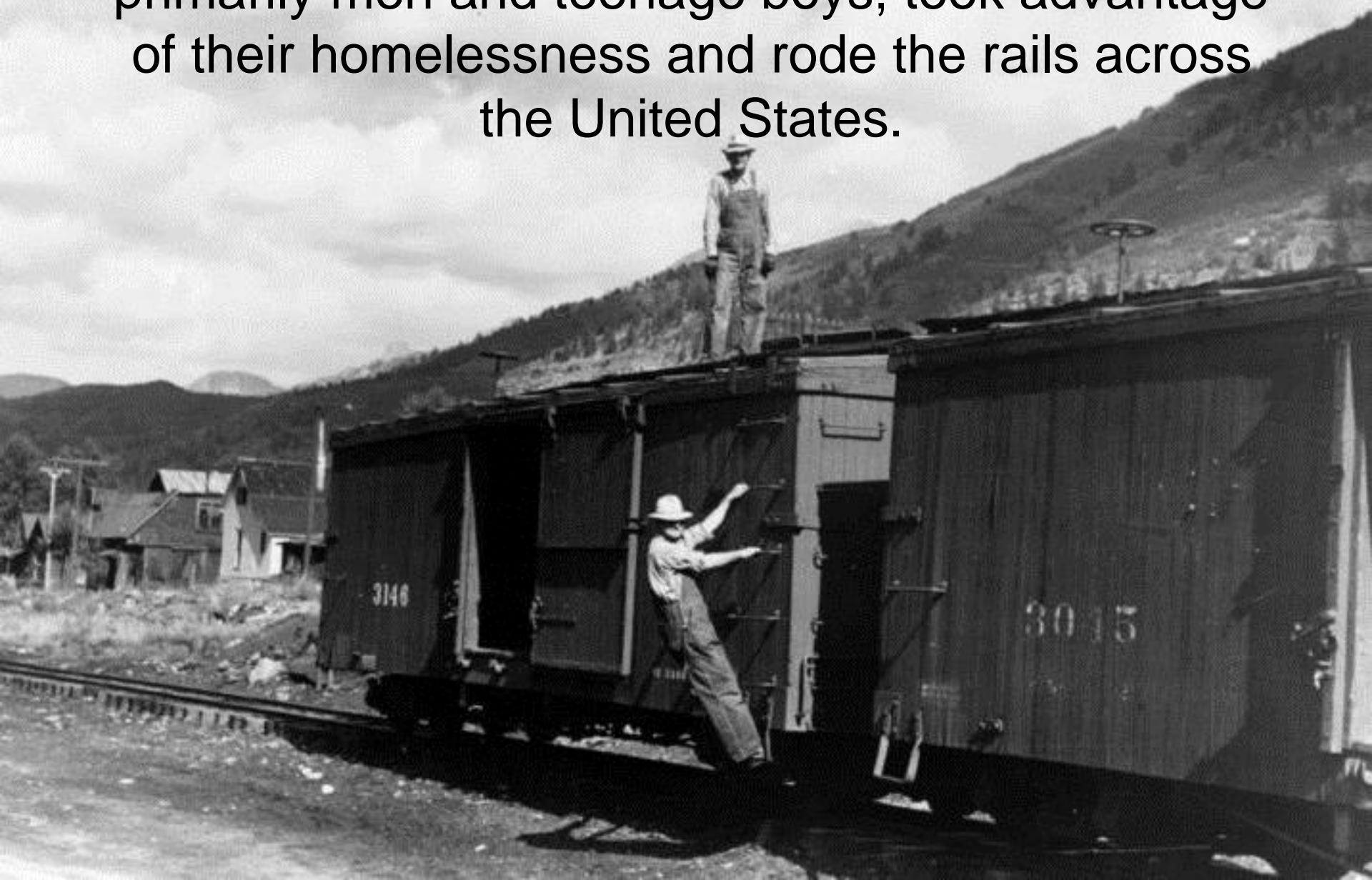


# Test Your Hobo Skills Warm-Up

During the Great Depression some people, primarily men and teenage boys, took advantage of their homelessness and rode the rails across the United States.



**Since people reacted in different ways to these homeless “hobos”, these wanderers began to use markings to help fellow hobos who came after them.**



**These might be left in chalk on a fencepost, on the side of building, or some other place that would be visible to other hobos who came along later.**





**Take the following  
quiz on hobo  
markings and see  
how well you'd do  
as a hobo during the  
Great Depression.**



You jump off the train when it slows down at a small town crossing. After wandering through town, you stop at a small, cozy-looking farm just outside the town. The smell of freshly baked bread wafts toward you from the open kitchen window. You are about to go try to sneak some of the bread when you notice the marking below in white chalk on the side of the fencepost.

### What do you do?

1. Steal the bread,
2. Knock on the door and ask for food,
3. Keep walking?

Hopefully you chose to keep walking. This sign means “[Man With a Gun](#)”. If you had tried to steal the bread you might have been shot.



You keep walking until you see another farmhouse and an old barn. You think you'll try to sneak into the barn and sleep there for the night but notice the marking below carved into a nearby fence post. Based on this marking, do you:



1. Sleep in the barn
2. Go to the farmhouse and ask for food
3. Keep walking?

X

If you chose to keep walking then  
you missed a free meal. This sign  
means “Good for a handout”

X





The next day you are walking by a small house when you notice that they have a large apple tree with plenty of juicy, ripe apples on some low branches. You think about hopping the fence and grabbing a few for dinner but see the marking below marked on the fence. Based on the marking, do you:



- 1. Steal the apples**
- 2. Just go to the door and ask for a few**
- 3. Keep walking**



**Hopefully you either went to the door and asked or kept walking. If you had hopped the fence you might be in some pain.**

**This sign means  
“Mean Dog Here”**

You see the following sign on the side of a brick building while you're walking through town.

