Instructions for Educators

Display the two versions provided of Ditched, Stalled and Stranded, San Joaquin Valley, California. Explain that they contain the same image, but one is cropped and the other uncropped. Discuss how cropping changes the context.

Ask participants to find partners. Give each pair an uncropped photograph by Lange and other necessary materials.

Ask participants to examine their image closely and think about how they would crop it to strengthen its impact on viewers.

Using their two L-shaped pieces of paper as a cropping tool, each pair will mark their image’s new borders in pencil.

Ask each pair to record their decision-making process in their journals and title their cropped image based on the message they hope to convey to viewers.

Materials
reproductions of Dorothea Lange’s photographs (provided in Art Trunk, with additional options available from collections.museumca.org)
pencils
one journal per participant
one L-shaped piece of paper per participant

Suggested Reading for Younger Participants

Suggested Viewing for 5th Grade and Up

Resource Guide

This activity is adapted from Dorothea Lange Teacher Resources.