**Introduction**

This WebQuest has been created as an introduction to the WebQuest form of learning. It is based on the book, "Of Mice and Men" by John Steinbeck. We will be traveling to the time and setting of the book to have a better understanding of the book. We will explore the Great Depression and look at the area where this story takes place. So if you've got your denim trousers and denim coats, let's go to another place and time.

**Tasks**

Tasks you will be working on include:
1. Researching the Great Depression
2. Learning about Salinas Valley
3. Maintaining a vocabulary log.
4. Learning how the book got its name
5. Learning about John Steinbeck

**Process**

**TASK 1**

Background: This novel takes place following the Great Depression. Use the following websites to gain a better understanding about that time period.

**During the information search, complete the following information log.**

- [http://history1900s.about.com/od/1930s/p/greatdepression.htm](http://history1900s.about.com/od/1930s/p/greatdepression.htm)
  - What is the significance of October 29, 1929? (The stock market crash)
  - During depressions, farmers were usually safe from the at least feed themselves. What two things had an impact on the farmers on the Great Plains?
  - The setting for "Of Mice and Men" is Salinas Valley.
  - Visit this website to identify crops that are grown in Salinas Valley. [http://www.seemonterey.com/regions/salinas-valley/](http://www.seemonterey.com/regions/salinas-valley/)
  - List two crops that are now grown in Salinas Valley.
  - Identify two activities to do if we were to take a field trip to Salinas Valley.

**TASK 2**

This task is to be completed after daily readings. Throughout your reading, you will be provided with sticky notes to tag unfamiliar words. Transfer words to the form, on the website, then the word.

- [http://www.vocabulary.com/lists/24137#view=notes](http://www.vocabulary.com/lists/24137#view=notes)
  - Complete the worksheet filling in the word, definition, synonym for the word and an original sentence.

**AFTER READING:**

Use this link to learn how the book got the title. [http://wiki.answers.com/Q/Why_did_Steinbeck_choose_the_title_%27Of_Mice_and_Men%27?](http://wiki.answers.com/Q/Why_did_Steinbeck_choose_the_title_%27Of_Mice_and_Men%27)

Do you think it was a good choice? What would you have called this book? Link to this website and provide 5 facts about John Steinbeck. [http://www.nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/literature/laureates/1962/steinbeck-bio.html](http://www.nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/literature/laureates/1962/steinbeck-bio.html)

How do you think Steinbeck's background influenced his writings? [GROUP ACTIVITY – SMARTBOARD](http://www.worldburnsclub.com/poems/translations/554.htm)

Link to this page to read the poem that Steinbeck got the name for this book from.

**Evaluation**

Your score will be based on the following rubric. If you have questions please feel free to ask.
You have completed all the activities for this WebQuest. Please place all of your work in the folder provided. Your final activity will be to write in your reader connection notebook. The topic is: Do you agree with the ending of the story? If this was your story how would you have ended it?