migrant workers: casual and unskilled workers who move about systematically from one region to another offering their services on a temporary, usually seasonal, basis. In North America, migrant labor is usually employed in agriculture; it generally involves harvesting activities and is manual, repetitive, and easily learned

"Okies": term used to describe migrant workers from Oklahoma and the surrounding areas, such as the Dakotas, Nebraska, Kansas, Arkansas, Missouri, and Texas

tenant farmers: owners of the farm on which migrant workers are employed

agriculture: the science or occupation of farming

Dust Bowl: refers to the time period in 1932, when dust storms descended over Oklahoma, Texas, Arkansas, and Missouri, causing residents to abandon their farms and homes, and move west to California

Highway 66: a road stretching east and west across the United States, which was traveled by many migrant workers. It provided a direct route from the Dust Bowl to California

ditch bank: irrigation ditch in which many migrant workers set up their camps

labor camps: camps set up for migrant workers to live in while they were working in one area