The Dust Bowl was a human and an ecological disaster that took place in the southwestern Great Plains of the United States in the 1930s. Farmlands became useless and hundreds of thousands of people had to move away from the land just to survive.

Your group members are reporters on a newspaper in a rural town in Oklahoma in 1935. You need to put out the Dust Bowl edition of the paper. You may use your textbook or the Internet to find information for your articles. For Web information you can search or go to http://www.pbs4549.org/decades.

You may use poster board or a computer program such as Publisher to create your newspaper. Your paper must contain at least seven of the items listed below.

• An article explaining the reasons the Dust Bowl existed
• A human interest story about the problems of the people who lived during the Great Depression in the Dust Bowl
• A report on the person who was the country’s president during this time
• Advertisements that might have appeared in a 1935 newspaper
• An article about entertainment at that time
• A picture of fashion of the era
• A weather report
• An informational article about aid from the government to Oklahoman farmers who were coping with their losses
• An editorial stating your opinions on what could be done to solve the problems of the farmers during this era

Some Tips

1. A newspaper article always answers the questions who, what, where, why and when.

2. A newspaper article usually starts with a topic sentence that is a small summary of what you’ll be reading in more detail in the article.

3. Neatness counts, as does correct spelling and grammar.

4. Give your newspaper an appropriate name.

5. It’s important to work as a group. You might begin by deciding who is going to do each task that needs to be done. These include assigning tasks, research on the topic, writing the articles and putting them into a newspaper. Remember — group harmony is important!

6. Be sure you credit each article by including a byline that identifies each author. Be sure each item has a headline.