The Life and Times of John Steinbeck

1. 1910s
   - 1914: Gavrilo Princip assassitates Archduke Franz Ferdinand during his visit to Sarajevo, igniting World War I.
   - 1918: Armistice signed on November 11, ending World War I.
   - Steinbeck attends Stanford University, declaring English as his major.

2. 1920s
   - Steinbeck quits Stanford to read and write, leaving his roommate a note reading, "Gone to China. See you again sometime. Please free the chipmunk."
   - 1929: Stock market crashes, triggering the Great Depression.

3. 1930s
   - 1932: Franklin Roosevelt elected president.
   - 1936: Armed guards use tear gas against striking lettuce pickers in the "battle of Salinas."
   - 1937: Of Mice and Men becomes a success, while the unemployment rate continues to soar.
   - 1939: Steinbeck writes The Grapes of Wrath; published to popular acclaim in April.

4. 1940s
   - 1940: Steinbeck wins the Pulitzer Prize for The Grapes of Wrath.
   - 1941: Japanese attack Pearl Harbor.
   - 1943: Steinbeck works with Alfred Hitchcock on Lifeboat.
   - 1945: World War II ends.
   - Steinbeck's sons are born: Thom in 1944, John IV in 1946.

5. 1950s
• 1950: Senator Joe McCarthy brandishes a list of alleged communists in the State Department, heralding the dawn of the Cold War.
• 1951: Steinbeck writes of biologist friend Ed Ricketts in *The Log from the Sea of Cortez*.
• 1952: *East of Eden* published.

6. **1960s**

• 1966: Cesar Chavez organizes striking California pickers on a march to Sacramento, leading to a five-year grape boycott and the first-ever major victory for U.S. farm workers.
• 1968: Steinbeck dies in Manhattan and is buried in Salinas.