Of Mice and Men

WebQuest Description: Students will research multiple aspects of the 1930's in order to further their understanding and skills associated with Steinbeck's Of Mice and Men.

Grade Level: 9-12
Curriculum: English / Language Arts
Keywords: Steinbeck, Of Mice and Men, Stone
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Introduction

"An' live off the fatta the lan'," Lennie shouted. "An' have rabbits. Go on, George! Tell about what we're gonna have in the garden and about the rabbits in the cages and about the rain in the winter and the stove, and how thick the cream is on the milk like you can hardly cut it. Tell about that George." - John Steinbeck, Of Mice and Men

Now that you have completed reading the novella Of Mice and Men, written by John Steinbeck, it is time to expand your appreciation and comprehension of both the story and the author. You are going to conduct a Webquest project in which you examine the time period and setting in which the author lived and wrote the novella. A Webquest is an online research project that is driven by you and your classmates. By closely examining the time period and setting, you will gain a better understanding of the social, cultural, psychological and economic factors that influenced Steinbeck. You will shift your perspective and appreciation of what it was like to be a migrant worker in the Salinas Valley of California during the 1920's and 1930's. You will be able to accurately describe the Great Depression and the factors that created it. You will get to know the author through biographical research. In addition to the historical issues, you and your group members will be able to identify the major themes of the novella: The American Dream, Friendship, Loneliness, Innocence, and Discrimination. Through group work, research and creativity, after properly completing this Webquest you will be able to understand how and why Steinbeck wrote the novella, and how the issues and themes in the novella can connect with society today.

Essential Question:
What are the social, economic and cultural factors that lead John Steinbeck to write Of Mice and Men?

9th Grade Honors English Objectives:
1. Research websites in order to create a poster or powerpoint presentation of topics related to the cultural and historical context of the novella.
2. Exemplify the 5 major themes of the novella: The American Dream, Innocence, Friendship, Loneliness and Discrimination.
3. Create a Works Cited page using correct formatting.

1. You will create a group of no more than 4 members.
2. You will assign each group member a specific role in the project.
3. Conduct research on your specific topic from the Internet and gather materials by printing out and saving information and visual aids. Be sure to record all websites that you use. Be sure to Copy and Paste the websites that you use, including the date that you accessed each website. You should each answer questions that are provided in order to guide your research.

Process

1. You will create a group of no more than 4 members. You will assign each group member a specific role in the project. If your group decides to present a poster, staple the Works Cited page to the back of the poster. GUIDING QUESTIONS:
   1. GOEGRAPHER: What are the geographical features of California's Salinas River? What was John Steinbeck's connection to the Salinas River? What job opportunities were available in California in the 1930's? Identify specific locations referenced in the novella. Create a visual map with the specific locations that were identified.
   2. SOCIOLOGIST: Describe the Great Depression. What are migrant workers and how were they effected by the Great Depression? What job opportunities were available in California in the 1930's? Identify specific locations referenced in the novella. Create a visual map with the specific locations that were identified.
   3. PSYCHIATRIST: What are some different kinds of mental disabilities? How do mental disabilities effect ones life and lifestyle? What type of mental disability do you think Lennie had? How are people with mental disabilities cared for? How important are friendships and family? For a visual aid, research movies or books that portray characters with mental disabilities.
   4. BIOGRAPHER: Describe John Steinbeck's life. What influenced Steinbeck to write Of Mice and Men?
Men? - What is the Steinbeck award? How does one win this award? Who are some of the recipients of the Steinbeck award? - For a visual, find pictures of some of Steinbeck's work.

### Evaluation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category and Score</th>
<th>Beginning</th>
<th>Developing</th>
<th>Very Good</th>
<th>Exemplary</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Content</td>
<td>Information is vague and unclear. Focus questions are incomplete throughout project</td>
<td>Basic information is provided. Details are mostly relevant.</td>
<td>Full topic/idea development. Logical organization. Strong details</td>
<td>Rich topic/idea development. Careful and/or subtle organization. Supportive and purposefully chosen details provided</td>
<td>%25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conventions</td>
<td>Errors seriously interfere with communication. Little control of sentence structure, grammar and usage, mechanics</td>
<td>Errors interfere somewhat with communication and/or too many errors relative to the length of essay or complexity of sentence structure, grammar and usage, and mechanics</td>
<td>Errors do not interfere with communication and/or few errors relative to the length of essay or complexity of sentence structure, grammar and usage, and mechanics</td>
<td>Control of sentence structure, grammar and usage, and mechanics - Length and complexity of essay provide opportunity for student to show control of standard English convention</td>
<td>%25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use of technology and the Internet</td>
<td>Little or no use of information from the Internet. Websites are not cited.</td>
<td>Some information used from the provided websites. Many errors when citing websites.</td>
<td>Project demonstrates effective use of the internet and minimal citation errors.</td>
<td>Strong use of the websites provided. No errors in citation.</td>
<td>%25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creativity</td>
<td>Project is dull and sloppy.</td>
<td>Project has some organization and original thought.</td>
<td>Project demonstrates effective use of the Internet, original thought and organization.</td>
<td>Project is neat, clear, organized and creative. Eye catching and informational.</td>
<td>%25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Total Score | %100 |

### Conclusion

By the end of this project each group member should have a better understanding of John Steinbeck and his reasons for writing Of Mice and Men. Hopefully each of you have gained a deeper appreciation of the novelia, as well as the history and culture that created this wonderful piece of literature. In addition, you might have a better appreciation for the Internet and its functions beyond social networks and online games!

**GOOD WORK!**

**MR. STONE**

### Teacher Page

#### Standards

#### Credits

#### Other