

The Dust Bowl

- Most of the damage occurred from 1935 to 1938 in the southern Great Plains.
- The storms damaged about 50 million acres.
- The soil of the Dust Bowl had become dry and loose by the early 1930's.

Reasons for The Dust Bowl

- The area's natural grassland was converted to wheatland.
- The remaining grasslands were destroyed through the grazing of too much livestock.
- A drought that lasted seven years began in 1931 and dried out the land.

The Results of the Dust Bowl

- The region's agricultural economy was wrecked as farmers could find little to harvest. As a result, thousands of bankrupt and discouraged farm families went to California to seek a better life.
- Many of the families became migrant workers which meant that they moved around to find work.
- Many of the farmers were not able to find work in California.
- The federal government taught farmers ways to slow erosion and protect the soil.
- Trees were planted in small belts to break the force of the winds.