

TEACHER'S GUIDE
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MISSION 5: "Up from the Dust"

Black Sunday Dust Storm

Years of drought in the Great Plains did more than drastically reduce farmers' crop yields. The dry conditions also created brittle surface soil that, when combined with heavy wind conditions, generated massive dust clouds. On April 14, 1935, one of the largest recorded dust storm phenomena in history crippled regions from the Texas Panhandle in the South to Canadian border in the North. Newspapers called the event, which displaced over 300 million tons of topsoil in one day, "Black Sunday." The following two pictures show how Black Sunday affected the town of Garden City, Kansas. The first image of downtown Garden City was taken fifteen minutes before the storm, and the second image was taken from the same spot as the storm hit.



Source: "Garden City, Kansas approximately 15 minutes later after dust storm blotted out the sun. Street lights are on allowing orientation of picture." Photo # 1 and 2 of sequence. In: "Effect of Dust Storms on Health," U. S. Public Health Service, Reprint No., 1707 from *The Public Health Reports*, Vol. 50, no. 40, October 4, 1935. <http://www.srh.noaa.gov/oun/?n=events-19350414-maps>