

Activities about The Negro Travel Green Book

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This lesson plan contains two activities that investigate the Green Book and learn the history about black entrepreneurship during the Green Book era

Activity #1

Investigation of The Negro Travel Green Book

Background

The Green Book was a travel guide published between 1936 and 1966 that listed hotels, restaurants, bars, gas stations, etc. where black travelers would be welcome.

Play the first video (6 minutes) that teaches about the origins of the Green Book, [The Green Book: A Historic Travel Guide for Black America, Part I](#)

Play the second video (7 minutes) to learn more about the Green Book, [The Green Book: Historic Travel Guide for Black America Part II](#)

Take a moment to have a discussion with the students. Here are some questions to use if students have none.

- Before today, have you ever heard of the Green Book?
- What do you know about Jim Crow Laws?
 - [Explanation of Jim Crow Laws](#)
- How do you think you might feel if your family was turned away from a hotel, a gas station, restaurant, or store?

Take a glimpse of what the 1963 Green Book actually looks like, [Digital Version of 1963 Green Book](#)

- Have students look through some of the books
 - Specifically, look at options that were available in [Alabama](#) and [New York City](#)
 - What are some things you notice about the places listed in the book?

Activity # 2

Mapping a Trip using the Green Book

Let's take a trip using the 1947 & 1956 publications of the Green Book. [Student Version to share with the group](#)

- Using this link, [Navigating The Green Book | NYPL Labs](#)
Have students start with the 1947 year, enter a starting address or city, and final destination. Then click Map A Trip.
- The website will display the route with options of where Black people have safe options to stop at. Have students reflect on the following questions:
 - How many stops are available along the route?
 - What types of businesses are they? How many restaurants? How many hotels/lodges?
 - What are the states along the route, if any, that contain no stops?
 - How many states did a Black person or family have to travel through to stop and sleep at a hotel or lodge?
 - Map another trip using the same start and ending point but choose the year 1956. Ask yourself the same above questions.
 - What are some differences between 1947 & 1956 looking at the same destination?
- If there is time, students can share their findings with the group.
- Extra activity:
 - Using google maps, type in some of the addresses to see if the business still exists.



The screenshot shows a dark-themed interface for the Green Book navigation tool. At the top, it says "Choose a year" with two buttons: "1947" and "✓ 1956". Below that, there are two input fields: "Enter an address U.S. address" with "New York, NY" entered, and "Enter a destination address" with "Atlanta, GA" entered. At the bottom, there is a "Map A Trip" button.