

Student Handout: Video Notes/Graphic Organizer

Instructions: View the four video segments following the steps in the lesson and take notes on the graphic organizer below. After you've complete your notes, review the discussion questions included for each segment and be ready to discuss those in class. (The four video clips are from Episode 1: "The Great Plow Up.") You may wish to view the segments more than once in order to more completely answer the discussion questions and take notes on the segment.

Video Clip 1: "Recollections on the Great Plains" (For Opening Activity)

1. Review the five accounts from speakers in the first clip and summarize their comments on the southern Plains.

Speaker	Summarize the Description of the Southern Plains
Caroline Boa Henderson	
Charles Shaw	
Robert "Boots" McCoy	
Calvin Crabill	
Donald Worster	

2. Identify and label the 10 states that are part of the southern Plains and describe the climate there.



3. Create a timeline for the periods of human occupation of the southern Plains listed below and provide a brief description of those times.

Time Period	Description
Early Explorers 1500–1600	
Plains Indians 1600–1800	
Cattlemen 1860–1890	
Homesteaders 1880–1900	
Farmers Early 1900s	

Video Segment 2: “Mechanized Agriculture”

1. Explain how modern machinery changed the way farmers planted and produced wheat on the southern Plains.

2. Compare and contrast the effects of the lister and the one-way plow on the soil. Explain the advantages and disadvantages of each plow.

The Lister Plow		The One-way Plow	
Advantages	Disadvantages	Advantages	Disadvantages

3. Who were “suitcase farmers” and how did they operate their farms?

Define “Suitcase” Farmer	Describe How They Operated Their Farms

Video Segment 3: “The Wheat Bubble Bursts”

1. Summarize the effects of Black Tuesday and the stock market crash on the American economy. What were the effects on the farmers of the southern Plains?

Effects on American Economy	Effects on Southern Plains Farmer

2. What was the government concern about wheat production in 1930? What did farmers do in response to this concern?

Government’s Concern	Attempts to Address the Concern

3. Describe the positive and negative aspects of the bumper crop of 1931.

Video Segment 4: “The Depression Comes to the Southern Plains”

1. What were the two factors that made the harvest of 1932 a double disaster for southern Plains farmers?

2. Describe the attitudes of farmers and the adjustments they made to survive the drought and depressed wheat prices after 1932.

Farmers’ Attitudes	Adjustments Farmers Made to Survive

3. Describe the effect of the drought and depressed wheat prices on families like the Foresters.
