

Name: _____

COMPREHENSION CHECK

1. What evidence is given in this passage that the dust storm in May 1934 was particularly strong?
 - A. Farmers had to shovel dirt off of their farm equipment.
 - B. Crops withered and died in the fields.
 - C. Cases of asthma, bronchitis, and "dust pneumonia" soared.
 - D. Ships out in the Atlantic Ocean were covered in dust.
2. In paragraph three, it says that the dust storms "changed day into night." This phrase means that
 - A. farm families hid from the storms in their beds.
 - B. the storms lasted all through the night.
 - C. the thick, swirling dust made the sky as dark as night.
 - D. clocks were affected by the storms.
3. Why did people sleep with wet cloths over their noses and mouths?
 - A. It was very hot in their bedrooms.
 - B. They thought it would prevent them from snoring.
 - C. The cloths helped to screen out the dust in the air.
 - D. The air was very dry because it hadn't rained for a long time.
4. Which of these was NOT one of the states in the Dust Bowl?
 - A. California
 - B. Oklahoma
 - C. Kansas
 - D. Texas
5. In paragraph four, it describes the Dust Bowl farmland as arid. Which of these is the best synonym for *arid*?
 - A. rocky
 - B. dry
 - C. rich
 - D. moist
6. In paragraph five, it says that Dust Bowl families arrived in California "filled with optimism." Which of these is the best antonym for *optimism*?
 - A. enthusiasm
 - B. selfishness
 - C. hopelessness
 - D. shame
7. By 1939 many Great Plains farmers had learned that
 - A. poor farming practices can cause it to stop raining.
 - B. wheat should not be grown in the Great Plains.
 - C. they should keep their houses clean and dusted.
 - D. they must protect their soil by using responsible farming practices.
8. Based on what you read in this passage, which of these statements is true?
 - A. The first drought that the Great Plains had ever experienced started in 1931.
 - B. By 1920 much of the Great Plains' prairie grasses were gone.
 - C. There were lots of jobs in California for Dust Bowl farm families.
 - D. The eastern Great Plains was the hardest hit by the drought and the dust storms.

Grade: _____

RIP # 25