In the 1930s, decades of poor land management led to degradation of the once-fertile grasslands of the Southern Great Plains of the USA. This period became known as the Dust Bowl as it resulted in massive dust storms and crop failure across the entire region. Many people died and it exacerbated the effects of the Great Depression, driving thousands of families into poverty. Read more here: [www.history.com/topics/great-depression/dust-bowl](http://www.history.com/topics/great-depression/dust-bowl).

Imagine you have gone back in time to the early twentieth century on a mission to change history and avert the Dust Bowl. How would you utilise the lessons learned from the present day, such as from the ReDEAL project, to address the causes of the Dust Bowl?

Consider the tools and methods that the ReDEAL project are employing to help foster land restoration in Kenya. These include scientific studies, utilisation of local knowledge, bottom-up empowerment and community engagement.

In your answer, address each of these biological, social and economic factors that contributed to the onset of the Dust Bowl:
- Intensive farming practices, such as deep ploughing
- Removal of native prairie grasses that helped prevent soil degradation
- An influx of new, inexperienced farmers due to nationwide legislation that promoted agricultural expansion
- An unfounded but widespread belief that farming the Great Plains would make the area’s semi-arid climate rainier
- Rising demand for wheat, such as from Europe during World War I

Create a proposal to persuade farmers, land managers and governments to change land management practices in the Southern Great Plains. How will you encourage community engagement? How will you promote bottom-up rather than top-down approaches?