**DUST BOWL**

Ranchers and farmers in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, driven by the American agricultural ethos of expansion and a sense of autonomy from nature, aggressively exploited the land and set up the region for ecological disaster. Most early settlers used the land for livestock grazing until agricultural mechanization combined with high grain prices during [World War I](http://www.history.com/topics/world-war-i) enticed farmers to plow up millions of acres of natural grass cover to plant wheat.

***Did You Know?***

*By 1940, more than 2.5 million people hadfled fromthe regions affected by the Dust Bowl. Nearly 10 percent moved to California.*

In response, the federal government mobilized several [New Deal](http://www.history.com/topics/new-deal) agencies, principally the Soil Conservation Service formed in 1935, to promote farm rehabilitation. Working on the local level, the government instructed farmers to plant trees and grass to anchor the soil, to plow and terrace in contour patterns to hold rainwater, and to allow portions of farmland to lie fallow each year so the soil could regenerate. The government also purchased 11.3 million acres of ***submarginal*** land to keep it out of production. By 1941 much of the land was rehabilitated, but the region repeated its mistakes during [World War II](http://www.history.com/topics/world-war-ii) as farmers again plowed up grassland to plant wheat when grain prices rose. Drought threatened another disaster in the 1950s, prompting Congress to ***subsidize*** farmers in restoring millions of acres of wheat back to grassland.

The Dust Bowl prompted a cultural response from artists like Dorothea Lange, Woody Guthrie, and John Steinbeck, who lamented the American economic ethos that had created the disaster. To them, the Dust Bowl signified the final destruction of the old Jeffersonian ideal of agrarian harmony with nature.

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Answer the following questions:

1. Define the words ethos and exploited in paragraph 1.
2. What does the word entice mean as it is used in line 6?
   1. vamped c. persuaded
   2. repelled d. disenchanted
3. Provide an example of a compound sentence from the passage. \*Cite the line number from which the sentence is found.
4. Provide an example of a complex sentence from the passage. \*Cite the line number from which the sentence is found.
5. Using previous Etymology studied in class, breakdown the word ‘rehabilitation’ in paragraph 2. Based on it’s Etymology, what does the word ‘rehabilitation’ mean?
6. What does the prefix ‘sub-‘ in submarginal and subsidize do to the meaning of the word. HINT: you need to know the meaning of each word.
7. Choose one of the characters from the film “Surviving the Dust Bowl”, that was shown in class, to summarize their story from their own experience with the dust storms of the 1930’s. In your one paragraph summary, you must include the following vocabulary words: meager, intensity, subside, and maul.