

Of mice and men: overview

[Literature](#), [Russian Literature](#)



Of Mice and Men WebQuest – English 2 [pic] [pic] Introduction In order to better appreciate the novella, *Of Mice and Men* written by John Steinbeck, 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. By closely examining the time period and setting, you will gain a better understanding of the social, cultural, and economic factors that influenced the author and are reflected in the story. You will gain an appreciation of what it was like to be a migrant worker in the Salinas Valley of California during the 1930's and Great Depression.

Steinbeck used *Of Mice and Men* as a vehicle to express his social conscience and observations regarding the social and cultural issues he witnessed during this difficult era in America. In the novella, Steinbeck paints a picture of two friends struggling against an indifferent society. The novella focuses on topics of poverty and dreams, friendship and loneliness, despair and hope. In addition to gaining a better understanding of the context of the novel, the Webquest will also enable you to understand how many of the societal, cultural, and economic factors that Steinbeck addressed in *Of Mice and Men* resonate in America today. [pic]

Task What are the social, cultural, and economic issues that influenced John Steinbeck's writing of this novella? English 2 *Of Mice & Men* Unit Objectives:

1. Research and create a poster or PowerPoint of topics related to the historical context of the novel.
2. Gain an appreciation of how social, cultural, and economic factors can influence an author and are reflected in a literary work.
3. Create a Works Cited page using the MLA proper format. [pic]

Process For this project, students will be working in small groups no larger

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than four. Each group's research will provide information that effectively answers the Task and Questions.

As a member of the group, each student will explore Web pages from sites that pertain to Of Mice and Men or issues/topics relevant to the novella. Each student in the group is to be assigned a specific task: geographer, sociologist, psychiatrist, or biographer. Each student will: 1. Conduct and assemble research from the Internet and other sources to answer the questions in his/her section. 2. Find and print visuals relevant to his/her research to be used on group's poster/PowerPoint. 3. Help his/her group assemble the poster/PowerPoint. Posters must have printed text and visuals from all four categories.

The group's final product is to include answers to the assigned questions and a visual representation that complements and relates to the topics. 4. Submit a Works Cited page of sources used in his/her part of the project, stapled to the top, right corner of the back of the poster or added as a final slide to the PowerPoint Rubrics for the poster and Works Cited page will be distributed in class. The project is worth 50 points (40 pts—poster/PowerPoint; 10 pts—Works Cited). There will be a separate presentation portion of the project. Phase 1 - Background Information Phase One - Focus and Objective

John Steinbeck was influenced by a number of geographical, societal, cultural, and economic issues in the writing of Of Mice and Men. Your task is to explore some of these issues. Phase 2 - Roles Phase Two - Investigations from a Different Perspective Instructions: 1. Individuals from your Webquest group will be assigned one of the specific roles listed below. In this role you <https://assignbuster.com/of-mice-and-men-overview/>

are to direct your research to gain information that will answer the specific questions for your section and obtain specific visuals that address your topic to be included on the group's poster. . Use the links to find information that answers the questions and find visuals to use on your presentation. Take notes or if you find large sections of info you want to copy, copy sections and paste them into a Word document. (Suggestion: open a Word document, prior to getting on the Internet, to use for pasting info.) You may use portions of text as quotes, but this needs to be in your own words. 3. When you find photos or pictures you want to use as your visuals, be sure to save photos or pictures as jpg's in My Pictures folder.

Write down URL and make note of source of all photos, maps, and pictures. You also need to include these on your Works Cited page. 4. Remember to write down or copy/paste the URL of the file you take the passage from so you can identify and document your sources when preparing your Works Cited page in proper MLA formatting. 5. Stay focused on finding information that enables you to answer the question presented in The Task: What are the background issues that influenced John Steinbeck's writing of this novella about friendship and social issues? Geographers: • The geography of Of Mice and Men Setting in Of Mice and Men • Salinas farm country • John Steinbeck and Salinas, California • Steinbeck Country Geographers' Questions: 1. What are the geographical features of California's Salinas River Valley? 2. What is the Salinas Valley known as? 3. What kinds of jobs are available there? 4. What was John Steinbeck's relationship to the Salinas Valley? 5. Identify specific locations relevant to Of Mice and Men? 6. For the visual component, create a map of the area with significant locations identified Sociologists: •

GreatDepression • Causes of the Great Depression The Migrant Experience • Photos of Great Depression • Dust Bowl • Migrant Workers today • Dust Bowl photos Sociologists' Questions: 1. When and what was the Great Depression? 2. What are some of the factors that caused the Great Depression? 3. Who were the migrant workers and how were they affected by the Great Depression? 4. Do migrant workers exist today? Where? Who are they? What kind of jobs do they do? How is the issue of migrant workers significant today? 5. For the visual of your presentation, develop a collage of photos of migrant workers of the 1930's.

Psychiatrists: • Mental Disability • Caring for a Mentally Disabled Person • Friendship and the Mentally Disabled • Novels About the Mentally Disabled • Flowers for Algernon • Films with Mentally Disabled Characters • Domick and Eugene • Charly • Being There • Rain Man Psychiatrists' Questions: 1. What is a mental disability and how does it impact a person's everyday life? 2. What are some of the difficulties faced when caring for a mentally disabled person? 3. What kinds of support are available for people who care for the mentally disabled? 4.

What role does friendship play in the caring for the mentally disabled? 5. For the visual, create a collage of literature book covers and film posters that have stories about mentally disabled. Biographers: • John Steinbeck Biography • John Steinbeck's Nobel Prize Speech • John Steinbeck Biography • Steinbeck Literary Works • John Steinbeck Award • John Steinbeck Chronology • Photos of John Steinbeck • Naturalism in American Literature Biographers' Questions: 1. List some of the major facts about Steinbeck's

life. 2. What philosophy of life is revealed in Steinbeck's Nobel Prize Acceptance Speech?

Give a brief definition of that philosophy. 3. What influenced Steinbeck to write the novella, Of Mice and Men? 4. What are the other major works written by Steinbeck? 5. Who are some of the recipients of the Steinbeck Award? What is the purpose of the award? 6. For the visual, create a collage of photos of Steinbeck and covers of his most significant novels. Group Role:

_____	Group	Members:
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____