p> |
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| | |

Name _____

Date _____

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2. What quote from the text can you use to support the conclusion that women were influential during the Great Depression?

3. What can you infer from the sentence below?

"She was frustrated with her work because she was always being asked to photograph 'ladies' stories,' like fashion shows."

4. Complete the graphic organizer below with the main idea and details from the text.

Main Idea:

Detail:

Detail:

Detail: