

Surviving the Dust Bowl Round-Robin Q&A Cards

<p>Q: What is a black blizzard? A: Soil conservation efforts reduced soil erosion by 65% from 1937 to 1938.</p>	<p>Q: How did boosters and promoters lure farmers to the Great Plains? A: Dark clouds of dirt miles high in the sky, including dust storms, whirlwinds, or dust.</p>
<p>Q: In 1931, the country was experiencing what while rural wheat farmers were experiencing this. A: They promised heaven on earth and distributed fake pictures with giant crops.</p>	<p>Q: World War I brought in a great need for what crop? A: 1931 brought the Great Depression in cities and a record breaking wheat harvest and record high prices in rural areas.</p>
<p>Q: What year did tractors come to the fields? A: WWI ushered in a large need for wheat; it was said that wheat would win the war.</p>	<p>Q: How many acres could a farmer plow in a day with a horse and plow? A: Tractors gained popularity in the 1920s as giant armored bugs.</p>
<p>Q: How many acres could a farmer plow in a day with a tractor? A: Three acres could be plowed a day with a horse and plow.</p>	<p>Q: What is a suitcase farmer? A: Fifty acres could be plowed a day with a tractor.</p>
<p>Q: What did the people eat during the Dust Bowl? A: Businessmen, bankers, and lawyers who put in seed and speculated on wheat were known as suitcase farmers.</p>	<p>Q: What year did the rains stop and the drought start? A: The people were so poor during the dust bowl that they lived on corn bread and beans.</p>
<p>Q: The Red Cross issued an urgent call for what when the Dust Bowl started? A: In the summer of 1931, the wheat withered in the fields leaving the land naked and vulnerable to the menacing winds.</p>	<p>Q: As the people covered their faces with cloth, what did the plains begin to resemble? A: The Red Cross asked for dust masks, especially for children, during the Dust Bowl.</p>
<p>Q: How long does it take to build an inch of topsoil on the plains? A: The plains resembled a WWI battlefield with dust rather than mustard gas fouling the air.</p>	<p>Q: How long did it take for an inch of topsoil to blow away? A: It takes a thousand years to build an inch of topsoil on the plains.</p>
<p>Q: How many acres of the southern plains were turning to wasteland? A: It took only minutes for one good blow to sweep all the topsoil away into bare ground and mounds at the fence rows.</p>	<p>Q: How did Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal offer relief to people? A: 100 million acres of the southern plains were turning into a wasteland during the Dust Bowl.</p>
<p>Q: What five states did the dust bowl encompass? A: Relief checks, food handouts, and workforce jobs became available through the New Deal.</p>	<p>Q: How long did the Dust Bowl last? A: Portions of Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Colorado, and Kansas were affected by the Dust Bowl.</p>
<p>Q: What was Black Sunday? A: The Dust Bowl lasted a decade until the rains came in 1939.</p>	<p>Q: How many dust storms happened in 1932? A: The worst dust storm of all that happened on April 14, 1935. The dust blew for 27 days and nights.</p>
<p>Q: How many dust storms happened in 1933? A: The weather bureau reported 14 dust storms in 1932.</p>	<p>Q: What plague came to the Dust Bowl region in 1935? A: The weather bureau reported 38 dust storms in 1933.</p>
<p>Q: How did residents pinpoint a storm's origin? A: Hundreds of thousands of starving Jack Rabbits came down from the hills and the people were forced to exterminate them in rabbit drives.</p>	<p>Q: How much of the population fled the Dust Bowl region? A: Residents thought they could pinpoint a storm's point of origin by the color of the dust—black for Kansas, red for Oklahoma, grey for Colorado or New Mexico.</p>
<p>Q: What was the Last Man's Club? A: 1/3 of the population (50,000 people) left the Dust Bowl region—the majority of them taking Route 66 to California.</p>	<p>Q: How much did the government offer farmers <i>not</i> to plow? 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>
<p>Q: Who is the father of soil conservation? A: Farmers were paid a dollar an acre not to plow.</p>	<p>Q: How much dust descended on Chicago? A: Hugh Bennett was the father of soil conservation who 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: Panicked by the flood of refugees out of the Great Plains what did the government do? A: When the Black Blizzard hit Chicago; it brought 12 million tons of dirt—4 lbs per person in the city.</p>	<p>Q: Soil conservation efforts starting in 1937 reduced soil erosion by how much? A: The government said that for the country's sake, we could not allow the farmers to fail and pushed soil conservation with new planting and plowing methods.</p>