

Maps and American Culture and Literature

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Imago Mundi (Babylonian tablet map of the world, 6th century BC)

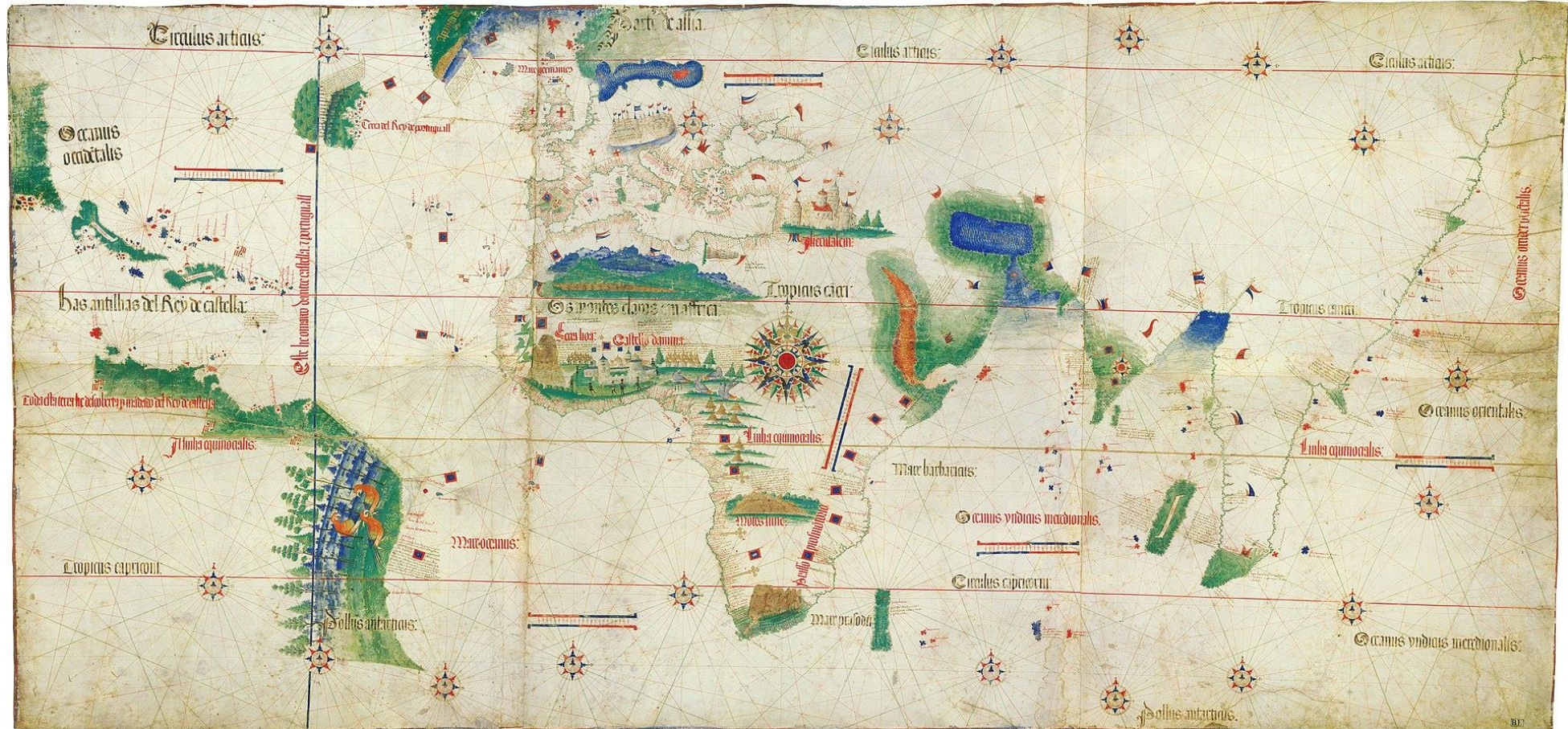




Juan de la Cosa, first map of the New World (Americas), ca. 1500 AD



