

John
STEINBECK



Of Mice and Men



Of Mice and Men

John Steinbeck

John Steinbeck

- Winner of the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1962
- His works gave voice to working-class America by writing about **unfamiliar but relatable characters**, stressing the universal conditions that we all share
- Born in February of 1902 in Salinas, California – later became the setting of his novels
- He enrolled in Stanford University in 1919, but later dropped out
- He continued to write, but scraped by for many years until 1935, when he achieved success with Tortilla Flat

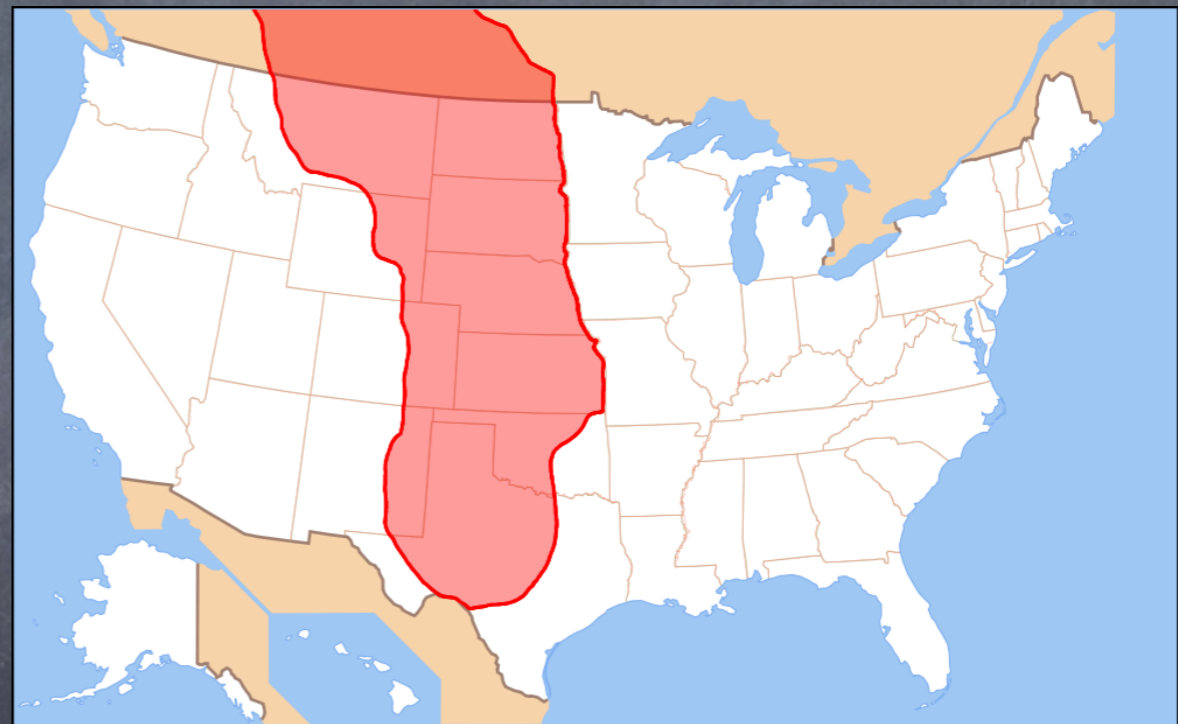


- Of Mice and Men became an immediate bestseller in 1937
- Died following a heart attack in December of 1968
- Left a legacy of 27 books

Migrant Workers and The Great Depression

- Drop in the market price of crops following WWI forced increased productivity for Great Plains farmers
- Increased spending
- Greater strain on the land
- Seven-year drought (1931) and dust storms (1932)

The Great Plains



Migrant Workers and The Great Depression

- The Great Depression (1929) – unemployment rose to 25%
- Why California?
 - Mild climate = long growing season
 - Popular songs and stories
 - Flyers distributed in areas of high unemployment
- Highway 66 (Route 66)



The Setting

- Salinas Valley during the 1930's
- The plot could take place in few other places - migrant life, especially at this time, is an essential component
- Isolation

