

Black Blizzard Round-Robin Q&A Cards

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| <p>Q: During the 1930s, the nation's heartland was ravaged by what? A: People killed snakes and used explosives to try to make the rain come.</p> | <p>Q: How many million acres of farmland was turned into a desert during the Dust Bowl? A: Black blizzards—rolling mountains of soil that turned day into night and ravaged the nation's heartland.</p> |
| <p>Q: How much soil was on the move during the storm on May 9, 1934? A: 100 million acres of fertile farmland was turned into a desert in the 1930s.</p> | <p>Q: Most people believed ___ was the cause of the Dust Bowl. A: The storm on May 9th was 10,000 feet high and moved 350 million tons of soil (enough topsoil to fill dump trucks to circle the earth twice).</p> |
| <p>Q: How did boosters lure farmers to the Great Plains? A: Most people assumed the Dust Bowl was a natural disaster due to drought and high winds, but it was actually caused by people plowing up the natural grasses.</p> | <p>Q: What did it take for people in Washington DC to recognize that there was a problem in the Midwest? A: Boosters distributed fake pictures with giant crops to lure settlers west.</p> |
| <p>Q: What five states did the Dust Bowl encompass? A: A Black Blizzard had to hit the east coast (depositing topsoil on the decks of ships at sea) for the people in Washington to realize that there was a problem in the Midwest.</p> | <p>Q: When did drought start severely affecting the plains? A: Parts of Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, and New Mexico were affected by drought and became the Dust Bowl.</p> |
| <p>Q: What was Black Sunday? A: The drought on the plains began in 1931 when they received only 17 inches of rain—three less than any other year.</p> | <p>Q: In 1909 what did the government do to attract people to the Great Plains? A: The worst dust storm of all—Black Sunday—happened on April 14, 1935. The dust blew for 27 days and nights.</p> |
| <p>Q: Who is the father of soil conservation? A: In 1909, the government doubled the size of land claims to 320 acres and offered free train rides to the plains.</p> | <p>Q: Why did wheat turn to “gold” after WWI? A: Hugh Bennett was the father of soil conservation and thought it could help save the Great Plains. He lobbied congress and stalled a meeting until a black blizzard hit Washington DC.</p> |
| <p>Q: How long did it take for a farmer to plant an acre with a mule? How long did it take with a tractor? A: Wheat turned to gold after WWI when the United States replaced Russia as the world supplier of grain, and the government encouraged people to plant (and eat) more wheat.</p> | <p>Q: The prosperity on the plains came to a halt with what event? A: Three acres a day could be planted with a mule; 50 acres could be planted in a day with a tractor.</p> |
| <p>Q: Because of the plowing/planting cycle starting in 1932 that failed during the drought, how much topsoil lay exposed to the heat? A: Prosperity on the plains came to an end in 1929 when the stock market crashed. Wheat dropped from \$3.00 to \$0.40 per bushel.</p> | <p>Q: How much topsoil was blown off the plains? A: Three to twelve inches of fertile topsoil lay exposed to the heat and the wind due to a failed plow/plant cycle beginning in 1932.</p> |
| <p>Q: How did people pinpoint a storm's origin? A: 30 million tons of topsoil was lost from the Great Plains (enough to fill up half of the Grand Canyon).</p> | <p>Q: Winds during the Dust Bowl were compared to what? A: People could pinpoint a storm's point of origin by the color of the dust—black for Kansas, red for Oklahoma, brown for Texas, grey from Colorado or New Mexico.</p> |
| <p>Q: What did the Red Cross do to help during the dust storms? A: Winds during a hurricane compare to winds during the Dust Bowl.</p> | <p>Q: What other plagues hit the Dust Bowl? A: The Red Cross distributed thousands of dust masks and opened hospitals to help with “dust pneumonia.”</p> |
| <p>Q: How many Americans did not have jobs in 1932? A: High temperatures, static electricity, insects (especially centipedes, grasshoppers, and spiders), and an invasion of rabbits were plagues during the 1930s.</p> | <p>Q: How long did the Dust Bowl last? A: One-quarter of Americans did not have a job in 1932—a total of 14 million people.</p> |
| <p>Q: In 1933 how many farms did the banks seize? A: The Dust Bowl lasted a decade until the rains came in 1939.</p> | <p>Q: When did people begin to have hope that the depression and the Dust Bowl would end? A: Banks seized 200,000 farms in 1933.</p> |
| <p>Q: How did the government help farmers in FDR's first 100 days? A: Hope came with the election of FDR who proposed the New Deal.</p> | <p>Q: How much rain fell in 1934? A: The government passed the Emergency Farm Mortgage Act and purchased cattle to drive up prices.</p> |
| <p>Q: How much of the population fled the Dust Bowl region? A: Ten inches of rain fell in 1934.</p> | <p>Q: What did FDR have planted to help reduce soil erosion? A: One-third of the population (50,000 people) left the Dust Bowl. The majority of them took Route 66 to California hoping for a better life, but often they did not find it.</p> |
| <p>Q: What was the Last Man's Club? A: FDR had trees planted, soil leveled, and earth tilled to slow soil loss by 65% and to help stop soil erosion.</p> | <p>Q: What did people do to try to make the rain come? A: A club formed a week after Black Sunday by the editor of the Dalhart Texan Newspaper—John McCarty—who had people sign a pledge to stay in the Dust Bowl.</p> |