



During much of the 1930's states from Texas to the Dakotas suffered a severe drought. On top of that, as a result of the Homestead Act, years of overgrazing by cattle and plowing by farmers had destroyed the grasses that had held the soil in place. Blinding dust storms with high winds kicked up and carried the soil away. Between 1932 and 1939 no fewer than 50 major dust storms blew across the plains. Black Blizzards, as they were often called, buried farmhouses and livestock and forced people to board up their houses. Still, most people were forced to get used to the crunch their food made when they ate. One storm in 1935 carried enough soil from the Plains to fill the Panama Canal twice! Many farmers decided to pack up and look for work in the west. These "migrant workers" would move from town to town looking for any kind of work. Many Midwestern and Western towns would actually set up roadblocks to keep these people from entering.

1. Which states were affected by the dust storms?
2. What were the main causes of the "Dust Bowl"?
3. Why would many towns try to keep migrant workers out?
4. What problems were farmers facing even before the Dust Bowl?
5. Video: What role did Static Electricity play in the Dust Bowl?
6. Video: Why did Louise Walton move to the Midwest?
7. Video: How did the Dust Storm on April 14<sup>th</sup> affect Louise Walton's daughter Jeanie?
8. Video: What decision did over 200,000 farmers make during the Dust Bowl?