Up from the Dust Part 4, Part 5, & Epilogue

Exit Ticket Answer Key
Exit Questions

1. What caused the Great Plains to become the Dust Bowl?

   a) Cattle ranching destroyed the grass.
   b) Too much rain and flooding washed away the trees.
   c) The building of highways and the resulting car pollution created the dust.
   d) **Farming practices, followed by lack of rain, eroded the soil.**

   Answer explanation: There were multiple causes for the Dust Bowl, including years of high temperatures, low rainfall, and windy conditions. But most damaging to the Great Plains were farming practices that depleted the soil of necessary nutrients and the widespread conversion of prairie grasslands to cultivated croplands.

2. Which of the following was **NOT** one of the purposes of the New Deal?
   a) To rebuild confidence in the nation's economy.
   b) To help farmers survive the drought.
   c) To provide relief and jobs for the unemployed.
   d) To offer low-cost investment options to boost the stock market.

   Answer explanation: The New Deal was a broad range of government policies, public works projects, financial reforms, and relief programs enacted by the Roosevelt Administration between 1933 and 1939. Key goals of the New Deal included the 3 Rs: relief for the unemployed and poor, recovery of the economy, and reform of the financial system that created the crisis.

3. What did many families like the Mitchells do after Black Sunday?
   a) They went back to cattle ranching.
   b) They denied that the storm had happened.
   c) They migrated (moved) to California.
   d) They profited by selling their land.

   Answer explanation: April 14, 1935, became known as Black Sunday when a massive dust storm swept across the Great Plains and destroyed over 5 million acres of wheat. After years of drought and low wheat prices, the dust storm was a final blow for many farming families, especially those who rented their land or were too far in debt to recover. As a result, thousands of families from across the Great Plains migrated to California in search of work.

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4. Which of these was **NOT** a condition that migrant workers found in California?
    a) Long hours for low pay.
    b) Migrant worker ownership of the land they worked on.
    c) Housing in government-built camps.
    d) Forced stoop labor in the fields.

    Answer explanation: The migrants who sought work in California became known as "Okies" even though they came not only from Oklahoma but also from Texas, Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska. Agricultural work, when they could find it, was often grueling stoop labor for long hours and minimal pay. If they were lucky, they could find housing in one of the government-run migrant camps that offered basic services for a reasonable cost, but many camped on roadsides or makeshift camps that charged exorbitant fees.

5. How did the New Deal fail African Americans, such as the sharecropper who Frank met while riding the rails?
    a) Farm subsidies went to landowners, not sharecroppers.
    b) Health care for sharecroppers was cut off during the New Deal.
    c) Sharecroppers riding the rails were refused seats.
    d) The CCC did not allow any African American enrollees.

    Answer explanation: While most New Deal programs claimed to serve all Americans without discrimination based on race, ethnicity, or religion, there was significant discrimination in the way benefits were distributed. Sharecroppers, many of whom were African American, did not get the financial support that farm owners, who were typically white, received. In fact, many sharecroppers, Black and white, were forced off the land when landowners were paid to not grow crops. Likewise, new Social Security and labor laws did not cover or provide legal protection for agricultural or domestic workers, two areas that employed many African Americans. Finally, while the Civilian Conservation Corp accepted African American youth, it assigned them to segregated camps often located in remote areas to avoid contact with local white communities.