

Name:

Period:

Date:

Ms. Lopez

## STEINBECK BACKGROUND

Using the biographical information on the accompanying sheet, answer the following questions in complete sentences. If extra space is needed, draw an arrow to the back; then, write the question number and the rest of your response on the back of this paper. (10 points each)

1. *Of Mice & Men* takes place near Salinas, CA. What is the first significant fact about this area in Steinbeck's life?

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2. How did Steinbeck's mother influence him?

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3. What benefits (other than a job) did working around ranches give to Steinbeck?

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4. Steinbeck felt great sympathy for migrant farm workers and their families. According to Steinbeck, what do corporate and other large farm owners view the migrant farm worker as?

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5. According to Steinbeck, what is the job of a good writer?

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6. What American era did Steinbeck live through that contributed to his cynicism?

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7. Most of Steinbeck's characters are social failures. Explain the term "social failure."

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8. With what expectations did people come to America?

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9. Steinbeck is mostly concerned with the failure of what concept/what ideal?

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10. Based on the passage, explain why Steinbeck would title his famous American novel *East of Eden*. (Hints: Eden is a biblical allusion meaning paradise. The title of the work is *East of Eden* not actually *Eden*.)

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