

# The Green Book Mapping Lesson - Teacher Guide

## Materials Needed

- Student Worksheet.
- Student Grading Rubric
- Link to New York Public Library Green Site with digitized copies of all Green Books.  
<https://digitalcollections.nypl.org/collections/the-green-book#/?tab=navigation>
- Link to New York Public Library Green Book Mapping site to check work and show students AFTER their mapping project is completed. <https://publicdomain.nypl.org/greenbook-map/trip.html>
- 1947, 1954 and 1956 Green Books.
- Google Maps

## Introduction

The Green Book was a travel guide published from 1936 to 1964. The books helped African Americans find safe places to get gas, spend the night, eat, or use a restroom during the Jim Crow Era when segregation and discrimination was widespread. The books were published by Victor Hugo Green, a mail carrier from New York City, and crowdsourced by African Americans across the country at a time before email or the Internet.

In this lesson we are all going to create a two-day trip starting in New York City and traveling up to 800 miles in any direction you choose. You must plan to stop for gas every 200 miles, eat three meals, take bathroom breaks, and find a place to sleep overnight. Caveat ... all the places you stop at must be listed in the 1947, 1954 or 1956 Green Book. We have two copies of these Green Books, or you can access them on the New York Public Library Green Book site. <https://digitalcollections.nypl.org/collections/the-green-book#/?tab=navigation>

Here's an example. Using the 1947 Green Book. New York to Atlanta. Start by Googling the Route to identify towns along the way.

### Day One

Leave New York at 8:30 a.m.

Arrive in Baltimore at Noon. Get gas at the Esso Service Station at Presstman and Fremont. Eat at Spot BBQ at 1530 Penna Avenue (1/2 mile away). Note only one service station in Baltimore we can stop at. From Baltimore drive to Richmond Virginia.

Stay overnight at Eggleston Hotel (2<sup>nd</sup> and Leigh St.). Three blocks away is Cora's restaurant (427 E. Leigh St.) where we can eat dinner.