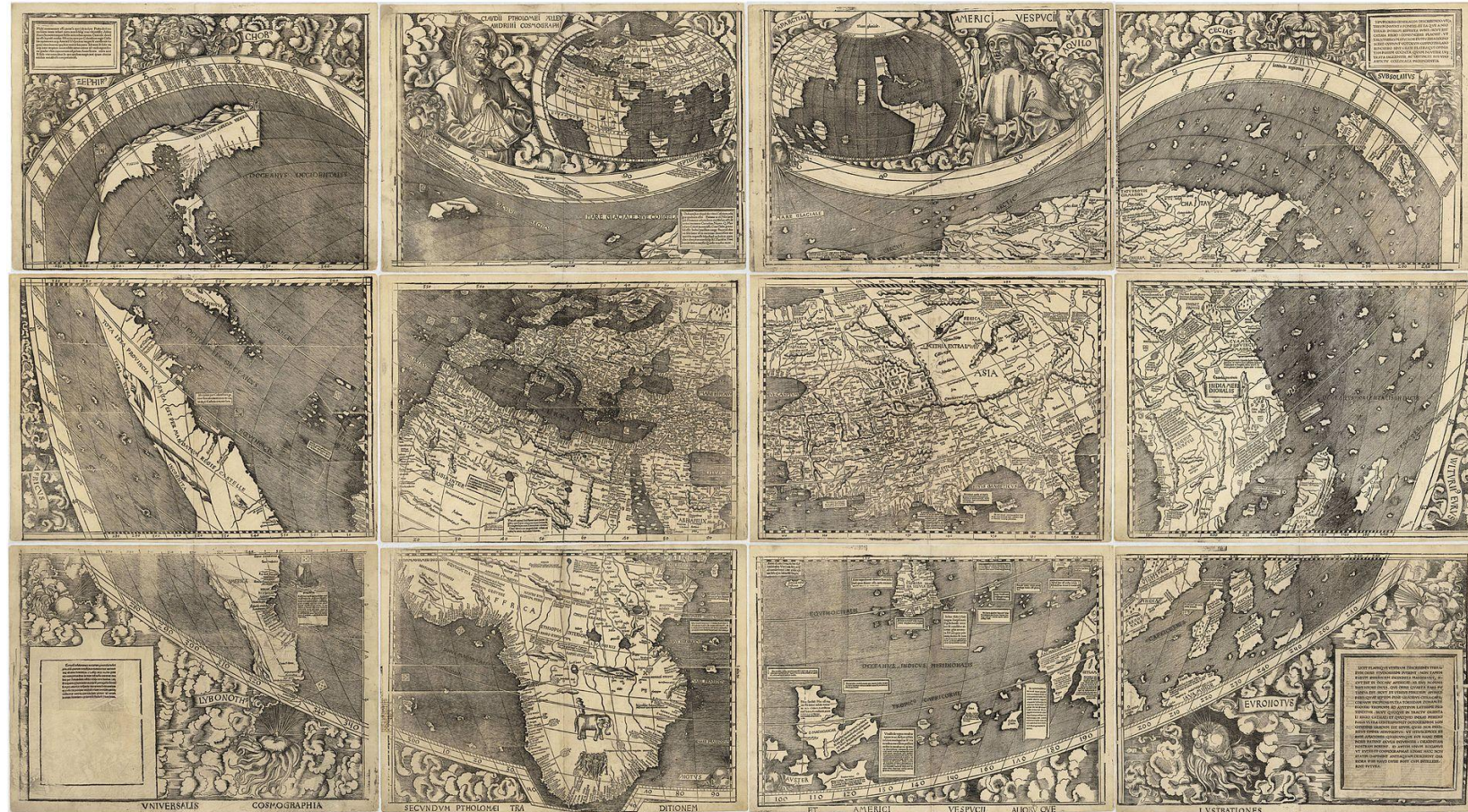
Cantino planisphere, 1502



Caverio Map, ca. 1505



Waldseemüller map with joint sheets, 1507



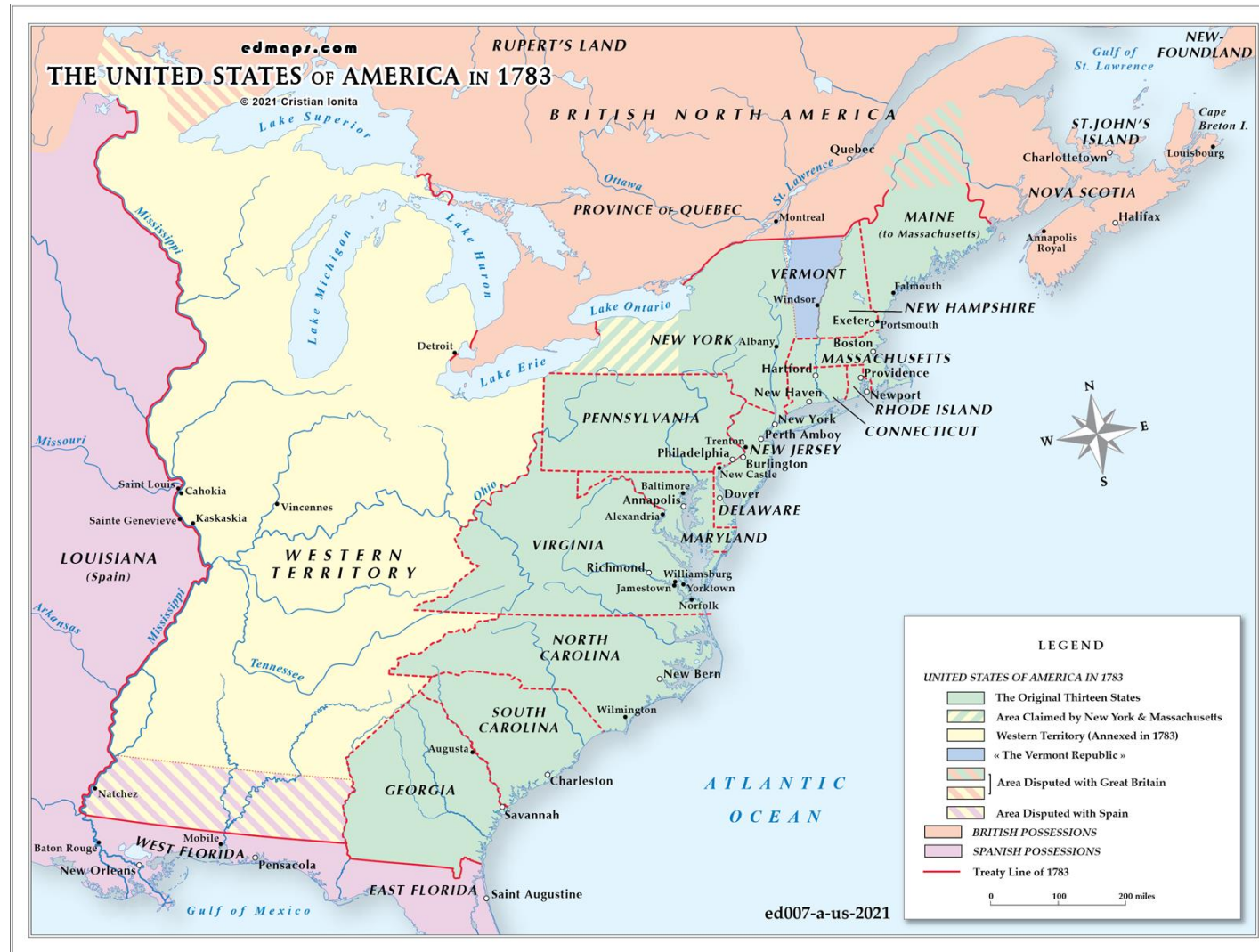
Diego Gutiérrez, "The Americas, or A New and Precise Description of the Fourth Part of the World" (1562)



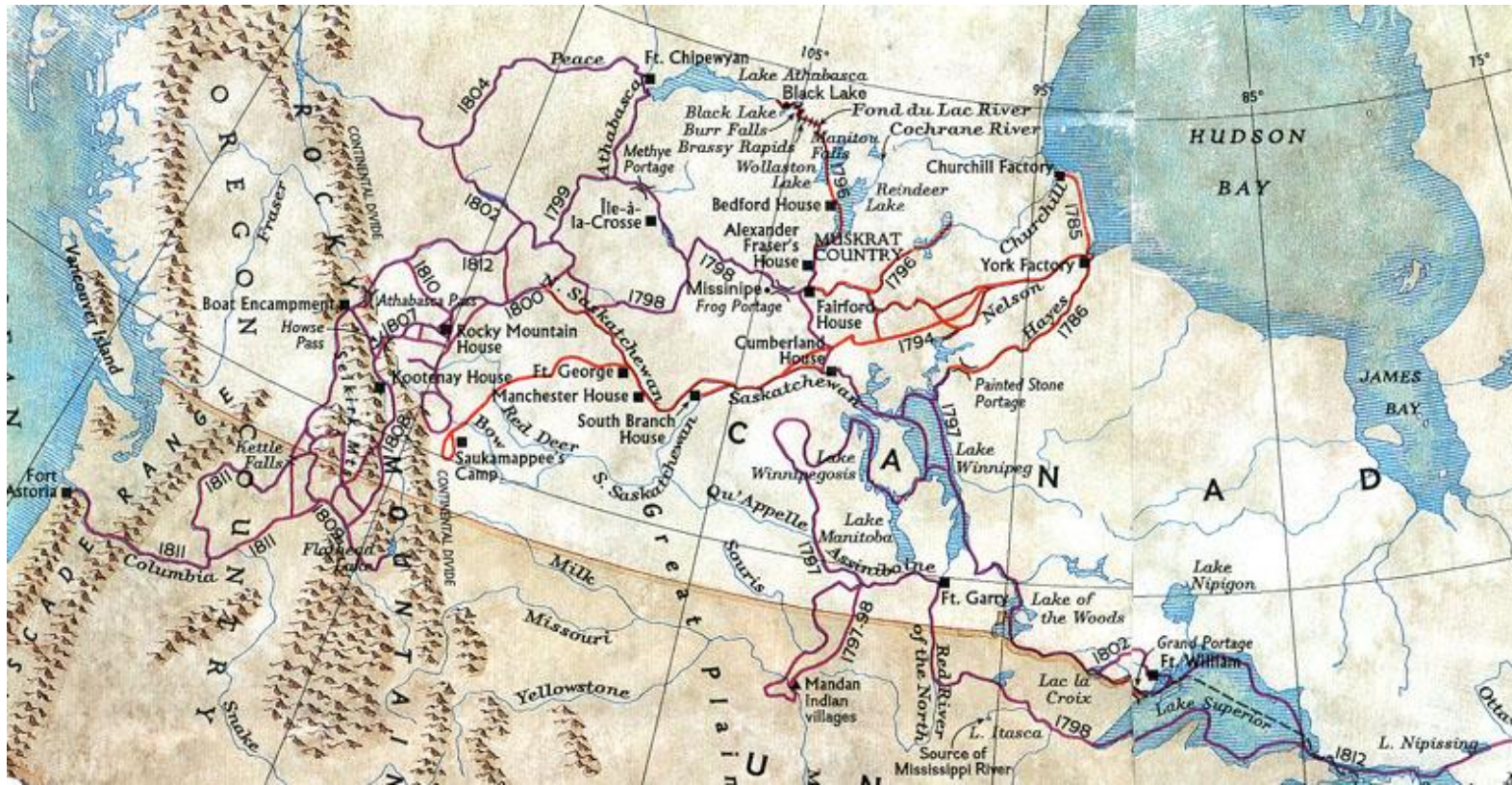
New England colonies, 1677

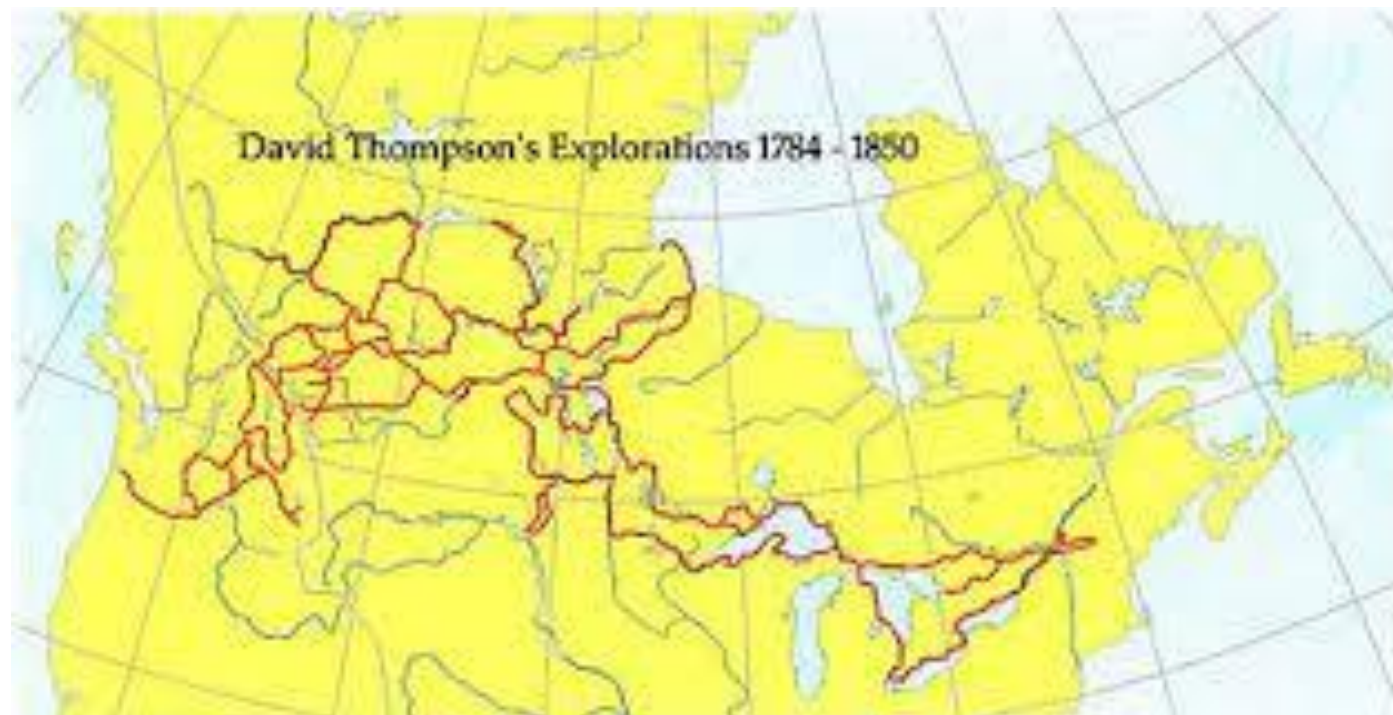


Map of the U.S.A., 1783



David Thompson, 1770-1857, British-Canadian explorer, cartographer, fur trader

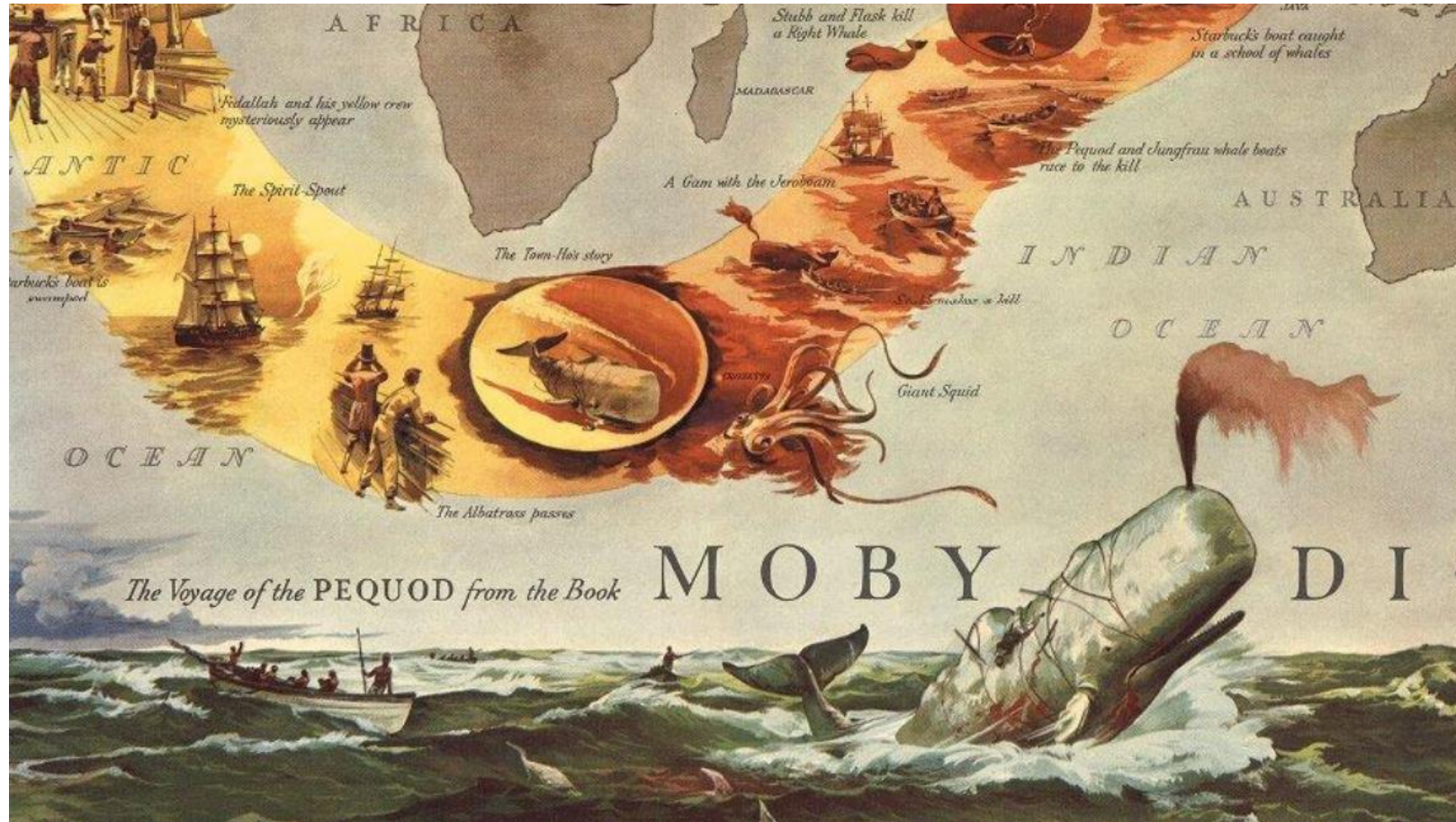


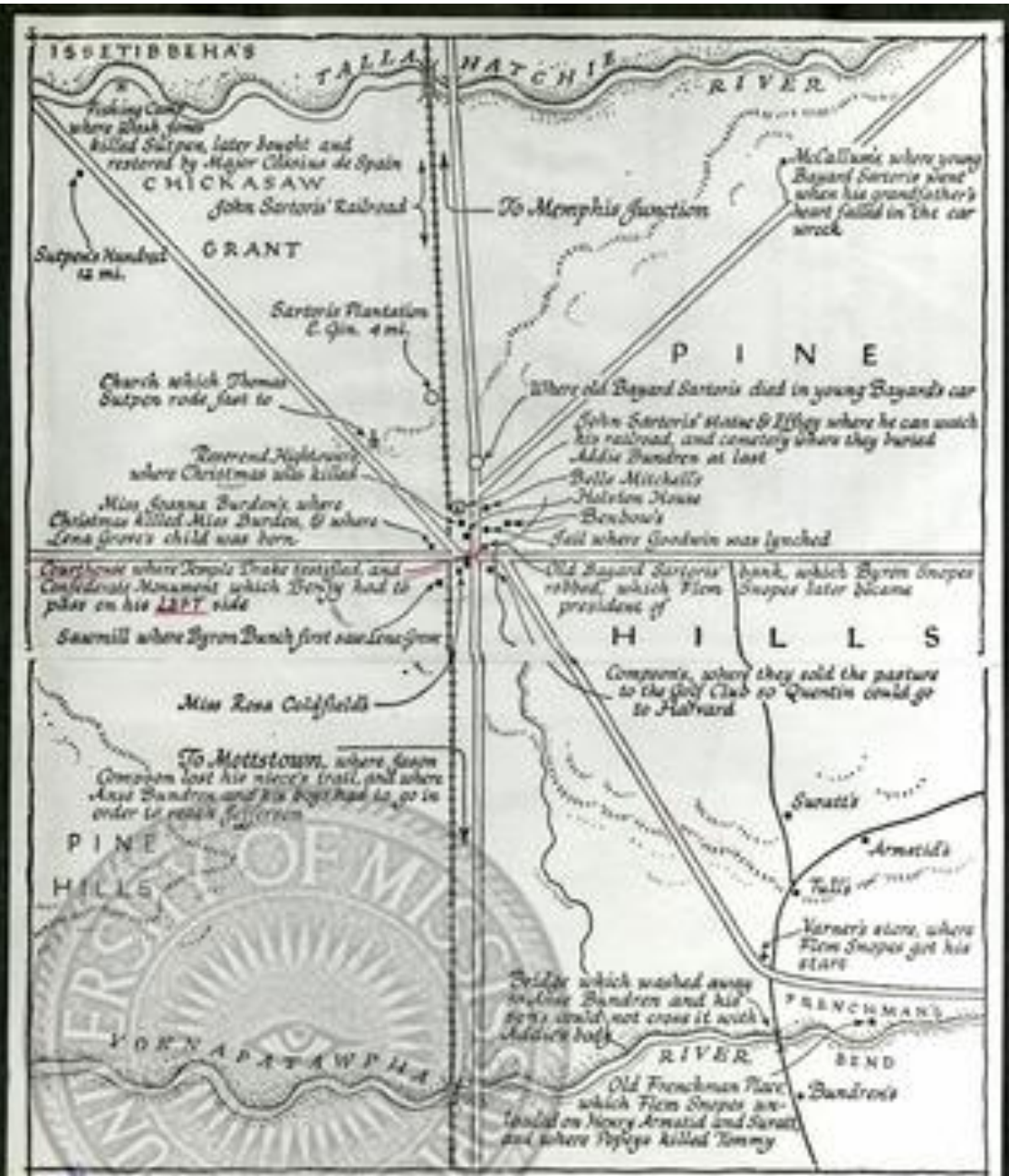


Samuel Hill, Plan of the City of Washington, 1792



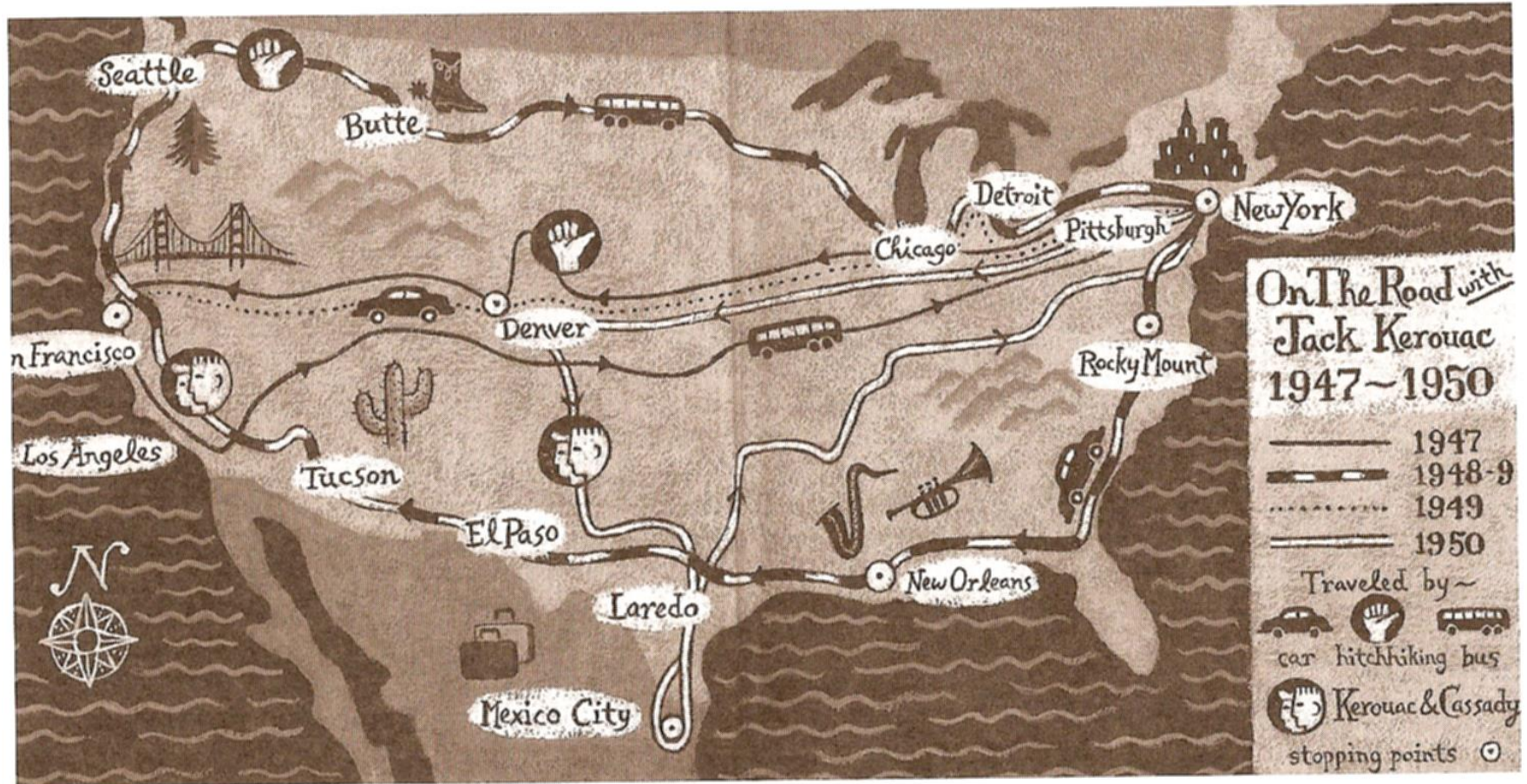
Map of travel in Moby Dick by Herman Melville (1851)



