The mockingbird sings for freedom

from the Esri GeoInquiries™ collection for American Literature

Target audience – American literature learners	Time required – 15 minutes

Activity	Explore the demographic and social context of *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee.
Standards	**CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.9-10.1**. Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly, as well as inferences drawn from the text. **CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.9-10.5**. Analyze how an author's choices concerning how to structure a text, order events within it (for example, parallel plots), and manipulate time (for example, pacing and flashbacks) create such effects as mystery, tension, or surprise.
Learning Outcomes	• Students will describe the changes in the distribution of the black population within the USA since 1930. • Students will describe the landscape of segregation and social inequities that were spotlighted in *To Kill a Mockingbird*.

Map URL: http://esriurl.com/litGeoInquiry9

❓ Ask

How has the distribution of the black population changed over time?

- ➜ Click the link above to launch the map.
- ❓ Where are black population concentrations in the USA in 1930? *[South eastern USA]*
- ➜ With the Details button depressed, click the button, Contents.
- ➜ Turn on the layer Black Population, 2010 - by State. Turn this layer off and on to see patterns.
- ❓ What changes in the distribution of the black population are visible between 1930-2010? *[Shift from south to north]*
- ➜ Turn off layers, Black Population, 1930 - by State and Black Population, 2010 - by State.

⬇ Acquire

What changes in the black population distribution are seen in Alabama?

- ➜ Click the button, Bookmarks. Select Alabama.
- ➜ Read aloud, "The next data are county-level, showing differences across Alabama. "
- ➜ Turn on and off layers, Black Population, 1930 - by County and Black Population, 2010 - by County.
- ❓ What patterns or changes are visible? *[Some change over time within Alabama]*
- – Harper Lee based *To Kill a Mockingbird* on her childhood home of Monroeville.
- ➜ Click in the find address window, and type, Monroeville, Alabama.
- ➜ Zoom out to better see Monroeville and adjacent counties.

🔍 Explore

What changes are visible in Monroeville, Alabama?

- ➜ Turn on layers, Black Population, 1930 - by County and Black Population, 2010 - by County.
- ➜ Click on Monroe county. Use the small arrow in upper, right on pop-up to scroll information.
- ❓ In Monroe county, what are the percents of the black population in 1930 and 2010? *[52.5% and 41.7%]*
- ➜ Zoom the map out to see the continental USA.
- – After the Civil War, large numbers of black families migrated from the Deep South to work in northern cities. This was known as the Great Migration; it changed the distribution of the black population.

more ▶

☑ Analyze

How did the Great Migration change the population landscape?

→ Turn on the layers, Great Migration Flow and Black Population 2010 - by State.
→ Describe the black population 2010 distribution in the northern states. *[There are islands of black populations in northern states.]*
→ Turn off the layer, Great Migration Flow.
→ Turn on the layer, Green Book.
– Read aloud, *"The Negro Travelers' Green Book* was published as a travel guide from 1936 to 1966, listing restaurants and lodging that welcomed black travelers."
→ Describe the distribution of the Green Book services across the USA. *[Distributed with a greater concentration in the Eastern US]*

☑ Act

What was the importance of the *Green Book*?

? How did the Great Migration contribute to the distribution of *Green Book* services? *[The Great Migration created opportunities for new businesses that offered lodging and meals for blacks traveling from the north to the south for economic opportunities or to visit family.]*
→ Click the button, Bookmarks. Select Alabama.
→ Click on the *Green Book* stars to read about services.
→ Use the small arrow in upper, right on pop-up to read about multiple services
? How many *Green Book* services were listed in Alabama? *[21]*
? Why so few? *[Travelers in the South would stay with family.]*
→ Turn on the layer, AG Gaston Motel. Click the Motel symbol to read more about this *Green Book* listing.
? How many *Green Book* services were listed in your state in 1956?

IDENTIFY MAP FEATURES

• Click a feature on the map and a pop-up window will open with information.
• Links and images in the pop-up are often clickable.
• An arrow icon in the upper right of the window indicates that multiple features have been clicked.
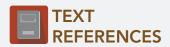• Click the arrow button to scroll through information for each feature.

MAP LAYERS

• 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 public, private, and home schools. A school subscription provides additional security, privacy, and content features. Learn more about ArcGIS Online and how to get a school subscription at http://www.esri.com/schools.

THEN TRY THIS...
• Explore the Segregation by the Sea story map, and see how coastal access for minorities was increasingly restricted: http://esriurl.com/Geo4206.
• Explore the *Negro Travelers' Green Book, Spring 1956*: http://esriurl.com/Geo04207.

TEXT REFERENCES

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

• *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee