

Of Mice and Men Webquest

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 listed below to help you answer the following questions. The questions should help you start thinking about some of the writing topics.

Websites

Use the entire hour to do your research, spending at least a few minutes at each website.

Migrant Workers:

http://www.neabigread.org/books/grapesofwrath/teachers/grapes_handout03.pdf

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/afctshtml/tsme.html>

<http://lcweb2.loc.gov/ammem/fsahtml/fachap03.html>

Dust Bowl/Great Depression:

http://www.neabigread.org/books/grapesofwrath/teachers/grapes_handout01.pdf

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/rails/timeline/index.html>

<http://www.awesomestories.com/history/great-depression/story-preface>

http://www.neabigread.org/books/grapesofwrath/grapes03_context.php

<http://www.english.illinois.edu/MAPS/depression/photoessay.htm>

Salinas Valley, California:

<http://www.mtycounty.com/pgs-misc/farmland.html>

http://www.lausd.k12.ca.us/Belmont_HS/mice/cal2.html

<http://www.salinascity.com/>

Questions

Answer the following questions after using the websites to conduct your research 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? What kinds of jobs are available there?
2. What were the main features of the Great Depression? (What are the basic, most important facts?)
3. What were some of the causes of the Great Depression?
4. How did the Dust Bowl/Great Depression affect California?
5. Who were migrant workers and how did the Great Depression affect them?
6. What were some of the struggles that migrant workers faced?