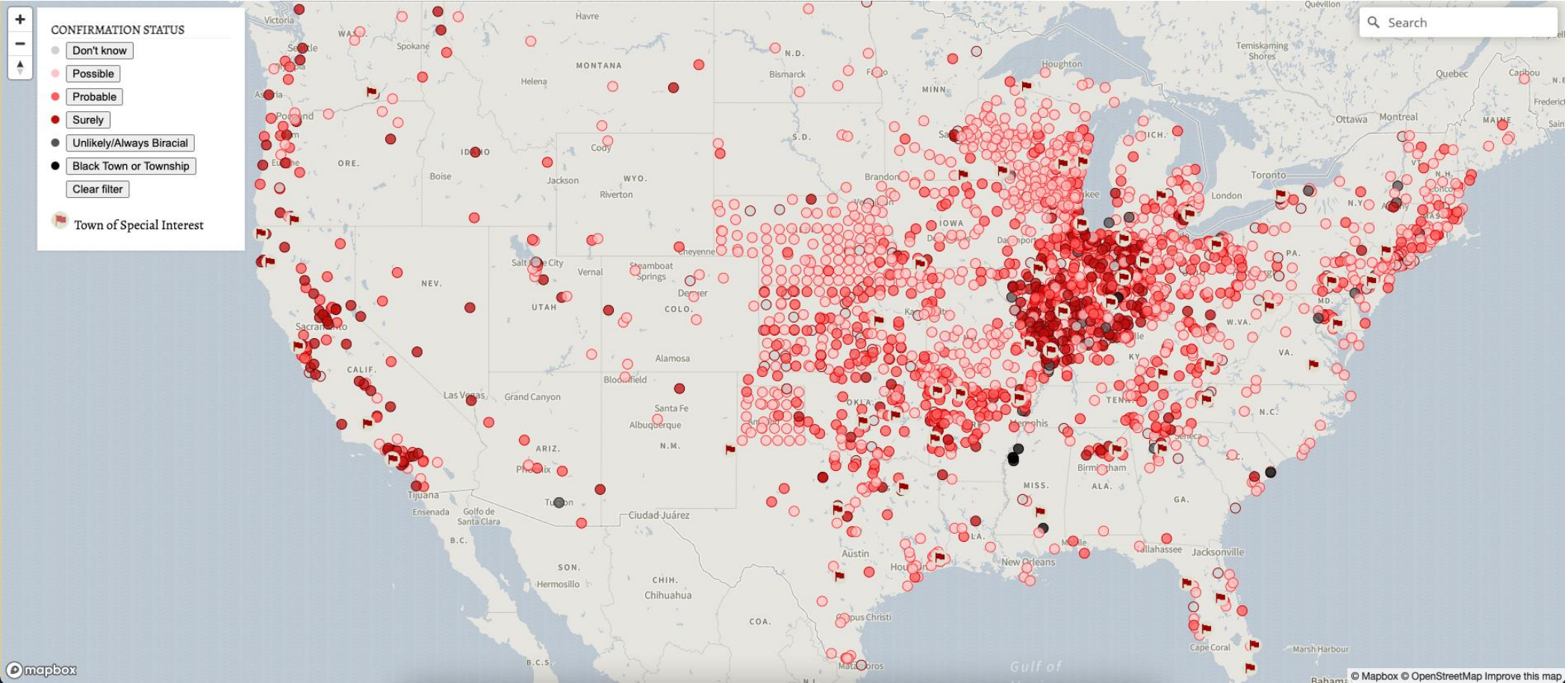


JEFFERSON, YOKNAPATAWPHA CO, Mississippi
 Area, 2400 Square Miles - Population, Whites, 6298, Negroes, 9313
 WILLIAM FAULKNER (Sole Owner & Proprietor)