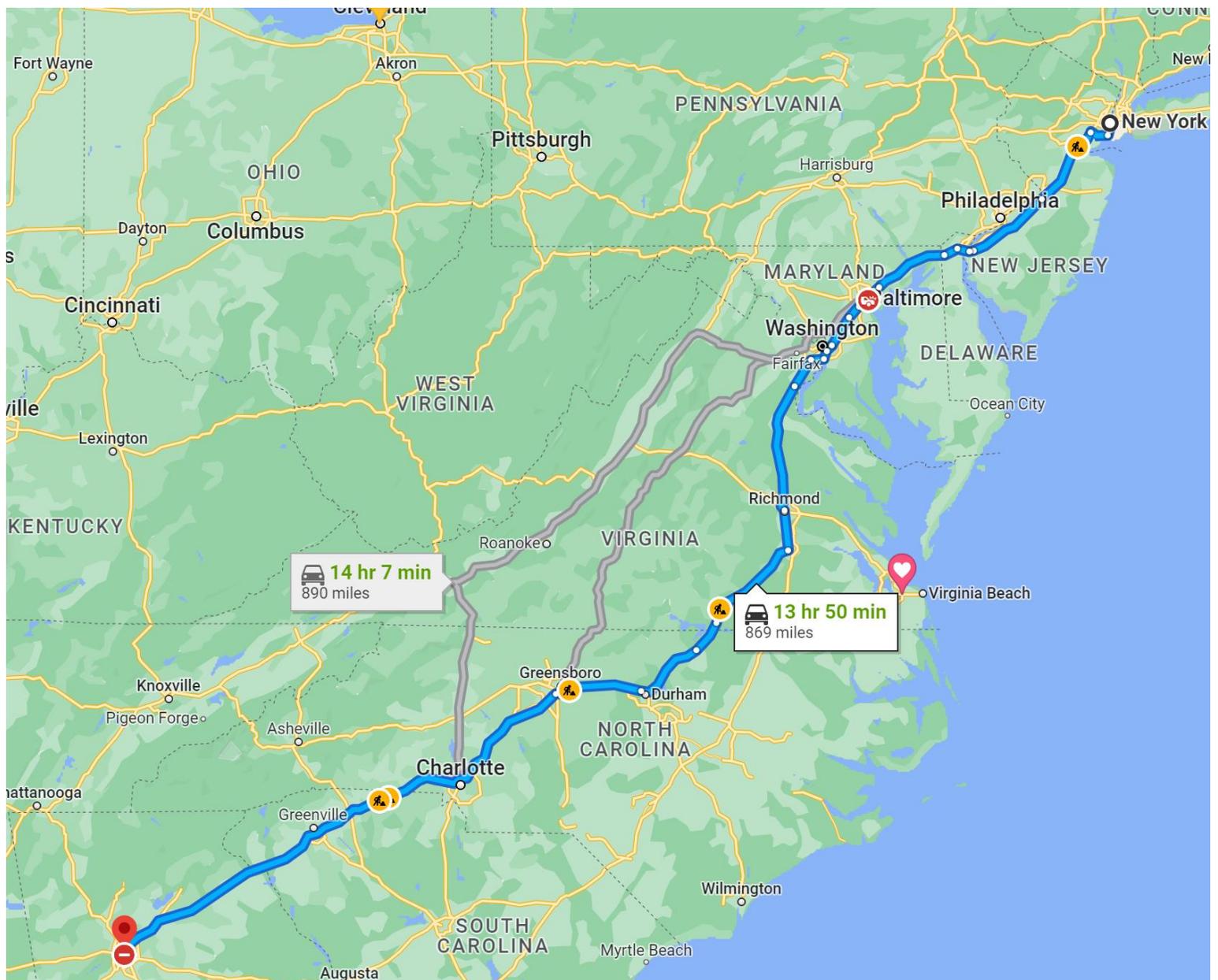
### Day Two

Next morning fill up at Little Lord's service station at 410 N. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street. Looking ahead no gas station until Charlotte North Carolina. Fill up a gas can with gas in case the car runs out before Charlotte.

Drive to Greensboro NC (3 hours) and stop at the Paramount Tavern for lunch (907 E. Market St.)

Stop for gas in Charlotte NC at Bishop Dale service station (First & Brevard Streets).

Drive from Charlotte to destination, Atlanta. Stay at the Savoy Hotel (239 Auburne Ave). Plan to visit the Barber Shop and Beauty Parlor the next morning and check out the Poinciana Night Club (143 Auburn Ave) in the evening.



## Student Assignment

You must [plan a road trip](#) outside of our state and imagine that the discrimination which African Americans faced at this time in history applied.

- 1) First, select a city or tourist destination that is at least a 2-day drive away and [map out your route](#). Where will you stop for gas, meals, or bathroom breaks? Where will you spend each night?
- 2) Next, select a copy of the [Green Book either from here](#) or this [one from 1949](#) to plan out your journey. Each Green Book has introduction pages and then has states listed alphabetically. Within each state, the book lists cities, and towns alphabetically, with categories of recommended business.
- 3) You will need to find gas stations, restaurants, and hotels in the Green Book that you can use. You must stop for gas at least every 200 miles and you can only drive 400 miles a day (that's almost 7 hours when driving at 60 miles per hour). You also need three meals a day and hotels for each night.
- 4) Use Google Maps and enter each stop as a destination until you reach your final location.
- 5) Once you have your entire route planned out, take a screenshot of the map, and paste it into the table below. Describe your journey, including the names of where you will be stopping and how you came to create the route. Then answer the questions that follow.

<b>Destination</b>	
<b>Screenshot of your Map Route</b>	
<b>Describe Your Journey</b>	

How much shorter could your trip have been if you did not have the limitations of segregation?

Why was the Green Book essential for African American travelers?

What happened in 1964 that led to the book no longer being published?

Describe what it might have felt like for African American travelers using the Green Book at the time.