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Bouhamza 800/200 Secondary School **January 2018**

Level: Second year FL **Time allocated: 1 hour.**

The Second Term English Test

Family name: .....

Surname: .....

📖 **Read the text below carefully then do the activities**

In the 1920s, wheat farmers on the Great Plains were earning a lot of money. This made many other people want to be farmers, too. But no one thought to stop the farmers from ploughing almost all the land and cutting down most of the trees.

Still, everything was fine until 1931. This was the beginning of a terrible drought, a long period without rain. The beautiful wheat fields dried up, and the crops died. Then there were no plants to hold down the soil. All that was left was bare, ugly, dry dirt. Then the wind started to blow. With no trees to block it, the wind gathered up the soil into huge black clouds that travelled for miles. These clouds were called dust storms, and they were impossible to escape. Dirt collected in people's houses. It fell into their food. **It** got into their noses, mouths, and eyes. People wore masks, but the dust still clogged their lungs, causing many people to get sick. The dust even fell waist-high in a few places. Nothing survived being buried in the dust, and farm animals starved from a lack of food. The cruel storms punished everyone and everything. The Great Plains became known as the Dust Bowl.

This was the worst natural disaster ever to strike the United States. But some people believed the farmers deserved what happened to them because **they** did not care for the soil. **They** say the disaster could have been prevented if the farmers had been wiser and more careful.

Adapted from: Evan Moor's *'Daily Reading Comprehension (Grade 4)'*. P. 165.

📖 ***Comprehension and Interpretation:***

1- Say whether these statements are true or false:

a- Many farmers decided to cut down trees and to replace them by wheat farms. ……

b- After 1931, the crop died because of wind. ……

c- People succeeded in protecting themselves from the dust by wearing masks. ……

d- The disaster would not have happened if the farmers had not cut down the trees. ……

2- Answer the following questions according to the text:

A- What encouraged the people of the Great Plains to become farmers?

……

……

B- Why were the Great Plains known as the Dust Bowl after 1931?

……

……..

C- In your opinion, did the farmers deserve what happened to them? Justify.

……..

……

……. .

3- Re-order the following ideas according to their occurrence in the text:

A- The Great Plains were struck by a period of drought and the crops could not survive. N°……

B- Strong winds provoked huge dust storms. N°……

C- Farmers cleared forests to grow wheat. N°……

D- Many people thought that the farmers' carless behaviour had provoked such a great disaster. N°…...

E- The dust covered everything and made life in the Great Plains very difficult. N°……

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4- Give a title to the text: ……..……

5- What or whom do the underlined words refer to in the text?

a) **<u>It</u> (§2)**……..…….. b) **<u>they</u> (§3)**……

c) **<u>They</u> (§3)** ……..

📖 ***<u>Text Exploration</u>:***

1- Find in the text which are opposite in meaning to the following:

a- spending (§1) ≠ …… b- beautiful (§2) ≠ ……..

c- excess (§2) ≠ ……..

2- Fill the table using the appropriate words:

Verb	Noun	Adjective
……..……	……	Sustainable
……	Drought	……
To die	……	…….

3- Complete the sentence B so that it means the same as sentence A:

A- The cruel storms punished the farmers of the Great Plains.

B- The farmers of the Great Plains …….

A- Dust has changed life in the Great Plains.

B- Life …….

A- We must preserve the existing forested areas.

B- The existing forested areas …….

4- Decipher the following sentence and use the letters of the alphabet to write it:

/ˈfɑːməz kʌt daʊn triːz tə grəʊ wiːt/

……...

5- Fill in the gaps using words from the list to complete the following paragraph:

Dust- rain- disaster- worst- shortage.

The Dust Bowl is an environmental …….. that hit the Midwest in the 1930s. A combination of a severe water …… and harsh farming techniques created it. Some scientists believe it was the ……. drought in North America in 300 years. The lack of ……. killed the crops that kept the soil in place. When winds blew, they raised enormous clouds of dust. It deposited mounds of dirt on everything, even covering houses.

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