WebQuest Description: Novella by John Steinbeck
Grade Level: 9-12
Curriculum: English / Language Arts
Keywords: English, literature, realism, American, dream
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WebQuest URL: http://zunal.com/webquest.php?w=275943

Introduction

You are about to embark on a journey of understanding of what it was like to be a migrant worker in the Salinas Valley of California during the 1930’s, during the Great Depression. John Steinbeck wrote OF MICE AND MEN as a vehicle to express his social conscience about the period. OF MICE AND MEN is a novel about poverty and dreams, friendship and loneliness, and despair and hope. Through the memorable characters of George and Lennie, Steinbeck paints a portrait of enduring friendship that you won’t soon forget. In order to help you to understand the context of the novel and how it still resonates today, you are about to embark on a Web Quest that will lay the groundwork for a deeper understanding of this simple, yet profound story.

Tasks

Question: What influenced John Steinbeck to write the story Of Mice and Men historically, geographically, and socially? Everyone in the class will become either a sociologist, a historian, a psychiatrist, or a biographer and will make a PowerPoint presentation; which will include answers to the assigned questions and a visual representation analysis of what you have learned. (Credit to Nicole Gordon)

Process

BEGIN1. You will pick a role from the bucket. 2. Closely examine the pages under your heading. Take notes on every cite that you visit. (Do not forget to take note of the URL.) 3. I urge you to use the websites I have provided. If additional information is needed from outside sites, please cite them. Be prepared to focus what you have learned into one main opinion that answers the Big Question based on what you have learned. SOCIOLOGIST Use the pages below to answer these questions specifically related to migrant workers and tenant farmers. 1. What is a mental worker? 2. What is a tenant farmer? 3. Are there migrant workers or tenant farmers today? Describe the types of people they are and what kinds of lives they lead. 4. During the 1930’s, why did workers want to come to California? 5. What were the living conditions of migrant workers in California? 6. How were migrant workers affected by the Great Depression? 7. What was the Dust Bowl? How did it affect migrant workers and tenant farmers? 8. What is the American Disabilities Act and IDEA? 8. What can I do if I want to become a friend for a person with a mental disability?


HISTORIANS Use the pages below to answer these questions specifically related to migrant workers and tenant farmers. 1. What is a migrant worker? 2. What is a tenant farmer? 3. Are there migrant workers or tenant farmers today? Describe the types of people they are and what kinds of lives they lead. 4. During the 1930’s, why did workers want to come to California? 5. What were the living conditions of migrant workers in California? 6. How were migrant workers affected by the Great Depression? 7. What was the Dust Bowl? How did it affect migrant workers and tenant farmers? 8. What is the American Disabilities Act and IDEA? 8. What can I do if I want to become a friend for a person with a mental disability?

PSYCHIATRISTS Use the pages below to answer these questions specifically related to causes and effects of Mental Retardation. 1. What is a mental disability? 2. What are the living conditions of migrant workers in California? 3. What is a caregiver and how do they help? 4. How were migrant workers affected by the Great Depression? 5. What was the Dust Bowl? How did it affect migrant workers and tenant farmers? 6. What is the American Disabilities Act and IDEA? 8. What can I do if I want to become a friend for a person with a mental disability?

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Use the pages below to answer these questions specifically related to the life and background of John Steinbeck.

1. Present major facts about Steinbeck's life (birth, death, family life, children, wives, etc.)
2. What life experiences and jobs did he have that influenced his novels?
3. What social issues did Steinbeck frequently write about?
4. What philosophy of life is revealed in Steinbeck's Nobel Prize Acceptance Speech?
5. What was John Steinbeck's relationship to the Salinas Valley?
6. What are the main industries of the Salinas Valley? What type of produce is grown there?
7. Where are Weed, Salinas, and the Salinas River located?

http://www.kirjasto.sci.fi./johnstei.htm
http://www.oprah.com/oprahsbookclub/John-Steinbecks-Biography
http://www.americanwriters.org/writers/steinbeck.asp
http://www.mtycounty.com/pgs-misc/farmland.html
http://questgarden.com/47/17/3/070228114001/files/mice.mp.gif
http://www.93950.com/steinbeck/intro.htm
http://www.salinaschamber.com/pages/Home/FINAL

STEP: 1. Based on your research, answer the following questions in a PowerPoint presentation. One Question per slide. (you should have at least 7 slides of information) 2. Choose three pictures that represent your topic and form a picture analysis on them. Your analysis should include: - What details in the photo represent your topic? - Why did you choose this photo to represent your topic? - Is there any symbolism in the photo? - What actions or facial expressions are the people conveying? How does that affect the message of the photo? - What natural elements are in the photo? Are they flourishing or destitute? What effect does this have on the message of the photo? (credit to Nicole Gordon)

### Evaluation

The evaluation process is below:

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### Conclusion

Your journey into the background and issues that influenced the writing of *Of Mice and Men* has come to an end, but the trip is far from over! You are now ready to embark on a literary journey into the world of George and Lennie, the Salinas Valley, migrant farm workers, loneliness and friendship, poverty and dreams, and despair and hope. (Credit to Nicole Gordon)

### Teacher Page

**Standards**

**Credits**

**Other**