Jack Kerouac, travels related to *On the Road*

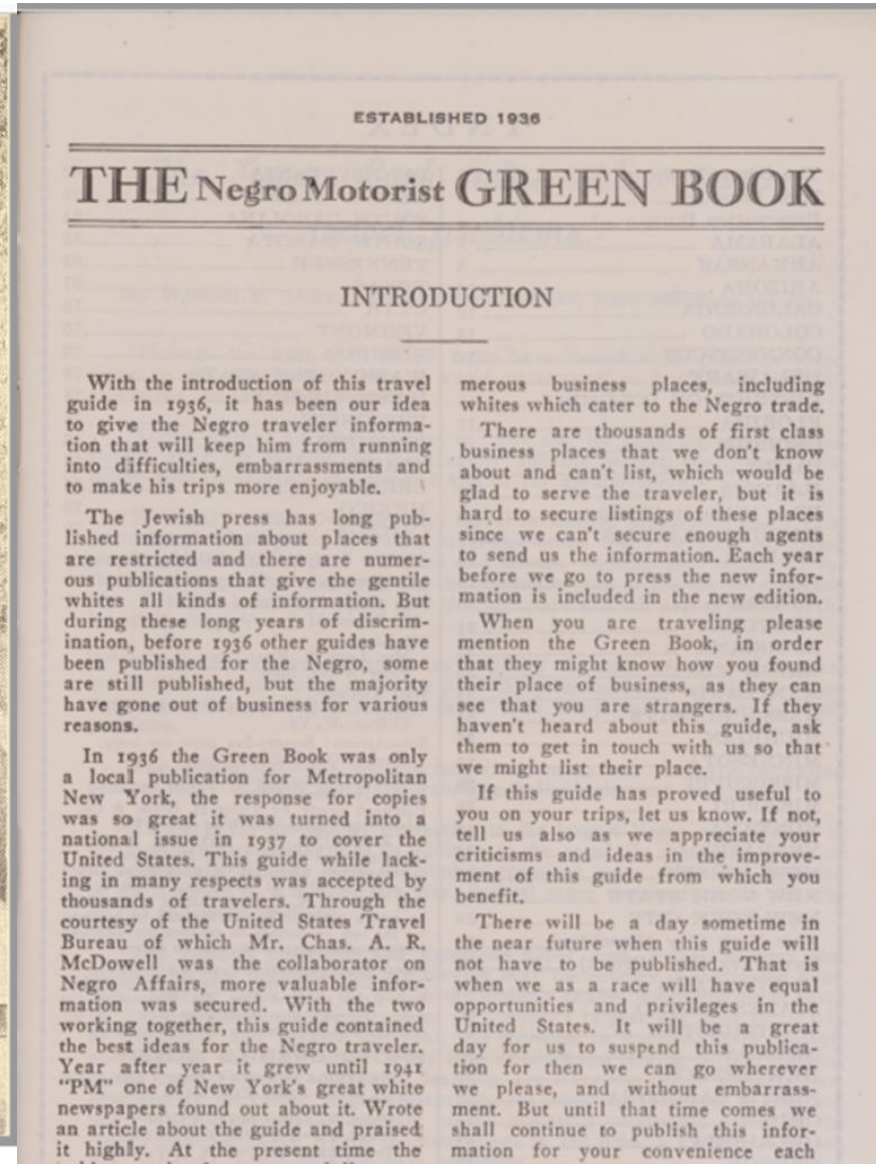
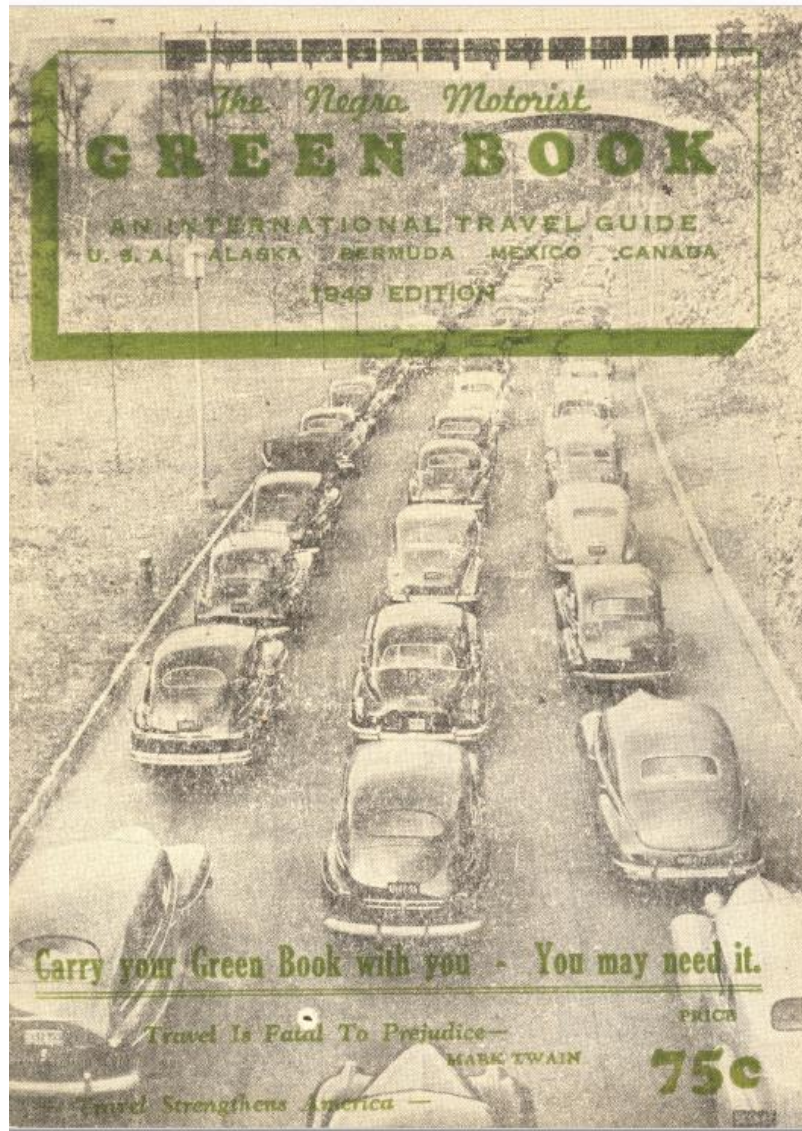


