

The Dust Bowl *Foundations*

Unit 12: The Great Depression

Name:

Date:

Period:

Part I: What was the Dust Bowl?

During the decade of the 1930s, the **Great Plains** region of the United States experienced a ***prolonged***¹ period of **drought**. The **lack of water** made the soil incredibly dry. When strong winds blew through the region, the dry dirt flew thousands of feet into the air causing intense **dust storms**. These storms came to be known as the **Dust Bowl**.

When the dust fell back to earth, it often covered houses, farms, and entire communities in the dry, dusty soil.



Figure 1: Severe wind erosion made this farm uninhabitable. Cimarron County, Oklahoma. April 1936. The Library of Congress

The Dust Bowl lasted throughout the **entire 1930s**, and it had a severe impact on states of the Great Plains, **including the Panhandle region of Texas**.

In this activity, you will examine the **causes, effects, and attempts to address** the Dust Bowl during the Great Depression.

Statement about the Dust Bowl (Place a check mark in the correct box to the right)	Definition	Cause	Possible Effect
Strong winds blew across the dry Plains.			
People probably fled the region in search of shelter from the storms.			
There was a prolonged period of drought making the soil incredibly dry.			
Intense dust storms that occurred in the Great Plains during the 1930s			

¹ **Prolonged:** Lasting a long time

Part II: Primary Source Analysis

Directions: Use the primary source excerpts provided to complete your work.

Causes of the Dust Bowl	
Primary Source Excerpt Title and Number	Explain ONE cause <i>Provide examples and details when possible</i>

Effects of the Dust Bowl	
Primary Source Excerpt Title and Number	Explain ONE effect <i>Provide examples and details when possible</i>

New Deal Programs & Steps Taken to Address the Dust Bowl

Primary Source Excerpt Title and Number	Describe ONE New Deal Program and its purpose or goals.

Personal Experiences of the Dust Bowl

Primary Source Excerpt Title and Number	Describe one personal experience of someone who survived the Dust Bowl (<i>this includes what you can infer or observe from primary source images</i>)

Part III: In Their Shoes – *A Writing Activity*

Directions: Based on what you have learned about the Dust Bowl and how it affected people in the Panhandle of Texas and across the Midwest, write a journal entry from the point of view of a person who experienced the Dust Bowl.

You may choose to present your journal entry from any point of view, including men, women, children, farmers, people working in soil conservation in the CCC, etc. Your entry may span one or more days.

