

Name _____

Dust Bowl Disaster: How it Deepened the Great Depression

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. As a Dust Bowl refugee during the 1930s, my family and I would have faced extreme hardship. Our farm would have turned into barren land due to soil erosion, and we would have lost our livelihood. We'd pack our meager belongings into a dusty old truck and set off in search of a new place to live. The journey would have been long and difficult, and we'd have faced discrimination and uncertainty in the places we stopped. Finding work and shelter would have been challenging, but we would have relied on each other and our resourcefulness to survive.
2. The lasting impact of the Dust Bowl on the environment and agriculture is significant. It led to a greater understanding of soil conservation, crop rotation, and sustainable farming practices. Modern farming methods prioritize these lessons to prevent soil erosion and protect the land. The Dust Bowl serves as a reminder of the importance of responsible land management in agriculture.
3. When comparing Dust Bowl refugees to other groups displaced by environmental disasters, similarities include the loss of homes and livelihoods, the need to find new places to live, and the challenges of starting over. Differences may include the specific environmental factors causing displacement and the time period in which these events occurred.
4. Government intervention played a crucial role in addressing the Dust Bowl crisis. The federal government's response through agencies like the Resettlement Administration and Farm Security Administration provided crucial assistance to those in need. These historical responses offer valuable lessons for addressing modern environmental challenges by emphasizing the importance of proactive planning, support for affected communities, and sustainable land management practices.

