

**Of Mice and Men**  
Small Group Project

*Research- Due* \_\_\_\_\_

**Objective:** Your team is responsible for finding information from the Internet that gives background information and historical context to the novel *Of Mice and Men*. Your first task is to decide who in your team is searching for what information. The four areas of research are:

John Steinbeck (Biographical)

Historical Context (The Great Depression)

Geography (California's Central Valley)

Migrant Workers of the 1930's, specifically those who came to California from other parts of the U.S., including facts and pictures

**Each student is responsible for researching relevant facts, coming up with five important elements from the search and explaining why they chose those specific elements.**

***Individual Presentation (25 points)***

Once you have conducted research in relation to Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men*, you will have an opportunity to present the essential items from your findings to your team. Each of you will be given a brief amount of time to do the following things:

1. Explain what topic you were looking for.
2. How you went about searching for the topic.
3. Give a brief overview of your research.
4. Present the list, **typed**, of five essential elements you gathered.
5. Give the group a typed complete works cited based on your research and findings.

***Group Presentation (25 points)***

After each group member has presented, your team's job is to put together a list of 10 **essential elements** out of the 20 elements that your team has already found. Collectively, you need to decide what elements are the most important to share to the class and then determine how you will present this information visually. This should be done in some form of Powerpoint presentation. The four things that need to be included in your presentations are:

- A. The 10 essential elements from your discussions
- B. Explanation on how your group or why your group chose the information it did to present
- C. Any visual aides/pictures to make the presentation more interesting and meaningful
- D. A complete Works Cited listing all the resources used in the presentation

Each team will earn a group grade and each member will be graded independently, based on collaboration and information presented.

**John Steinbeck:** Knowledge about an author is extremely helpful in understanding the style and purpose of a text. John Steinbeck is an amazing writer who has won many accolades and is regarded as one of the most influential authors of the modern era. Your task is to locate biographical information about this author from reliable sources online. A good way to do this is by simply typing in “John Steinbeck” into your favorite search engine. Once you have located the appropriate information, you will need to write down the five most important elements from the writing and why you chose these elements.

**Historical Context:** One of the most important attributes of historical drama is its ability to teach us what life was like in the past. However, the more information we have about the particular time period in question, the more understandable the story becomes. Your task is to locate information about the historical context of *Of Mice and Men*. This can be done by looking for information regarding the life of migrant workers in California during the Great Depression. There are several ways you can search for this information and one of them might include using the + symbol. For example, a search that looks like **California+Great Depression** will yield many sites that contain historical information regarding the setting of this novel. Once you have found a few articles, determine the five most important elements and organize them in a way you can present to your group.

**Geography:** Geographic setting is crucial for most of Steinbeck’s works. Understanding the geographical landscape of the Central Valley during the 1930’s provides clarity and enlightenment as to what the author is writing about and how the landscape contributes to the characters and their interactions with one another. Your task is to locate geographical information about California’s Central Valley on the internet. The materials you gather can include maps, diagrams, photographs and any information about the topography and location of this area. Once you have gathered this information, you are to determine the five most important elements of your search and then present them to your group.

**Images:** It has been said that a picture is worth more than a thousand words. This is especially true when looking at the photography concerning the living conditions of migrant workers during the Great Depression. Many of these images reveal sadness, despair, and levels of poverty that most of us will never experience. Your task is to locate at least five photographs that reveal the lifestyle of those living and working in Central California during the Great Depression. Once you have found your pictures, come up with five important elements about them and then be ready to discuss with your group what those elements are in conjunction with your pictures.