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Reading
Passages

The Dust Bowl

The Great Plains

The people living on the Great Plains—from the province of Saskatchewan in Canada south through Montana, North and South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Wyoming, Colorado, Oklahoma, and Texas—took a double hit during the Great Depression. Farmers had plowed under the tough prairie grasses which for thousands of years fed the native buffalo of the plains. In place of these grasses, they planted wheat which grew well but needed plenty of rain and good soil to produce bumper crops. Wheat did not hold the topsoil well, and the land was easily eroded by wind and water.

Drought and Insects

Between 1931 and 1937, the Great Plains was hit by a long and brutal drought with virtually no rain. Farmers planted seeds and desperately hoped for rain. The little rain there allowed crops to start growing, but the plants then withered from a lack of more rainfall. Sometimes only a few seeds sprouted, and there were no roots to hold the loose topsoil so the plants could grow. Southern Kansas, the panhandle of western Oklahoma, and northern Texas were especially hard hit and became known as the *Dust Bowl*.

An insect invasion caused even more problems for farmers. Swarms of grasshoppers swept across thousands of acres, eating every plant in their path and even clothes hanging on the wash line to dry.

Black Blizzards

The wind usually blows a lot on the plains, but during the Dust Bowl years, there were terrible dust storms called *black blizzards*. The dust would blow at tremendous speeds and pile up in huge dunes next to houses, barns, and trees. Sometimes the loose dirt buried fences which were six feet high. The endlessly blowing dust seeped into every house through cracks in doors, windows, or boards. Everything inside became covered with a layer of fine dirt. At mealtimes glasses of water or milk had to be covered, or dust would turn the drinks brown. People even covered their food as they ate. People would wake up in the morning and see their pillow covered with a thick layer of dust except where their head had laid. Children and adults covered their faces with wet cloths to help them breathe during these terrible storms.

The wind stripped away the topsoil, making the land on the plains much less fertile and less likely to nurture crops when rain did come. The soil from the plains blew all the way to the Atlantic Ocean, where it even covered ships at sea. Farmers tried to protect their cattle, chickens, and other animals from the dust, but barns were no protection. Most farmers had animals that died or became sick by breathing dust and eating poor food. Farmers and their families gathered weeds and wild plants to try to provide some moisture for their animals. Cows that survived often provided very little milk because of the poor nourishment.

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The Dust Bowl (cont.)

Buried Dreams

Many homes had to be shoveled out because the dust was so thick. Brooms could not move the thick piles of dirt. Fences had to be dug out and replaced. Entire farms and towns were buried in mounds of dirt. Cars, horses, cattle, and wagons were often buried. Some children and older people got lost in the storms and died. Unable to grow crops, many farmers lost their farms to the banks that held the loans on the land and buildings.



On the Move

Tens of thousands of families were forced to leave their farms and travel elsewhere to live. Some went to live with relatives, but most families loaded what few possessions they still owned and tried to find work. Over 2½ million people left their homes on the plains. Some went to Idaho, Oregon, and Washington. Some wandered through the Midwest or headed east hoping for work or even an occasional job for a day or two.

Some families traveled by horse and wagon. A few families had old *jalopies*, broken-down cars or trucks, on which they loaded their possessions. Many had nothing but hand carts or children's wagons to carry their clothes and belongings. They walked and pulled or pushed these carts and wagons.

The Great Migration

People from Oklahoma and Texas especially struggled to survive. Over one million people headed for California, where they hoped to find jobs working on farms or picking crops. They traveled across the southwestern states to California any way they could. Those with vehicles drove until they ran out of gas and then waited until kind strangers drove by and let them take a few gallons of gas out of their tank. Sometimes an entire family would push its old truck, car, or wagon up hills and along roads. Other people walked or got occasional rides from strangers as they headed west.

These travelers kept clean as best they could by washing in ditches. In order to survive they ate coffee grounds, carrot tops, apple cores, and garbage they got from farms or town dumps along the way. They were poor and desperate, and many communities just wanted them to move on. This was one of the largest migrations, or movement, of people across the country in American history.

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The Dust Bowl (cont.)

Moving West

When these weary travelers reached the West, they tried to start over. In Oregon they cut trees. In Washington they helped build dams. In Idaho they settled on abandoned land.

