

**George C. Marshall**  
**1953**

*Two words became his guide -  
honor and self-sacrifice*

George C. Marshall was a career soldier. He was chosen for the Nobel Peace Prize. He led the U.S. Army in World War II. After the War, Marshall helped rebuild Europe. This earned him respect and praise from millions.

George Marshall began his Army career after college. He showed great leadership in World War I. Then he lived in Washington, D.C. with his first wife. She died suddenly after they lived in China. Three years later he married Katherine Brown.



In the 1930's, we had the **Great** helped the country by taking a pay cut. Many soldiers couldn't feed their families. Marshall taught his men to grow their food. He helped establish Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) projects. These national projects gave people jobs. People built bridges and repaired roads. They made buildings that we can still see.

- **The Marshall Plan helped restore Europe after WW II.**
- **Marshall helped start the Civilian Conservation Corps**
- **Marshall took a pay cut during the Depression to set an example**

President Roosevelt made Marshall Army Chief-of-Staff in September 1939. He was promoted from a one-star to a four-star general overnight. Then Hitler's troops invaded Poland. There was another war in Europe. Marshall's organizing skills helped win the war. By 1943, the Allies turned the war around. The war in Europe was won in 1945.

President Truman asked him to become U.S. Secretary of State. He was given

the task of rebuilding Europe. He started a program to help Europe recover. This was called the **Marshall Plan**. America sent huge amounts of money to Europe. In today's dollars, it would be about \$130 billion.

The Marshall Plan worked. Europe's economy had **surpassed** pre-war levels. The transportation systems were restored. People had jobs and plenty to eat. President Truman made Marshall the Secretary of Defense.

Marshall won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1953. Truman later called Marshall "the greatest living American."

Marshall **resigned** from office in 1951. He returned to his home in Virginia. He died in 1959. He served his country for over forty years.

## **Activities**

Talk about why Truman called Marshall the greatest American. Who else won the Prize for work in World War II? (Emily Balch, John Mott)

### **Vocabulary Terms**

- 1. Marshall Plan**
- 2. Great Depression**
- 3. Surpassed**
- 4. Resigned**

### **Discussion Questions**

1. What was the Civilian Conservation Corps?
2. What were some ways that Marshall got complete respect from his soldiers and the president?
3. What was the Great Depression? How did it affect the United States?
4. Why was the Marshall Plan successful?
5. Good leaders have different styles. How was Marshall's style different from other leaders?
6. Is it better to be very smart or work very hard? Explain your answer

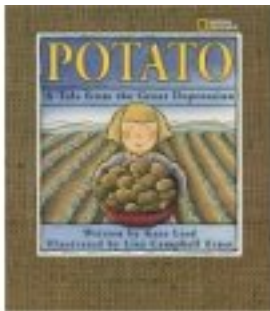
### **Activity**

1. Interview an older person about what the Great Depression was like. Ask parents to tell what they know of the depression. Report back to class.
2. Talk about the Civilian Conservation Corps, and how was it important to people. Make posters to advertise joining the corps. Present to class.
3. Make small groups to talk about how to prevent World War II. What should the leaders do? What would you do to make the plan work? Make a picture of your plan.
4. Invite a person from a local Beyond War group (see national headquarters phone # in Resources) to come talk about how to resolve conflict peacefully. If no groups in your area, call and request materials that could be discussed in class.

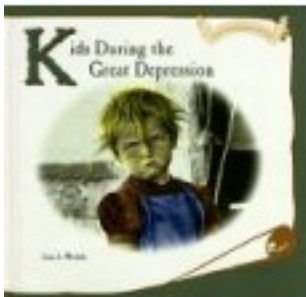
## Read Together



Children of the Great Depression by Russell Freedman



Potato: A Tale From the Great Depression by Kate Lied



Kids During the Great Depression by Lisa A. Wroble

## Technology Option

Go to [http://nobelprize.org/educational\\_games/peace/nuclear\\_weapons/](http://nobelprize.org/educational_games/peace/nuclear_weapons/)  
Read the directions for the game about nuclear weapons, and then play the game.

## **Resources**

“George C. Marshall.” [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George\\_Marshall](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Marshall)

The Marshall Foundation <http://www.marshallfoundation.org/>

The Marshall Films Collection <http://www.marshallfilms.org/>

The Marshall Plan Speech.

[http://www.georgecmarshall.org/lt/speeches/marshall\\_plan.cfm/](http://www.georgecmarshall.org/lt/speeches/marshall_plan.cfm/)

[http://nobelprize.org/educational\\_games/peace/nuclear\\_weapons/](http://nobelprize.org/educational_games/peace/nuclear_weapons/)

Beyond War: National office; Eugene, Oregon

Phone: 541-485-0911