**Name:**

**1930s America Prereading Research: *Of Mice and Men***

**Part I: The Great Depression ~ The Dust Bowl ~ Migrant Workers of the 1930’s**

*Life was a struggle in the 1930’s…for some, it was much more difficult to find work and feed a family. What caused our country to slip so far into economic ruin that people of all classes and professions lost everything? Who were the leaders who allowed this to happen?*

1. **America 1930s:** What were **5 important (political, financial, social, economic etc.) events, trends, occurrences** that happened in US politics and/or world events during this time period?

2. **The Crash of 1929:** Any study of the Great Depression has to start with the economy. List **5 facts** about the crash. Think “credit” as in line of credit or credit card. When did stores start using credit? What were other causes of the Great Depression?

3. **Dust Bowl Years**—Who are they and why are these names important to this time period?

Herbert Hoover

Franklin D. Roosevelt

Eleanor Roosevelt

4. What is **Black Tuesday, Dust Pneumonia, Okievilles** and **Hoovervilles**. (Google them!!)

Black Tuesday-

Dust Pneumonia-

Okievilles-

Hoovervilles-

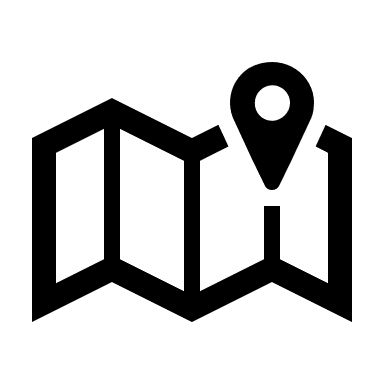
5. Explain **FDR’s New Deal**? What was FDR’s motivation, idea, proposed outcome? IN OTHER WORDS, why did he and his staff believe this was a solution for our country?

6. What is **Social Security**? Who started it and what was the purpose of it?

7. What is the **Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation** and what purpose does it serve?

8. Why was life so difficult for the **1930’s migrant workers** in the Midwest and California? How did it differ from people who lived in the urban areas like New York City and Los Angeles? How did resources differ in the different regions?

9. **UNDERSTANDING THE SETTING:** Find Salinas, California and the Salinas Valley on Google maps where John Steinbeck grew up. Take note of the **topography** of the land surrounding the valley. The setting is very important in our novel and Steinbeck wrote about the area where he grew up.

[](https://www.cityofsalinas.org/map/contours-topography)

ßClick for a topographical map of Salinas and the surrounding Salinas Valley. Note: The Salinas River runs straight along the length of the valley.

Use [**GOOGLE MAPS**](file:///C:/Users/cafre/Downloads/iframe%20src=%22https:/www.google.com/maps/embed)! Now use the **directions option** or (right click on the map for options) to find the following:

**Salinas** is located \_\_\_\_\_ miles northeast of the **Monterey, California**.

**Salinas** is located \_\_\_\_\_ miles south of the city known as the “City by the Bay” ...**San Francisco**.

**Salinas** is located approx. miles northwest of the **Gabilan (Mountain) Range**.

10. What do the **Salinas Valley, Salinas**, and the surrounding areas look like? What do you notice most about the geography and topography? *Zoom in on the map and you can get a good look at what it is like there.*

11. What were the **majority of jobs available** in Salinas during this time period?

12. What was/is the **Salinas Valley area known for** in terms of industry, production, and products?

**Part II Biographical Research**: John Steinbeck

1. Who is John Steinbeck?

2. What kind of childhood and family upbringing did he have? What did he like to do as a young boy and what kind of family life did he have?

3. Where did he grow up? What type of area is that? (describe the industry, typical household income, etc.)

4. What/Who inspired him to be an author?

5. What is an advocate? What **social issues or groups** of people was Steinbeck an advocate for?

6. What were some common themes/subjects of his novels?

7. When was his first book published?

8. What was the first book he had published?

9. What kind of life did he live as an adult?

10. When did he die?