What is this telling you?

That you should:

1. Get out of town quick
2. Ask for a job
3. Pretend you are sick?



The sign  means that **work is available**. Go inside the building and see if you get a job for the day!



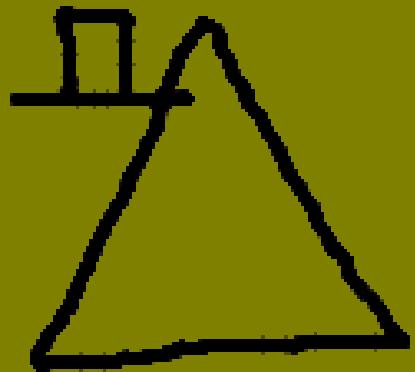
You are about to leave town when you see the following sign near a house.



You can hear the train coming and you want to catch it, but this sign makes you pause. Should you:

- 1. Ask for a handout at this house?**
- 2. Ask for a job?**
- 3. Catch your train?**

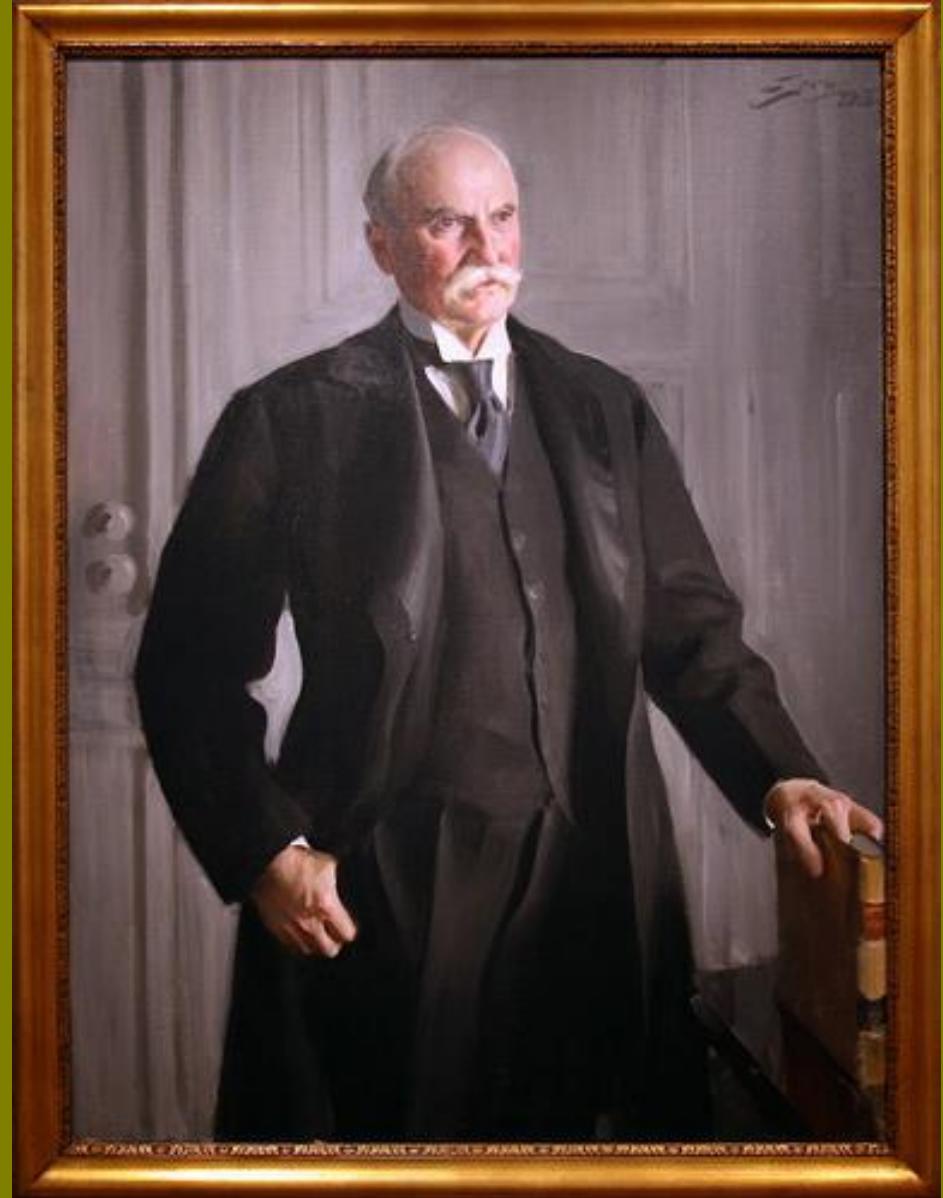




You might want to catch  
the next train.

This might be a good  
place to ask for money  
since the sign means

**“Wealthy people live  
here”**





# How did you do?

**4-5 Correct Answers:**

(Super Hobo)

You would be able to survive as a hobo.

**2-3 Correct Answers:**

(Hobo Poser)

You might want to talk to other hobos to learn the correct markings

**0-1 Correct Answers:**

Don't become a hobo.