

Get a Clue!

All detectives use clues to solve mysteries. Detectives study their clues and check their sources. Asking questions is an important part of studying clues. When looking at history clues, these are some good questions to ask.

Another thing to remember is that many clues are biased in some way. Bias means that a clue includes the creator's opinions and beliefs, or point of view. For this reason, clues should always be compared to other clues about the same event. This helps historians write the most accurate story that includes different points of view.

For example, you are given an assignment to write a story about a soccer game. How would you write the story if you were on the winning team? How would the story be different if you were on the losing team? What would you write if you were the referee? Everyone was part of the same soccer game but all have different points of view. Your point of view creates bias in the way you write your story about the game.

QUESTIONS ...

1. Who created this clue?
2. Why was it created?
3. What do I already know about this clue?
4. What don't I know?
5. What do I want to know?



Dusty Days

Many events have been recorded in the pages of local newspapers. Take a look at this article from a 1935 newspaper. The 1930s were difficult years for Kansans due to weather. Study this clue and answer questions about it. Then pretend you are a television weatherman. Choose the correct weather images to tell us what caused the dust storms in Kansas in the 1930s.

Topeka Daily Capital – March 19, 1935

Couple Lost in Dust, Wander Through Night

Mrs. Ray Moldin still is confined to her bed, suffering from exposure and injuries to her eyes received when lost overnight in the dust storm. Mr. Moldin who was with her, also is suffering from exposure and severe cuts received in trying to guide himself to safety by following a barbed-wire fence.

The couple, who had gone to Mankato, was caught near Otego by the dust storm on their return. As the storm struck, their car was forced into a ditch filled with drifted Russian thistles. To keep from choking to death, Mr. and Mrs. Moldin left the car. The thistles soon cut

Mrs. Moldin's hose into shreds.

They started on foot with the hope of getting into Otego where Mr. Moldin's father resides. They stumbled and fell repeatedly in the blinding dust and soon were lost in a wheat field. They came upon a deserted farmhouse where they found some shelter in a cave until next morning when the storm had subsided.

In addition to the other injuries, Mrs. Moldin's eyes were in serious condition from the dust and thistles. Their two small children had been left at home in the care of an aunt and so escaped the experience.

*Approaching dust storm
in Kansas in 1935.*



QUESTIONS ...

1. Who created this clue? _____
2. Why was it created? _____
3. What do I already know from this clue?
 - a. Where were the Moldins going when they were caught in the storm? _____
 - b. What kind of storm was it? _____
 - c. Why did they get lost? _____
 - d. What caused their injuries? _____
4. What do I want to know?
 - a. Why were there so many dust storms in the 1930s? _____
 - b. What caused the dust storms to stop? _____
 - c. Where do I look for answers? _____

HINT: This information can be found in a textbook, a library book, or an online search.



People stand in front of the Red Cross in Liberal in 1935. Can you guess why people were wearing masks? Why were they in front of the Red Cross? Can you think of ways the Red Cross has helped people in Kansas towns in recent years?

To complete your assignment, circle the images that would describe weather in Kansas in the 1930s, which resulted in dust storms.