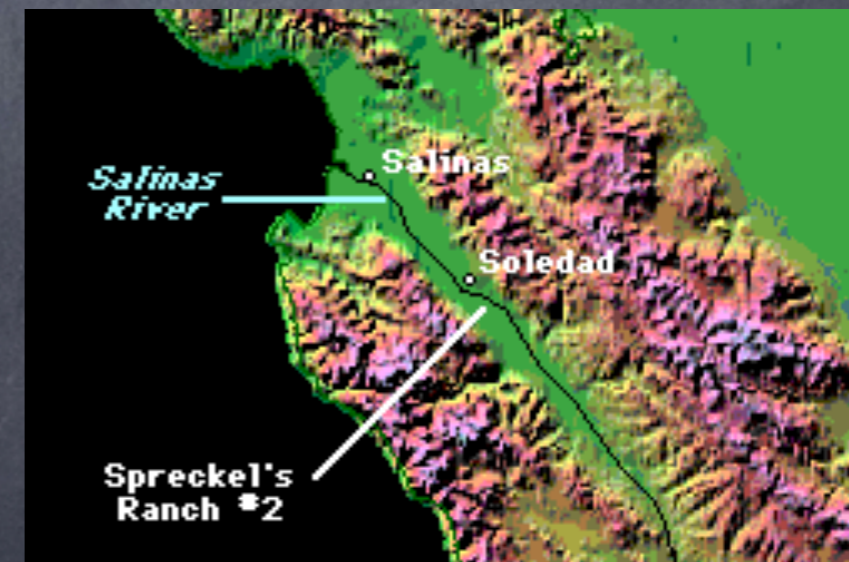


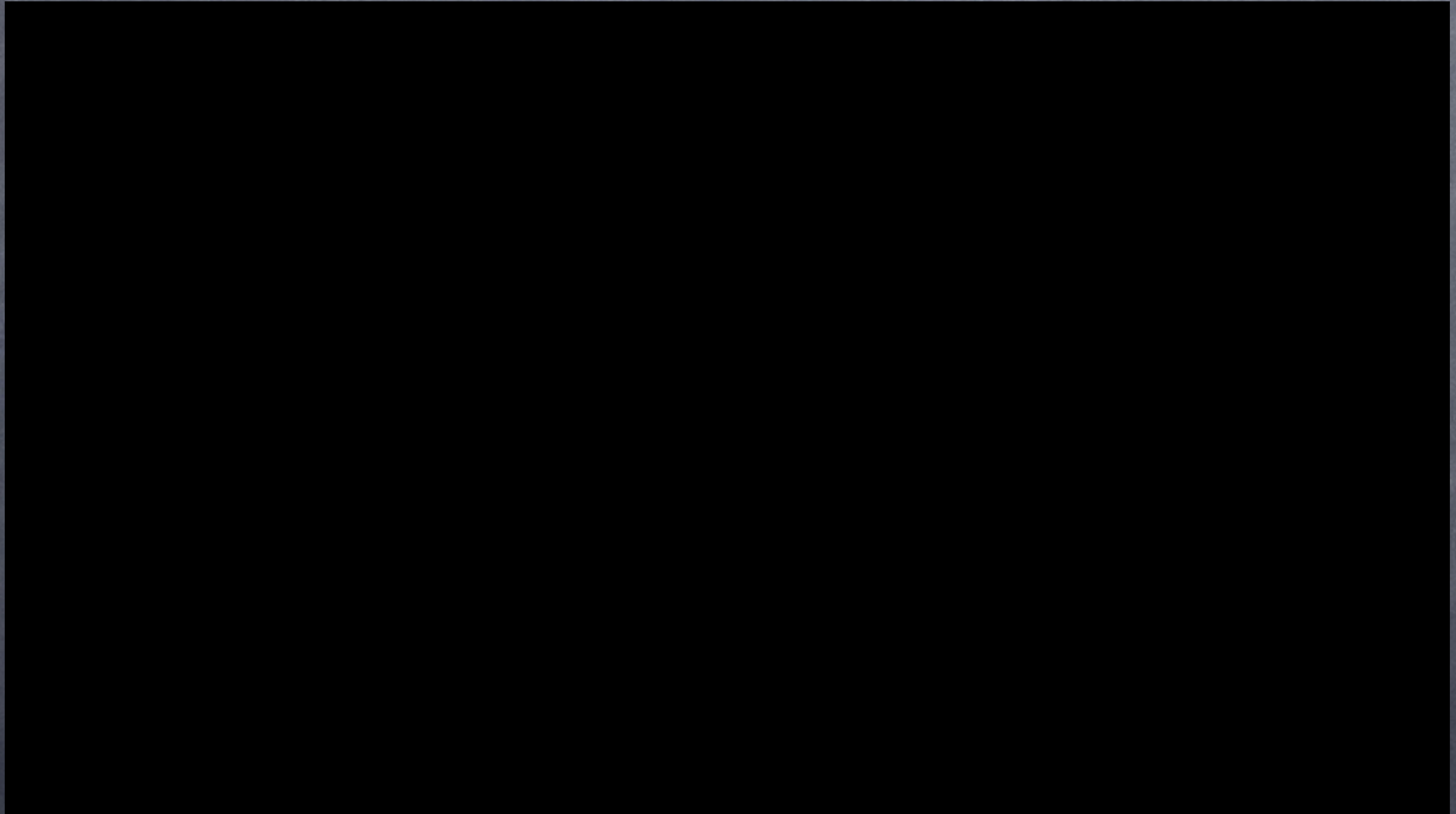
The Setting

- Places mentioned in Of Mice and Men



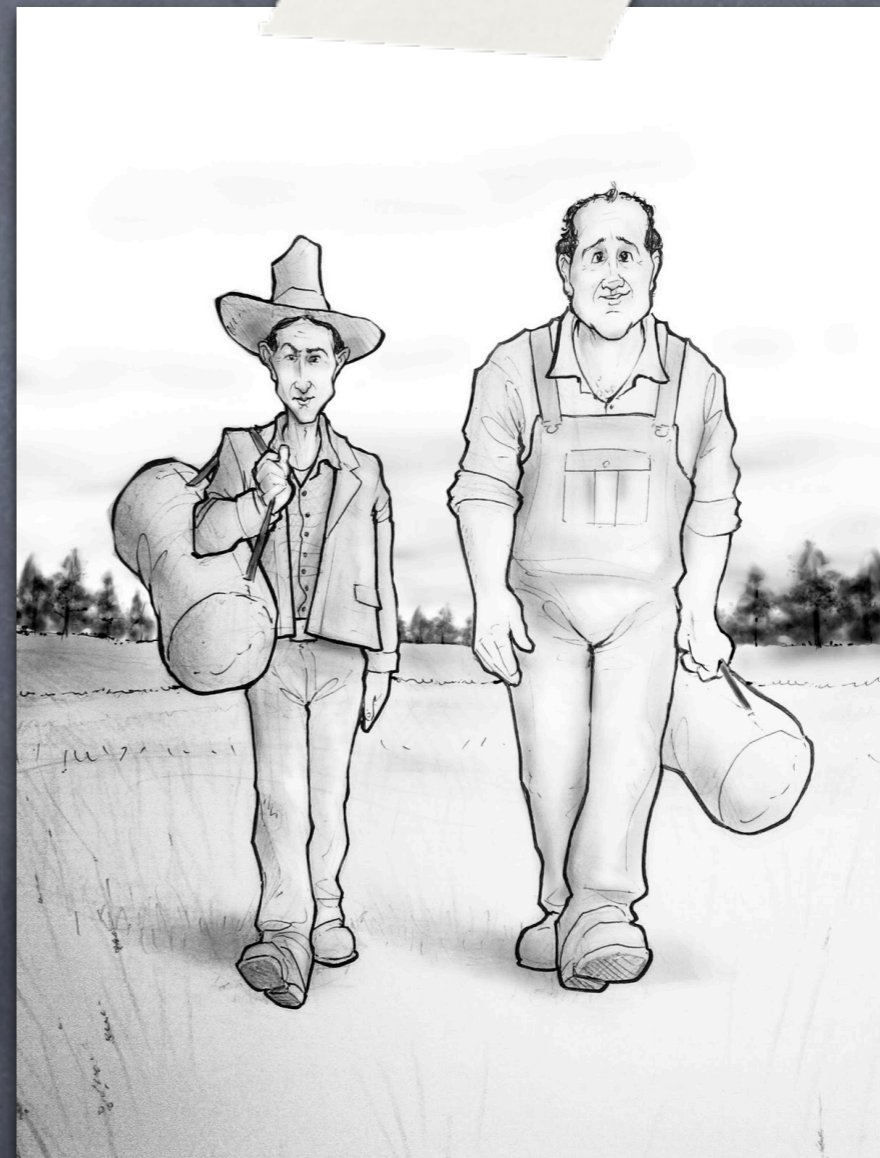
- The Ranch in Of Mice and Men





George and Lennie's Relationship

- Main characters are George Milton and Lennie Small
- Uncommon bond
- Have a dream of buying their own farm and living off of the land



The Unit

- What types of activities and assignments can you expect?
 - Informal quizzes
 - Discussion
 - Group activities
 - Journal entries
 - Final project OR writing assignment