

The Day of the Black Blizzard

Read “History of the Dust Bowl” in the Background section of the Grapes of Wrath web.

1. Into which states did the Dust Bowl extend?
2. What were the two main cause of the Dust Bowl?
3. The “organic matter, clay and silt” blew away. Why would this make the land “useless?”
4. How long did the Dust Bowl last?

Read all sections of “Day of the Black Blizzard” in the Lessons section of the Grapes of Wrath web. The next four questions each come from a different time of day.

5. List 3 methods the Dust Bowl residents used to try and keep the dust out of their houses.
6. Prior to the “wheat-growing binge” the soil had generally stayed in place. Why?
7. Why were there so many rabbits in the Dust Bowl?
8. Name two effects of the increased static electricity generated by the dust particles rubbing against each other.
9. Explain the humor in, “they saw Kansas, Oklahoma and a little bit of Texas roll by.”
10. Who named the region the “Dust Bowl”?
11. How many people moved out of the Dust Bowl states during the 1930s?
12. What was the “black blizzard?”