

## Clues for Frances Perkins

1. She was born in 1880 in Boston to a father who believed in education and a grandmother who would say “Take the high ground if someone insults you.”
2. Her mother taught her to help neighbors in need; she knew first aid and often kids turned to her when they were hurt.
3. She was a thinker, watcher and listener who in high school mastered Latin and Greek and even though she was shy became a star debater.
4. While at Mount Holyoke College a professor required her to observe the depressing conditions in the nearby paper and textile mills where small children worked long hours beside adults pivoting her to become a fierce fighter for women’s, children’s and workers’ rights.
5. Witnessed the horrible 1911 Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire. 146 workers died most were women and teenage girls because there were no fire escapes. This prompted her to accept the invitation to chair the male only New York City Committee on Safety.
6. In 1929 the governor of New York Franklin D. Roosevelt appointed her state’s industrial commissioner overseeing 1800 employees.
7. When FDR became President in 1932, he appointed her secretary of labor - the first woman ever to join a presidential cabinet.
8. During the first on hundred days on the job she kept two phones on her desk and would sometimes answer both at the same time.
9. For years she kept her ideas on strips of paper in a desk drawer which she used to make her To-Do- List which help execute legislation for FDR’s “NEW DEAL”.

10. She drafted laws which included the Civilian Conservation Corps, the She-  
She-Camps and her most cherished dream the Social Security Act.

11. In pictures of FDR's presidential cabinet meetings she was the only woman  
in the photo which is the name of a picture book by Kathleen Krull

12. Today the Department of Labor is housed in a building named after her.

13. In college her nick names were Fanny and Perk.