

Grades: 9-12

American Experience: Surviving the Dust Bowl

They were called "Black Blizzards," dark clouds reaching miles into the sky, churning millions of tons of dirt into torrents of destruction. For ten years beginning in 1930, dust storms ravaged the parched and over-plowed southern plains, turning bountiful wheat fields into desert. Disease, hardship and death followed, yet the majority of people stayed on, steadfastly refusing to give up on the land and a way of life.

After watching this episode, choose from the following questions and/or tasks to extend your learning

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What were the "Black Blizzards" made from? • Where did these "blizzards" arise? Why? • How did the "Black Blizzards" contribute to the disease, hardship and death that followed? • Have the southern plains recovered?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Could the "Black Blizzard" phenomenon happen again? How or why? • What have we learned from the past that could help us with a recurrence?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Map the annual production of crops. What do you notice? What do you wonder? • Research "Black Blizzards" and compare and contrast these blizzards to the modern day Haboob that occur in the state of Arizona? How are they similar? Different? 1. (ELD) You may use academic words like these: "similar to, unlike, in the same way, in contrast, on the contrary, nevertheless, on the one hand, on the other hand..." • Discover primary sources from the Dust Bowl: https://www.onehistory.org/dustbowl.htm and "google" search more primary sources to learn the different perspectives.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research the work of Dorothea Land and the images that captured the soul of the Great Depression and the Dust Bowl. https://www.pbs.org/kenburns/dustbowl/bios/dorothea-lange/ • Learn about the music and people of the Dust Bowl by learning about Woody Guthrie: https://www.woodyguthrie.org/biography/biography1.htm
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conceptualize an invention that would have solved a problem or made life easier during the Dust Bowl? • Who would have benefitted from this invention and how?

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- What professions might have used this invention?
- Social-Emotional Connection: Share with someone or write in your journal.
 - Think about how you handle stressful situations. Are you calm? Are you angry or frustrated? Do you worry? Brainstorm different ways you could handle stressful situations that would help you stay positive and calm.