

## Dust Bowl Disasters Answer Key

### Model Answers:

1. The grasses' deep roots kept the soil in place; without them, the land was exposed and fragile.
2. The drought dried out the soil completely, making it easier for wind to carry it away.
3. Families lost farms and homes; many migrated west, facing poverty and hard labor.
4. Farmers may have realized the importance of soil conservation, crop rotation, and protecting land with vegetation.

### Teacher Guide

- **Skill Development:** Students practice tracing **chains of events**, building critical reading skills for nonfiction and history texts.
- **Teaching Tip:** Use arrows on the board (Cause → Effect → Next Effect) to visually show how one event leads to another.
- **Extension Activity:** Have students research one long-term change in U.S. farming that came from the Dust Bowl (such as soil conservation programs) and write a short summary.