Of Mice and Men: An introduction to the novel

WebQuest Description: An introduction to John Steinbeck's novel
Grade Level: 9-12
Curriculum: Art / Music
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Introduction

"Of Mice and Men" is a story about two drifters trying to make money in the fields during the Depression so they can fulfill their dreams. This webquest will help you to better understand the setting and themes of the novel.

Tasks

You are about to embark on a Webquest to discover what life was like in the 1930s. Of Mice and Men is set in California during the Great Depression. It follows two migrant workers, George and Lennie, as they struggle to fulfill their dreams. In order to better understand their plight, you will be exploring several websites to increase your background knowledge before getting into the book. Check out the websites to help you answer the questions.

Process

Questions
Answer the following questions in a Word document or on your own sheet of paper. You should have a well-developed paragraph response for each question. For each question, you should reference at least two of the sources to get all of the points. 1. What are the geographical features of the Salinas Valley? 2. What kinds of jobs are available there? 3. What were the main features of the Great Depression? (What are the basic, most important facts?) 4. What were some of the causes of the Great Depression? 5. How did the Dust Bowl/Great Depression affect California? 6. Who were migrant workers and how did the Great Depression affect them? 7. What were some of the struggles that migrant workers faced?

Evaluation

Exceeding: Answered all questions in complete sentences. Responses were thoughtful and showed in-depth understanding of the material. Meeting: Answered all questions in complete sentences. Responses were adequate and showed a basic understanding of the material. Some responses were more insightful than others. Developing: Most questions were answered in complete sentences. Responses were acceptable and did not show an ability to synthesize information. Starting: Responses to questions were basic and almost no analysis was shown.

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Conclusion

Hopefully now you have some background information and are ready to begin reading "Of Mice and Men."

Teacher Page

The end.