

Guided Notes: Water and Dust (*Answer Guide*)

Water here has meant exploration, **settlement**, transportation, power, and **disaster**. When South Dakota became a state in **1889**, it claimed only **257** lakes. Settlers, who began building Sioux Falls in the 1870s, knew the Big Sioux River would supply **power**.

A man from Chicago drilled a new kind of well that made Dakotans believe water would never be scarce. He cut deep into the earth's crust, where natural **pressure** shot clear water out of the ground like a Yellowstone geyser.

Then during eleven long drought years – **1886** to **1897** – South Dakotans learned the truth about rain here: they couldn't rely on it. Rainmakers also set up pipes for sending hydrogen into the sky. Usually they collected **payment** from farmers or cities only if half an inch of rain fell within a **week** or so.

Hot Springs is named for clear water that **bubbles** out of the ground at 87 degrees – warm as a hot bath.

It (the hatchery) opened in 1899, and **trout** hatched there ended up in streams and lakes all over the American West. The water moves with great **force**, because the stream drops from the heights of the Black Hills down to **prairies** in just a few short miles.

South Dakota's lakes increased from 257 to nearly **twelve** hundred in 1950. Lots of settlers left western South Dakota after back-to-back dry years – **1910** and **1911**.

People called this dusty time (1933-1935) the "**Dirty** Thirties". The Dirty Thirties were so **bleak** in southwestern South Dakota that the United States government began **buying** up acres from ranchers, after deciding no one could make a living there. Between 1930 and 1940, South Dakota's population **dropped** by fifty thousand people.

In six hours more rain fell than the **Rapid City** areas sometimes sees in a year. After the 1972 flood, Rapid City created **parks** along its creek, rather than rebuild **homes** close to the water.

They've also fought about water, in **courts**, and at the state capitol in Pierre, where South Dakota **laws** are made. Should someone be able to drill deep below South Dakota's **surface** and then sell the water to people in other states? Most South Dakota lawmakers have had to think about **water** rights.

In 1997, for example, gigantic **snowdrifts** melted and put eastern farmlands under water. Dry Black Hills forests **burned** during the 2002 drought, too. There were plenty of years when rainfall was just right, but those years tend to be forgotten, when South Dakotans recall their amazing adventures with **water** and **dust**.