

History Behind Esperanza Answer Key

Sample Answers

1. The Great Depression was a severe worldwide economic downturn that began in 1929 and lasted through the 1930s.
2. Many Mexican families migrated to the U.S. for farm work after losing land, jobs, or businesses in Mexico.
3. Migrant workers often picked crops such as grapes, cotton, and vegetables.
4. Camps were usually overcrowded, unsanitary, and lacked electricity or running water.
5. Families faced hunger, poverty, and uncertainty; children often had to work to help support their families.

Sample Connections

- Families lost jobs and homes during the Great Depression → Esperanza loses her home to the fire and must leave Mexico for survival.
- Migrant workers lived in crowded labor camps with poor conditions → Esperanza and Mama live in the camp where Esperanza learns to do chores and share space with others.
- Strikes and protests were organized for better wages and working conditions → Esperanza witnesses strikes at the farm, which threaten her job and safety.