In California these families camped wherever they could. They made shacks of cardboard and tin, slept under bridges, or camped in the bottoms of dry rivers or lakes. California offered few opportunities. Some families were able to find work as migrant laborers, picking crops for large produce farms. They faced competition from Mexican and Japanese migrant workers as well. An entire family sometimes made only a few dollars a week.



Most of these people had no place to go, no food for their families, no gas for their vehicles, and no hope for work. Children lived on lard sandwiches, boiled cabbage, and corn bread if they were lucky. The water supply, whether from streams or ditches, quickly became polluted because it was used for drinking, washing clothes, bathing, and a toilet.

Contagious diseases and infections were very common. Mosquitoes and other insects spread disease too. During the rainy season, the camps were muddy and filthy. Many children and older people died from malnutrition, illness, and injuries.

A few migrants returned to the Dust Bowl, but most stayed in the West and hoped for the best. The federal government's efforts to end the Depression gave many of these people a chance at a new life. The *New Deal* (see pages 17 and 18) that President Franklin D. Roosevelt set up finally offered hope for these migrants.

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The Dust Bowl Quiz

Directions: Read pages 12–14 about the Dust Bowl. Answer each question below by circling the correct answer.

- From 1931 to 1937 the Great Plains experienced
 - snowstorms
 - floods
 - drought
 - earthquakes
- Which word means a long period with no rain?
 - blizzard
 - drought
 - bumper
 - erosion
- What were black blizzards?
 - dust storms
 - hail storms
 - snowstorms
 - thunderstorms
- In which state did migrants from the Dust Bowl sometimes get work picking crops on large farms?
 - Texas
 - California
 - Oklahoma
 - Idaho
- What are *jalopies*?
 - migrant workers
 - hand carts
 - broken-down cars or trucks
 - horse-drawn wagons
- How many people from the Great Plains left during the Dust Bowl years?
 - $\frac{1}{2}$ million
 - $2\frac{1}{2}$ million
 - 1 million
 - 9,000
- How did the dust storms affect people and animals?
 - smothered them
 - killed the insects
 - made them sick
 - both a and c
- What destroyed crops besides dust storms?
 - cows
 - thunderstorms
 - grasshoppers
 - lightning
- Why was wheat bad for the soil?
 - it grew too tall
 - it did not hold the topsoil
 - it did not need rain
 - it was used to make bread
- Which was not a problem found in migrant camps?
 - too much food
 - contagious diseases
 - polluted water
 - insects

Insanity Video Follow-up

Name: _____

Answer the following questions on a scale of 1-5 (1 being the least/easy & 5 being the most/difficult)
Circle your response.

How difficult was it to stay up with the people in the "Insanity" video?

1 2 3 4 5

How difficult were the exercises on the video for you?

1 2 3 4 5

Rate your personal effort during the video.

1 2 3 4 5

Would this be a workout that you would try in the future?

1 2 3 4 5

What could you do to improve your level of fitness?

What things can you take out of your weekly routine and replace with more physical activity?

Miller - 7th grade Music (Not band)

Song Lyrics & Poetry

Name: _____

Identify, label, and explain the type of poetic device used in the song lyrics (devices may include: imagery devices such as metaphors, similes, personification, hyperbole; sound devices such as alliteration, assonance, consonance, onomatopoeia, rhyme)

<p>"Firework" by Katy Perry Identify & Label the Poetic Devices</p>	<p>Explain the Poetic Devices Used</p>
<p>Do you ever feel like a plastic bag Drifting through the wind Wanting to start again</p>	
<p>Do you ever feel, feel so paper thin Like a house of cards One blow from caving in</p>	
<p>Do you ever feel already buried deep Six feet under scream But no one seems to hear a thing</p>	
<p>Do you know that there's still a chance for you 'Cause there's a spark in you You just gotta ignite the light And let it shine Just own the night Like the Fourth of July</p>	
<p>(Chorus) Cause baby you're a firework Come on show 'em what your worth Make 'em go "Oh, oh, oh!" As you shoot across the sky Baby you're a firework Come on let your colors burst Make 'em go "Oh, oh, oh!" You're gonna leave 'em fallin' down</p>	
<p>You don't have to feel like a waste of space You're original, cannot be replaced If you only knew what the future holds After a hurricane comes a rainbow</p>	
<p>Maybe you're the reason why all the doors are closed So you can open one that leads you to the perfect road Like a lightning bolt, your heart will blow And when it's time, you'll know You just gotta ignite the light And let it shine Just own the night Like the Fourth of July (Repeat Chorus)</p>	
<p>Boom, boom, boom Even brighter than the moon, moon, moon It's always been inside of you, you, you And now it's time to let it through</p>	

