

## THE DUST BOWL

### GUIDELINES FOR THE TASK:

We are in 1935, a journalist from NBC news network travels to Oklahoma to meet and interview the victims of the Dust Bowl.

### LESSON 1 : INTRODUCTION

#### ANTICIPATION

#### Analysis of a photograph



Copyright: Dorothea Lange—Farm Security Administration/Office of War Information/Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. (reproduction no. LC-USF34-T01-016453-E)

- Describe the photograph in details (what it shows, where, when and why it was taken, emotions it conveys, colours, etc.)

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- In one or two lines, imagine the thoughts of the mother at the time the photograph was taken.

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**UNDERSTANDING THE GREAT DEPRESSION**

**Understanding the Great Depression by reading an article**

*Why study the Great Depression? Because you must learn about the political and economic context to fully understand the plight of the farmers who lived through the Dust Bowl phenomenon.*

- Search and read the dedicated article about the Great Depression (reading level 2) on Britannica School.
- Focus your reading on the USA, read until the chapter entitled "Government Response and Recovery" (included).
- Summarise this period of the Great Depression in the USA: what, where, when, why? Use your own words to write a short article (100-150 words).



### Different task for learners that struggle

- Search and read the dedicated article about the Great Depression on Britannica School.
- Read the text below.
- Retrieve the missing words / Place the words to their correct position:  
**impact, dire, wages, reforms, goods, banks, unemployment, harsh**

#### THE GREAT DEPRESSION

The Great Depression started in the early 1930's in the US but had a worldwide \_\_\_\_\_. It mainly started because the demands in manufactured \_\_\_\_\_ declined. For instance the demand for cars diminished. The Great Depression was exacerbated by a previous event which involved the closure of several \_\_\_\_\_. Indeed Black Thursday - October 24, 1929 - is famously known to be the day the economy crashed, the consequences of it were \_\_\_\_\_ : banks failed, interests rose, deflation started, etc.

The Great Depression represents the decade in which the economic failures brought dreadful consequences on the US society: many people faced \_\_\_\_\_ living conditions because many lost their job - indeed the \_\_\_\_\_ rate rose sharply - which meant that they had to struggle to put food on their tables. They were not helped by the inflation nor by the rise of their mortgage payment. Americans started to see the light thanks to the New Deal policies initiated by Roosevelt in 1933. The presidential \_\_\_\_\_ helped to cope with the crisis by creating and providing jobs, maintaining the worker's \_\_\_\_\_, etc.

### CONCLUSION

#### Brainstorming of the Great Depression

Write down five keywords to sum up the period.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

## LESSON 2 : THE DUST BOWL

### ANTICIPATION

#### Analysis of a photograph from the Dust Bowl



Dust storm approaching Stratford, Texas, April 1935.  
Copyright: George E. Marsh Album/NOAA

- Describe the photograph in details (kind of picture, what it shows, where, when and why it was taken).

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- What do you feel when seeing this photograph?

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## UNDERSTANDING THE DUST BOWL

### Understanding the Dust Bowl by reading an article

- Search and read the dedicated article about the Dust Bowl on Britannica School.
- Answer the following questions.
- Justify by quoting the article.

1. In which region did the Dust Bowl occur?

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2. Quote two states victim of the phenomenon.

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3. What was the main plant produced in the region which helped the war effort during World War I?

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4. Name two causes responsible for the drought.

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5. What were the 'Black Blizzards'?

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6. What were the consequences of the Dust Bowl on the people living in the region?

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7. How did the federal government help fight the Dust Bowl?

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### VOCABULARY ACTIVITY : CROSSWORD

#### Can you complete the crossword below?

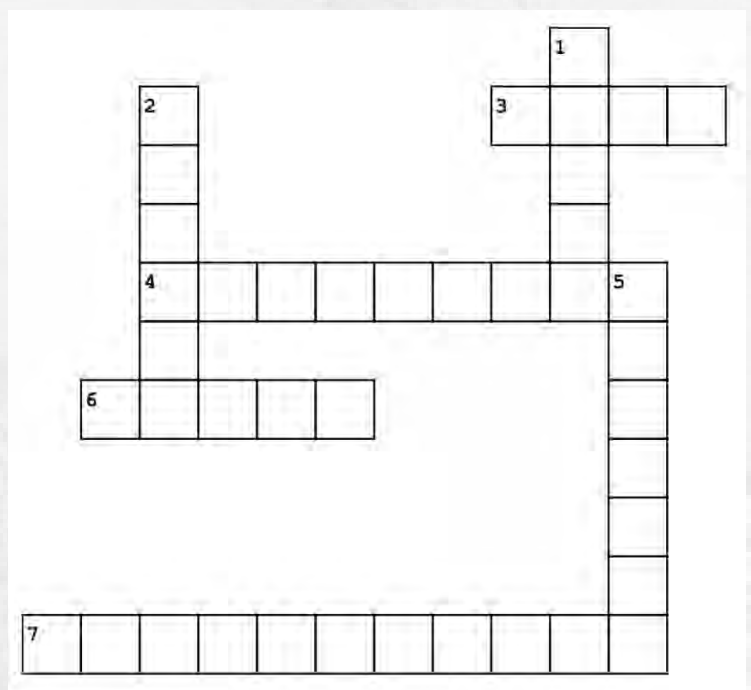
- Find the English translation of the words. It might be helpful to read the article again to find the most challenging words.

#### Down

1. plaine
2. détresse
5. sécheresse

#### Across

3. cultiver
4. prairie
6. tempête
7. rangée d'arbres



## LESSON 3 : LIVING THROUGH THE DUST BOWL

### FINAL MISSION – INTERVIEW IN PAIR WORK

#### GUIDELINES:

We are in 1935, the Dust Bowl is still striking the Great Plains. The NBS editor wants to publish a story about the phenomenon.

**Learner A** is a NBS journalist travelling to Oklahoma, where he meets one of the victims of the weather conditions.

1. Prepare your questions.
2. Introduce yourself.
3. Record your radio interview of one person from the region - Learner B.
4. Be as professional as a real journalist - be careful with your tone and choice of words.
5. Send your audio to your editor / teacher.

**Learner B** lives in Oklahoma and agrees to talk about the Dust Bowl.

1. Prepare the information you want to provide.
2. Introduce yourself.
3. Talk to the journalist - Learner A - about the Dust Bowl and your living conditions.
4. Express your feelings and demands to the federal government.
5. Record your radio interview with Learner A.



#### Help for students

Tips to succeed:

- Explore Dorothea Lange's photographs of the period. You can go to <http://school.universalis-edu.com/levels/high/article/Dorothea-Lange/47089>
- Read chapter 5 from *The Grapes Of Wrath* by John Steinbeck or read the summary of the book here: <http://school.universalis-edu.com/levels/high/article/The-Grapes-of-Wrath/485018>