

Up from the Dust Prologue & Part 1

Exit Ticket Answer Key

Exit Questions

1. Before the Texas Panhandle and much of the Great Plains became wheat farms, what two different groups of people had lived and worked on the land?
 - a) Asian and German immigrants
 - b) **Native Americans and cattle ranchers**
 - c) Potato farmers and Mexicans
 - d) Horse breeders and Irish farmers

Answer explanation: The Great Plains, a geographic region extending from the Dakotas and Montana in the north to Texas in the south, was home to over 30 different Native American nations before white settlers transformed it first into cattle ranches in the 19th century and later into wheat farms.

2. Why did settlers on the Great Plains shift to wheat farming in the early 20th century?
 - a) It was easier than growing potatoes.
 - b) **Prices and demand for wheat were high.**
 - c) Cattle ranching was too hard.
 - d) There was not enough rainfall for cattle ranching.

Answer explanation: During World War I, decreased agricultural production in Europe created greater demand for wheat from the U.S. In 1917 as the U.S. joined the war, the federal government established price controls for wheat, claiming that wheat production was essential to the war effort. As a result, wheat prices increased by over 300 percent.

3. Based on your experience in the farming game, which factor below did **NOT** determine if a family wheat farm made a profit?
 - a) The number of acres of wheat that were planted
 - b) The amount of rainfall throughout the growing season
 - c) **The price of cattle when the farmer decided to sell the crop**
 - d) The price of wheat when the farmer decided to sell the crop

Answer explanation: The three key factors that determined profits for wheat farmers were the quantity of wheat planted, sufficient rainfall to bring the plants to full growth, and the price of wheat at the time it was sold. While the price of cattle may have been important to farmers who raised both cattle and wheat, it did not affect the selling price of wheat.

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4. Why did some people at the grain elevator oppose government relief for struggling farm families?
- a) Farmers had opposed government regulation of wheat prices during WWI.
 - b) They thought farmers could grow their own food and didn't need relief.
 - c) **They believed that in the long run, the free market worked best for farmers.**
 - d) They thought wheat farmers would be better off raising cattle.

Answer explanation: Ginny's visit to the grain elevator took place in 1931, when record rainfall produced bumper crops, but oversupply and the economic depression resulted in low prices for wheat. Despite the fact that most farmers needed some assistance, many still viewed government relief as either socialism or charity and preferred free market principles rather than government regulation. The government policy of supporting wheat prices during WWI was not met with the same distrust.

5. The cows did not have enough grass to eat due to the _____, so the Dunns had to either buy hay or sell off the cows. (Choose the word or phrase that best fills in the blank.)
- a) stock market crash
 - b) Depression
 - c) **drought**
 - d) flooding

Answer explanation: Periods of little or no rain ruined more than wheat crops. Families who kept farm animals also lost cattle and milk cows who fed on grass or hay—and lost the extra income and food the animals supplied.