James E. Loewen, Sundown Towns



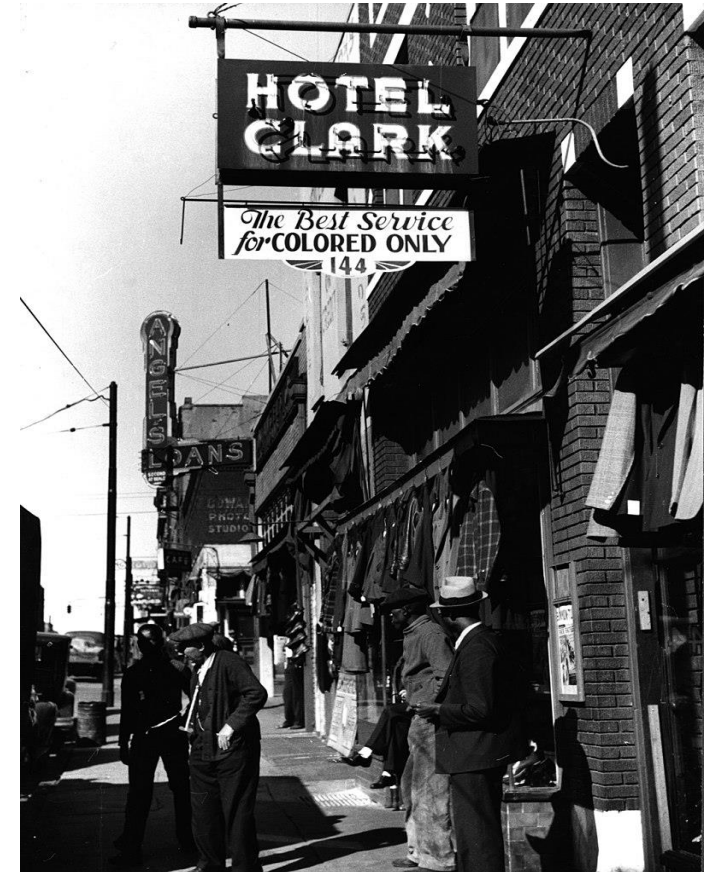


The Negro Motorist Green Book, 1936-1966



Julian Bond on using *The Green Book*

You think about the things that most travelers take for granted, or most people today take for granted. If I go to New York City and want a hair cut, it's pretty easy for me to find a place where that can happen, but it wasn't easy then. White barbers would not cut black peoples' hair. White beauty parlors would not take black women as customers — hotels and so on, down the line. You needed the *Green Book* to tell you where you can go without having doors slammed in your face.



Barack Obama, from the Presidential Inauguration Address, 2009

„This is the price and the promise of citizenship. This is the source of our confidence -- the knowledge that God calls on us to shape an uncertain destiny. This is the meaning of our liberty and our creed, why men and women and children of every race and every faith can join in celebration across this magnificent mall; and **why a man whose father less than 60 years ago might not have been served in a local restaurant can now stand before you to take a most sacred oath.**“

The Map as a Symbolic Guide to A Woman's Identity and Sexuality

Lucille Clifton

what the mirror said

listen,
you a wonder.
you a city
of a woman.
you got a geography
of your own.
listen,
somebody need a map
to understand you.
somebody need directions

to move around you.
listen,
woman,
you not a noplac
anonymous
girl;
mister with his hands on you
he got his hands on
some
damn
body!

Charles Olson, from *Call Me Ishmael*

I take SPACE to be the central fact to man born in America, from Folsom cave to now. I spell it large because it comes large here. Large, and without mercy.

It is geography at bottom, a hell of wide land from the beginning. 'That made the first American story (Parkman's): exploration.

Ronald Westphal, from *Geocriticism: Real and Fictional Spaces* (2007)

- “...geocriticism, insofar as it studies the literary stratifications of referential space, can play an important role, since geocriticism operates somewhere between the geography of the “real” and the geography of the “imaginary” . . . two quite similar geographies that may lead to others, which critics should try to develop and explore.”

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Robert T. Tally, Jr.

“The tumultuous “moment” of nineteenth-century American literature – when social spaces and literary narratives were undergoing profound transformations as people, in the midst, sought to make sense of a changing world – provides a perfect occasion for a project of geocriticism.”

Robert T. Tally, Jr.

Geocriticism, whatever else it may be, is a way of looking at the spaces of literature, broadly conceived to include not only those places that readers and writers experience by means of texts but also the experience of space and place within ourselves. That is, geocriticism can examine how the ways in which we are situated in space determine the nature and quality of our existence in the world. With geocriticism, one emphasizes this inherent spatiality while also focusing one's critical gaze on those aspects of literature (and other texts not always deemed literary) that give meaning to our spatialized sense of being.

Elizabeth Bishop from “Questions of Travel”

“...Continent, city, country, society:

the choice is never wide and never free.

And here, or there ... No. Should we have stayed at home,
wherever that may be?”

Back in the 1600's, distinguished French inventor and physicist Blaise Pascal wrote “All of humanity's problems stem from man's inability to sit quietly in a room alone.”

Richard Hugo

from “Map of Montana in Italy” „Topographical
Map“ „The Towns We Know...”

Lucille Clifton (1936-2010), African-American poet



what the mirror said

listen,
you a wonder.
you a city
of a woman.
you got a geography
of your own.
listen,
somebody need a map
to understand you.
somebody need directions
to move around you.
listen,
woman,
you not a noplac
anonymous
girl;
mister with his hands on you
he got his hands on
some
damn
body!

■

there is a girl inside.
she is randy as a wolf.
she will not walk away
and leave these bones
to an old woman.

she is a green tree
in a forest of kindling.
she is a green girl
in a used poet.

she has waited
patient as a nun
for the second coming,
when she can break through gray hairs
into blossom

and her lovers will harvest
honey and thyme
and the woods will be wild
with the damn wonder of it.

