

Migrant Mother, 1936 by Dorothea Lange [1895-1965]

1. What is the first thing you notice when you look at this photograph?
2. Why is your attention drawn to this part of the image?
3. Describe the woman's clothing.
4. How does Lange focus our attention on just the woman and her children?
5. What doesn't she show?
6. What is in the background?
7. Describe the expression on this woman's face. How does she feel? What might she be thinking?
8. Why do you think the children turned their heads away from the camera.
9. Why might Lange have decided to take such a close-up photograph?
10. Why do you think that the Resettlement Administration may have wanted to document the effects of the Great Depression in photographs rather than just words and statistics?
11. How do you think Americans responded to this photo when it was published in the newspapers?

Historical Connections: the Great Depression; the Dust Bowl

Historical Figures: Franklin Delano Roosevelt; Eleanor Roosevelt

Civics: the New Deal

Geography: western migration as a result of the Dust Bowl

Literary Connections and Primary Documents: *The Grapes of Wrath* and *Of Mice and Men*, John Steinbeck (secondary)

Arts: photography