TORNADOES

Tornadoes are violent whirlwinds that form during thunderstorms. They occur in all parts of the world and at any time of day or year. In the central United States they are most common during spring and summer afternoons and evenings. Tornadoes are usually of short duration. An average tornado travels along a narrow path for only a few miles. Occasionally, however, tornadoes are more intense and cause damage across a wider area.

Intensity of tornadoes is measured on the Fujita scale. It assigns a ranking from F0 to F5 based on maximum wind speed. Most tornadoes are classified as F0 or F1. That means that they have maximum wind speeds of less than one hundred miles per hour. Only a very small number rank as F4 or F5. Those have wind speeds exceeding two hundred and seven miles per hour.

One of Ohio's first recorded tornadoes happened in Dayton in June 1812. In January 1854, a twister struck in Miller Township, Knox County. It uprooted nearly fifty thousand trees. Miami University professor Orange N. Stoddard studied the storm. He estimated a maximum wind speed of one hundred and seventy-three miles per hour. Another well-documented storm occurred in April 1884. Two tornadoes formed in the Dayton area. One traveled across Greene County and into Fayette County. Jamestown was at the end of the tornado's path. It suffered most of the damage and seven fatalities. Washington Courthouse in Fayette County experienced a tornado in September 1885. It destroyed much of the city and killed six. A violent F4 storm hit Sandusky County in April 1896, causing extensive damage and three fatalities.

Lorain and Sandusky experienced one of the worst violent storms ever recorded in Ohio in 1924. Damage was extensive. The winds hit heavily populated areas. It is estimated that eighty-five people died. Seven thousand homes were destroyed. As much as \$30-million worth of property was lost. On Palm Sunday in April 1965, forty-eight tornados touched down in the Midwest. Nineteen of them were deadly F4 and F5 twisters. In Ohio, six tornado families hit across the state. Fifty-seven people died.

April 1974 witnessed an outbreak of tornadoes. There were one hundred and forty-eight in thirteen states. The worst blasted Xenia, Ohio. It obliterated half of the buildings in the city. The storm was so strong that even well built houses were blown apart. People in appropriate shelters were killed. Other counties that recorded tornadoes in April 1974 were Franklin, Hamilton, Warren, Adams, Brown, Pickaway, and Paulding. In Ohio, thirty-six people died. More than two thousand were injured. Thousands of homes and businesses were severely damaged.

1. Of the following, which is **not** listed as characteristic of a tornado?
 - a. They usually don't last that long.
 - b. They are violent whirlwinds that form during thunderstorms.
 - c. They are most common in the central U.S.
 - d. They often occur during summer afternoons and evenings.

2. Most tornadoes are classified as
 - a. F0 or F1.
 - b. F1 or F2.
 - c. F3 or F4.
 - d. F4 or F5.

3. Ohio's first recorded tornado occurred in
 - a. Miami.
 - b. Miller Township.
 - c. Dayton.
 - d. Jamestown.

4. Seven people died as a result of a tornado that stopped in
 - a. Miami.
 - b. Miller Township.
 - c. Dayton.
 - d. Jamestown.

5. Six people in _____ County died because of a tornado.
 - a. Greene
 - b. Sandusky
 - c. Fayette
 - d. Knox

6. The tornado that killed exactly three people occurred in
 - a. 1854.
 - b. 1884.
 - c. 1885.
 - d. 1896.

7. In the nineteenth century, where was the only place a tornado had wind speeds over 207 miles per hour?
 - a. Washington Courthouse
 - b. Greene County
 - c. Knox County
 - d. Sandusky County

8. How many homes were destroyed in the 1924 tornadoes?
 - a. 85
 - b. 48
 - c. 700
 - d. 7,000

9. How many of the 1965 tornadoes were **not** F4 or F5 twisters?
 - a. 19
 - b. 29
 - c. 48
 - d. 57

10. Define "obliterated" as used in the last paragraph.
 - a. destroyed
 - b. compelled to do something
 - c. saved
 - d. set on fire

