John Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men* depicts the lives of migrant workers in 1930s America.

1. Search online for photographs from that period which show the conditions faced by the people of the American Mid-West and West as they tried to find work. For each of the statements below, find a photograph to match.

2. Choose at least three more photographs from this period which help to illustrate the lives of migrant workers in the American Mid-West and West. Write statements of your own explaining what each picture shows.

3. Create a ‘1930s photograph album’ using the statements as captions. Alternatively, make a slideshow presentation, with captions.

**Statements**

- The period of the Great Depression meant that the economic conditions in the USA were low, resulting in families living in squalor.

- Men walked for miles in search of their dream for work and a livelihood.

- After men had travelled alone in search of work, whole families migrated West, taking all their possessions for a chance of survival.

- The work available to migrant workers heading West was mainly seasonal and temporary.

- Many men considered the journey west for work to be their last chance.

- Severe drought, in addition to decades of extensive farming without crop rotation or other techniques to prevent erosion, caused dust storms. The period was known as the ‘dirty thirties’.

- America’s mid-west was effectively destroyed by the dust storms of the 1930s, causing most of the farmland to be worthless.

**Further tasks**

Describe your overall impression from these pictures of the conditions faced by the people of the American Mid West and West in the 1930s. Refer closely to details in the images to explain your ideas.

Imagine that you have arrived at the work camp where George and Lennie find work in *Of Mice and Men*. Write a diary entry to describe your first impressions of the place and the people. Include details from the image, as well as characters and settings from the text.