

Dust and Decisions

Trace why Dust Bowl events happened and what followed.

S.3.f "identifying cause-and-effect relationships to clarify and explain content;"

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB In sentences 2, 6, and 11, underline the cause and circle the effect. Write 1, 2, and 3 beside those cause-and-effect pairs in that order.

Life During the Dust Bowl

- ① (1) During the 1930s, parts of the Great Plains had a long drought. (2) Years with very little rain dried the soil and killed many crops. (3) Before the drought, many farmers had plowed up prairie grasses to plant wheat. (4) The grasses' deep roots had once held soil in place. (5) Families depended on the fields for food and money.
- ② (6) Strong winds lifted the dry, loose soil into huge dust storms. (7) The storms darkened skies and blew dirt into homes, schools, and stores. (8) People closed windows and covered their noses and mouths with cloth. (9) Dust covered plants, so farmers could not grow as much food. (10) Some storms traveled hundreds of miles across the country.
- ③ (11) Because dust storms ruined crops and made farm work difficult, some families left the Plains to seek jobs elsewhere. (12) Other families stayed and tried new ways to protect the land. (13) Farmers planted grass and used methods that left crop remains on the ground. (14) These steps helped hold soil in place when winds blew. (15) The federal government also created programs to teach soil-saving methods.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What caused the soil to dry and many crops to die?

2 What effect did strong winds have on the dry, loose soil?

3 Why did some families leave the Plains?

4 How did planting grass and leaving crop remains on the ground help farmers?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write two cause-and-effect sentences about a problem and response at school. Underline each cause and put parentheses around each effect.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

In sentences 2, 6, and 11, underline the cause and circle the effect. Write 1, 2, and 3 beside those cause-and-effect pairs in that order. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What caused the soil to dry and many crops to die?	Years with very little rain caused the soil to dry and many crops to die.
2	What effect did strong winds have on the dry, loose soil?	The winds lifted the soil into huge dust storms.
3	Why did some families leave the Plains?	They left because dust storms ruined crops and made farm work difficult.
4	How did planting grass and leaving crop remains on the ground help farmers?	These steps helped hold soil in place when winds blew.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A student spilled water near the sink, so (the floor became slippery). The custodian dried the floor, so (students could walk safely).

For the marking job, accept: 1, “Years with very little rain” causes “dried the soil and killed many crops”; 2, “Strong winds” causes “lifted the dry, loose soil into huge dust storms”; 3, “dust storms ruined crops and made farm work difficult” causes “some families left the Plains to seek jobs elsewhere.” For Your Turn, accept two clear, realistic cause-and-effect relationships with the requested markings.