Poe & the Red Death

from the Esri GeoInquiries™ collection for American Literature

Target audience – American literature learners	Time required – 15 minutes

Activity	Discover the impact of tuberculosis on 1800s America and modern society.
Standards	**CCSS: ELA-LITERACY.RL.11-12.3**. Analyze the impact of the author's choices regarding how to develop and relate elements of a story or drama (for example, where a story is set, how the action is ordered, and how the characters are introduced and developed). **CCSS: ELA-LITERACY.RL.11-12.9**. Demonstrate knowledge of eighteenth-, nineteenth-, and early twentieth-century foundational works of American literature, including how two or more texts from the same period treat similar themes or topics.
Learning Outcomes	• Students will analyze the impact of tuberculosis on Edgar Allan Poe. • Students will analyze the impact of tuberculosis on modern society.

Map URL: http://esriurl.com/litGeoInquiry3

? Ask

Where was the red death?
→ Read aloud, "Poe didn't have tuberculosis (TB); however, the disease claimed his mother when he was almost 3 in 1811 in Richmond, Virginia. His foster mother died in 1829. The disease struck again in 1842, killing his wife."
→ Click the link above to launch the map.
→ Read aloud, "Two percent of the population was dying of the disease in New England."
→ Click the darkest red counties.
? In 1800, which counties had the most deaths from TB? *[Philadelphia, Hampshire, and more]*
? How many people were dying in those counties? *[More than 1,000 per county]*
→ With the Details button depressed, click the button, Content.
→ Click the checkbox to the left of the layer name, Tuberculosis Deaths in 1800.

⊕ Acquire

How does this disease affect different regions and people?
→ Click New York and New Orleans to view the chart. *(Note: The small arrow in upper right corner of the popup. Click through the arrow until the orange chart is displayed.)*
? What patterns of the disease do you see related to black and white people? *[More black people were dying of TB.]*
? What patterns do you see over time? *[It decreased over time, but there were fewer deaths in New Orleans.]*
→ Click the checkbox to the left of the layer name, New York and New Orleans....

🔍 Explore

Where is TB in the U.S. today?
→ Click the checkbox to the left of the layer name, TB Incidence In The US 2015.
? What states are above the average three per 100,000 people? *[Alaska, Hawaii, California, Texas, New York, New Jersey, and Georgia]*
? Of those states, what state has the highest case rate? *[Alaska]*
? Why Alaska? *[The disease can be latent for many years. Experts believe many may have been infected in the 1940s or 1950s and it becomes activated and then spreads further.]*

Analyze

How does TB affect other countries?

- → Turn on the layer, New TB Cases In The World 2009.
- → Click the button, Bookmarks. Select World.
- → Examine the new cases in 2009 around the world.
- ? What countries have the most cases? *[Russia, Oman, and more]*
- → Turn off the layer, New TB Cases in the World, 2009.
- → Turn on the layer, New TB Cases in the World, 2015.
- ? What has changed around the world? *[More new cases — Australia, Peru, Kazakhstan, and more]*

✅ Act

What can we do to treat or eradicate the disease?

- – Now that you have an idea about where people have TB, you will examine successful treatment.
- → Turn off all layers.
- → Turn on the layer, Success Rate Of Treatment Worldwide.
- ? Where has treatment been successful? *[USA, Russia, Oman, and Kuwait]*
- ? Where has treatment not been successful? *[Jamaica, Belize, and Finland]*
- ? Why might it not be successfully treated? *[Some people have strains of the disease that are more resistant to tradition antibiotic treatments.]*

SET FILTER PARAMETERS

- The Filter is only available for certain map layers.
- In the Contents pane, point to a layer and click the Filter button beneath the layer name.
- Set the Filter parameters.

TURN A MAP LAYER ON AND OFF

- Make sure that the Details pane is selected, and click Show Contents Of Map.
- To show individual map layers, select the check boxes next to the layer names.
- Hint: If a map layer name is light gray, zoom in or out on the map until the layer name is black. The layer can now be turned on.

Next Steps

DID YOU KNOW? ArcGIS Online is a mapping platform freely available to U.S. public, private, and home schools as a part of the White House ConnectED Initiative. A school subscription provides additional security, privacy, and content features. Learn more about ArcGIS Online and how to get a school subscription at http://connected.esri.com.

THEN TRY THIS...
• Explore other statistics in the data tables by symbolizing other factors.
• Filter the data tables.

TEXT REFERENCES

This GIS map has been cross-referenced to material in the following short story.

- *"The Masque of the Red Death,"* Edgar Allan Poe