

Further Thinking Questions from *Grapes of Wrath*

Science/Environmental: What steps were taken to prevent another Dust Bowl and protect the soil of the American Great Plains?

Geography: Describe a trip you might take today along Route 66 from Henrietta, Oklahoma to Barstow, California. Identify some sights you might see along the way—would the Joads have seen them, too?

Economics: How would a Capitalist respond to Steinbeck's allegations about the treatment of migrant workers—particularly his anger in Chapter 25 when food is destroyed to keep prices high, even as migrants starve?

Civil Rights: The Okies failed to unionize as agriculture workers, but 30 years later, Cesar Chavez succeeded. What methods did he use to win rights for the United Farmworkers' Union?

History: Research the “real” plight of the ‘Okie’ migrants during the Great Depression. How many died? Did some turn back? What ultimately happened to these migrants and their descendants?

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