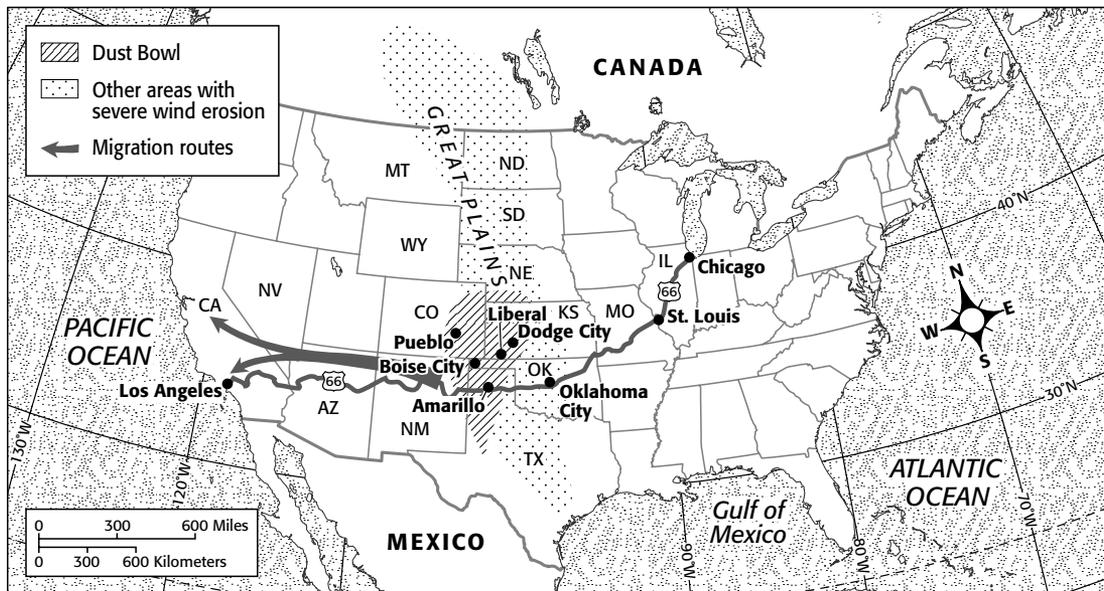


The Dust Bowl

In the early 1930s a severe drought hit the Great Plains. Crops died as the topsoil dried up and blew away. Massive dust storms swept across the land, earning the Great Plains the nickname the “Dust Bowl.” With no way to make a living, many farmers left the area and moved to other parts of the United States to look for work. Study the map below and answer the questions that follow.



MAP ACTIVITY

1. On the map, use a bright color to draw a line around the area of the United States that was affected by severe wind erosion during the 1930s.
2. On the map, use a different bright color to draw a line around the area of the United States that was most severely affected by wind erosion during the 1930s, nicknamed the “Dust Bowl.”
3. On the map, draw a line to show a migration route from Oklahoma City to northern California. Label it “W” for western route.
4. On the map, draw a line to show a route that went east from Oklahoma City to the end of Route 66. Label it “E” for eastern route.

ANALYZING MAPS

1. Region What states were part of the Dust Bowl?

2. Location How far is it from Amarillo, Texas, to Los Angeles, California?

3. Movement On what highway did many people travel as they left the Dust Bowl?

4. Compare and Contrast Was Colorado or Kansas more severely affected by the drought in the 1930s? Explain your answer.

5. Drawing Conclusions Why would a farmer leaving the Dust Bowl be more likely to move to California than South Dakota?

EXTENSION ACTIVITY

Imagine you are a travel director of historical tours. You will be taking a group of visitors on a tour that explores areas affected by the drought of the 1930s. You will be traveling along Highway 66, from Chicago to Los Angeles. As part of your tour, you want to create a slogan, or catchy phrase, for each state that you visit. For Arizona, you create the slogan “Visit Me, I’m Dust Free.” Create slogans for five other states that describe an aspect of the Dust Bowl or drought.