

## The Pearl

**This web-quest is designed to introduce background material about John Steinbeck's *The Pearl*. You will learn about John Steinbeck, La Paz, pearls, and other interesting facts related to the novella.**

**Click on the links below, read the information and, on your paper, type the answers to the questions in complete sentences. Do NOT copy and paste, your answers must be in your own words.**

**Write the Heading/Category - Write the Question – Write your answer in complete sentence form. There are 5 headings/categories.**

**On a Work Cited Page, list ALL of your cites – use MLA format and separate per each heading. Use 3 DIFFERENT cites for each category. See below.**

### **I.    John Steinbeck: (This is the heading)**

When was he born? His death? Education? Family? Biographical info?

Where did Steinbeck work in the summers?

Find a map that shows where Salinas, California is located.

What major body of water is it near?

What college did he attend? Did he graduate?

What kinds of awards did Steinbeck win for his works? Give the award, explain what the award is for and the title of the work that won the award. (This information could also be included on your Steinbeck timeline.) For what book did Steinbeck win the Pulitzer Prize for literature?

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What did Steinbeck's writing explore? What are some common themes that are generally presented in Steinbeck's novels?

Who is Eddie Ricketts and how did he influence Steinbeck's novella, *The Pearl*?

When was *The Pearl* written?

What other books did Steinbeck write that deal with human values? What work is he most famous for?

**Websites: suggestions – you may need to use others. DO NOT USE WIKIPEDIA**  
[National Steinbeck Center](#) "Our mission is the exploration of Human Values through Universal ideas found in the works of John Steinbeck". *Note: The Navigation Menu at the bottom of this site may not display correctly on older web browsers.*  
[The Center for Steinbeck Studies](#) A San Jose State University site.  
<http://www.kirjasto.sci.fi/johnstei.htm>  
<http://www.mapquest.com/>

[http://nobelprize.org/nobel\\_prizes/literature/laureates/1962/steinbeck-bio.html](http://nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/literature/laureates/1962/steinbeck-bio.html)

## II. La Paz, Mexico (This is the heading)

Where in Mexico is La Paz located?

Find a map that shows where La Paz, Mexico is located. Print it.

What state in Mexico is La Paz the capital of?

What two bodies of water are beside the state La Paz is located in?

Which body of water is closer to La Paz?

What is the former name of the Gulf?

What are the similarities between the location of Salinas and La Paz?

[http://www.visitmexico.com/wb/Visitmexico/Visi\\_La\\_Paz](http://www.visitmexico.com/wb/Visitmexico/Visi_La_Paz)

<http://www.worldwildlife.org/what/wherewework/gulfofca/>

<http://www.maps-of-mexico.com/>.

*The Setting and History of Mexico*  
[http://www.bajatravel.com/Baja California](http://www.bajatravel.com/Baja_California)  
Includes a short [History of Lower Baja](#) and a



brief description of the city of [La Paz](#).

Find additional information here: [La Paz](#) | [The Baja Peninsula](#).

[Virtual Mexico](#)This is the host site which contains the above, which includes [General Information about Mexico](#).

[Mexico - A Country Study](#)A comprehensive site from the Library of Congress.

The novel's setting is La Paz, Mexico

What is the geography of La Paz?

- a. What bodies of water surround it? List all of them and label them on the map.
- b. What mountains exist? List the names of the mountains and label them on the map.
- c. What is the terrain like?

What is the climate like?

Where is La Paz in relation to the Gulf of California and the mountains?

Where is the capital of Mexico? How far would it be from La Paz to Mexico City across the water? How far to go around?

What are the main ways to make a living in La Paz?

### **III. Scorpions**

<http://insects.tamu.edu/extension/bulletins/1-1678.html>

[http://www.desertusa.com/oct96/du\\_scorpion.html](http://www.desertusa.com/oct96/du_scorpion.html)

<http://web.singnet.com.sg/%7Echuaeec/what/what.htm>

What do they look like? Include a picture of a scorpion.

Where do they live?

What do they eat?

How do they hunt their prey?

Are they dangerous to humans? Why or why not?

What should people do if they encounter a scorpion? What if a person is stung?

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#### **IV. Pearl Divers**

<http://library.thinkquest.org/10236/div.htm>

What dangers do pearl divers face?

What kinds of people were pearl divers?

What kind of life did pearl divers live?

How do pearl divers adapt their bodies to the ocean?

What are the bends?

How is the quality of a pearl judged?

## **V. Pearls**

Who led an expedition to find the mythical "Sea of Pearls"?

These pearls became the most important export product where?

What happened in 1939 to save the few remaining pearl oyster populations?

What is the pearls range in diameter for Sea of Cortez Pearls?

Describe the coloration of these pearls which are called "Cortez Pearls".

<http://www.pearl-guide.com/cortez-pearls.shtml>

[Google Images](#)

### Work Cited Page

- I. John Steinbeck
  - a. Cite 1
  - b. Cite 2
  - c. Cite 3
  
- II. La Paz, Mexico
  - a. Cite 1
  - b. Cite 2
  - c. Cite 3

Continue with this format for all 5 categories

