

American Experience: Surviving the Dust Bowl

1. What was referred to as “Black Blizzards”?
2. Why was it good to be a farmer on the Southern Plains in 1931?
3. What did farmers think the soil looked like on the plains?
4. How did advertisers pitch the plains to the farmers?
5. What product was said to be able to “win the war”?
6. How did farmers respond to these claims?
7. What happened in the summer of 1931?
8. What did the Red Cross do to try and help out the people in the affected areas?
9. How many acres of Southern Plains were turned into wasteland?
10. Which states were affected by the drought?
11. How did people try and protect themselves from the dust?
12. How did people think they could tell where a dust storm originated?
13. How was the Dust Bowl viewed by Washington?
14. How did the farmers feel about government assistance?
15. What did the government do in 1934 to aid farmers?
16. What did some Americans see as the difference between the Dust Bowl and the Sahara?
17. Why was it necessary for the Dustbowlers to conduct “rabbit drives”?
18. What was April 14, 1935 known as? Why?
19. What happened to the man who drove his car off the road?
20. How did the Bible confirm the worst fears of those who survived Black Tuesday?
21. How many days did the winds blow continuously during the Spring of 1935?
22. What illness struck many children and adults that lived in the Dust Bowl?
23. Where did many Dustbowlers move in search of jobs?
24. What percentage of the population left the region?
25. What effect did the departure of so many people have on the rural communities?
26. What was the “Last Man’s Club”?

27. What was the crow's nest made out of?
28. What was Tex Thorton's solution to end the drought?
29. What argument was used by environmental specialists for returning farming to the plains?
30. How many tons of dust landed in Chicago?
31. What was the purpose of the film "The Plow That Broke the Plains"?
32. How did the government encourage farmers to use new conservation methods?
33. By 1938, blowing soil had been reduced by what percentage because of conservation efforts?
34. What were the people of the plains becoming reliant upon to survive?
35. When did the rain return to the plains?
36. What had the farmers learned as a result of the 10 year drought?