■

Bill Murray reads “Listen”

- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v= xHZyow7c2c](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xHZyow7c2c)
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_xHZyow7c2c

Yoknapatawpha County, in the fiction of William Faulkner

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THE GEOGRAPHICAL REVIEW

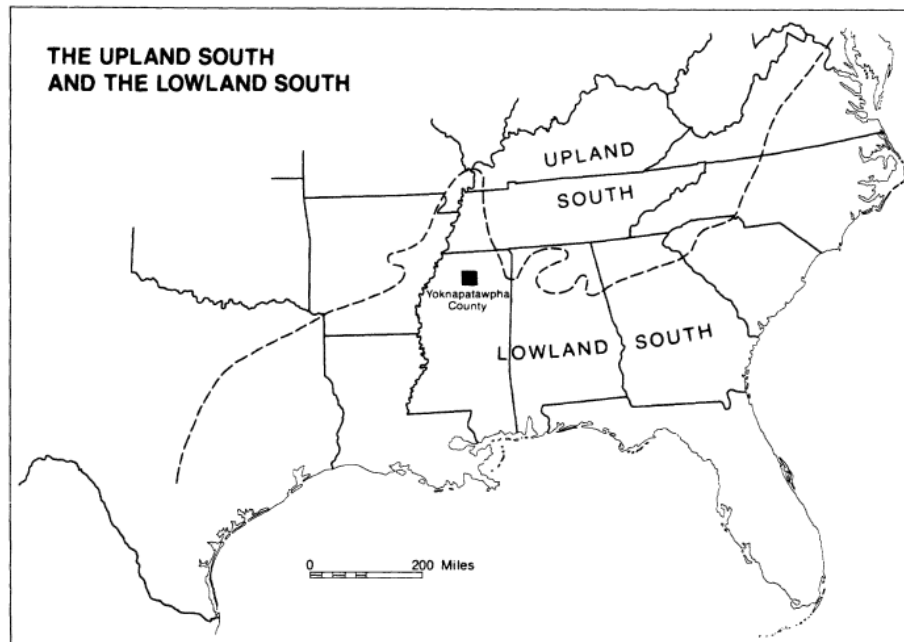


FIG. 1—The Upland South and the Lowland South. Fictional Yoknapatawpha County occupies the location of Lafayette County, Mississippi.

the small-scale setting of the fictional county in relation to the Upland and Lowland Souths and to the rural and urban Souths.

FAULKNER'S YOKNAPATAWPHA COUNTY

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PRINCIPAL REGIONS AND PLANTATIONS OF YOKNAPATAWPHA COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

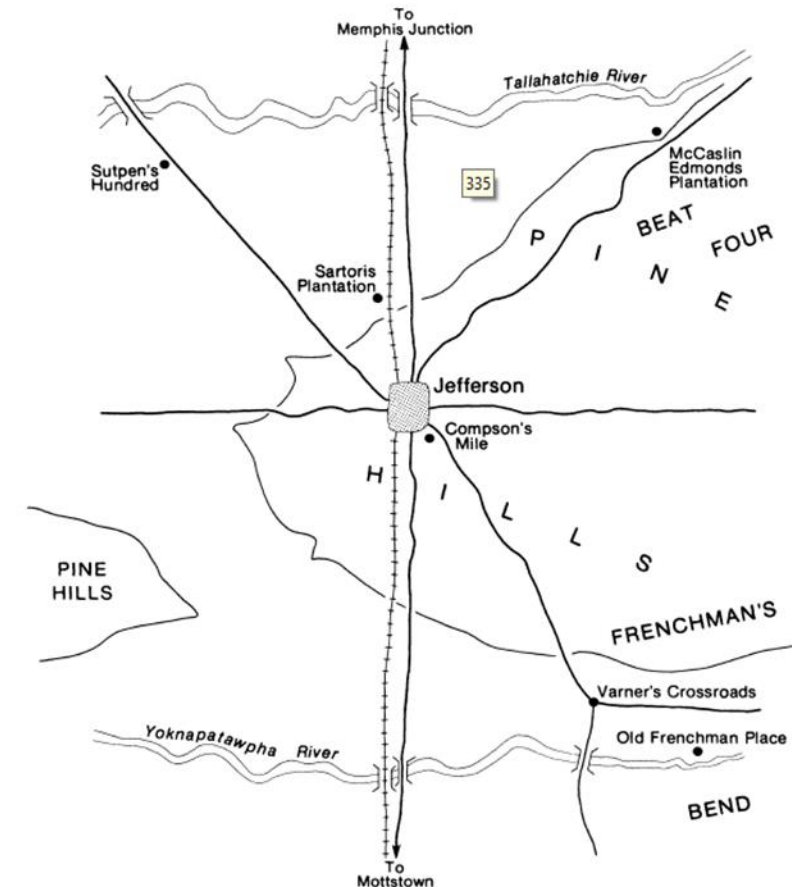
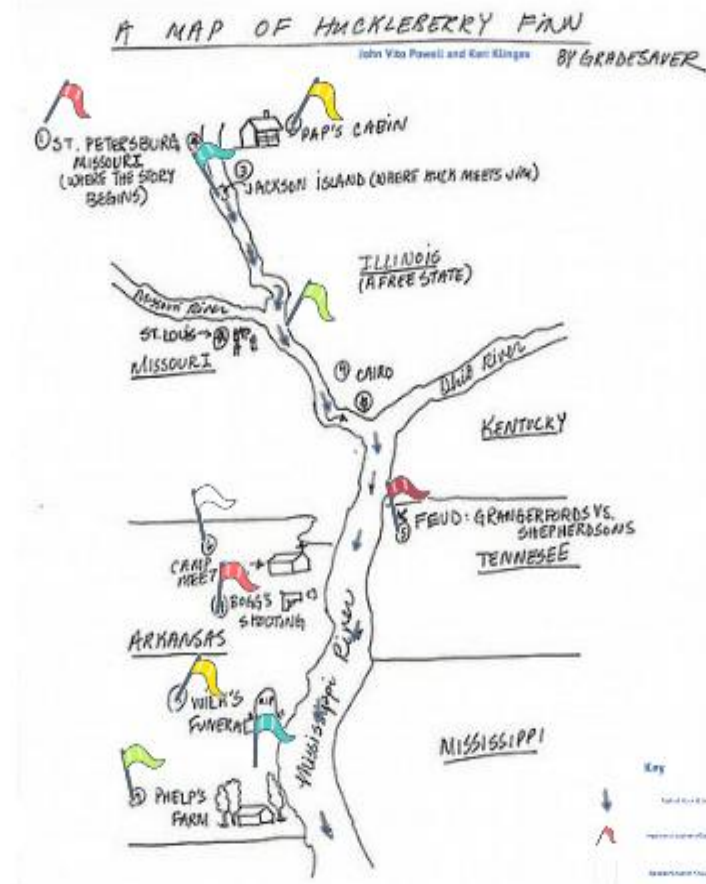


FIG. 2—Principal regions and plantations of Yoknapatawpha County, Mississippi. Developed from Faulkner's maps of Yoknapatawpha in *Absalom, Absalom!*, Faulkner, text footnote 17, and in *The Portable Faulkner*, Cowley, text footnote 2. Beat Four is not shown on the maps, but a description of the location is given in *Intruder in the Dust*, Faulkner, text footnote 12, pp. 35–36 and 144–151.

The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, by Mark Twain



**PRINCIPAL REGIONS AND PLANTATIONS
OF YOKNAPATAWPHA COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI**

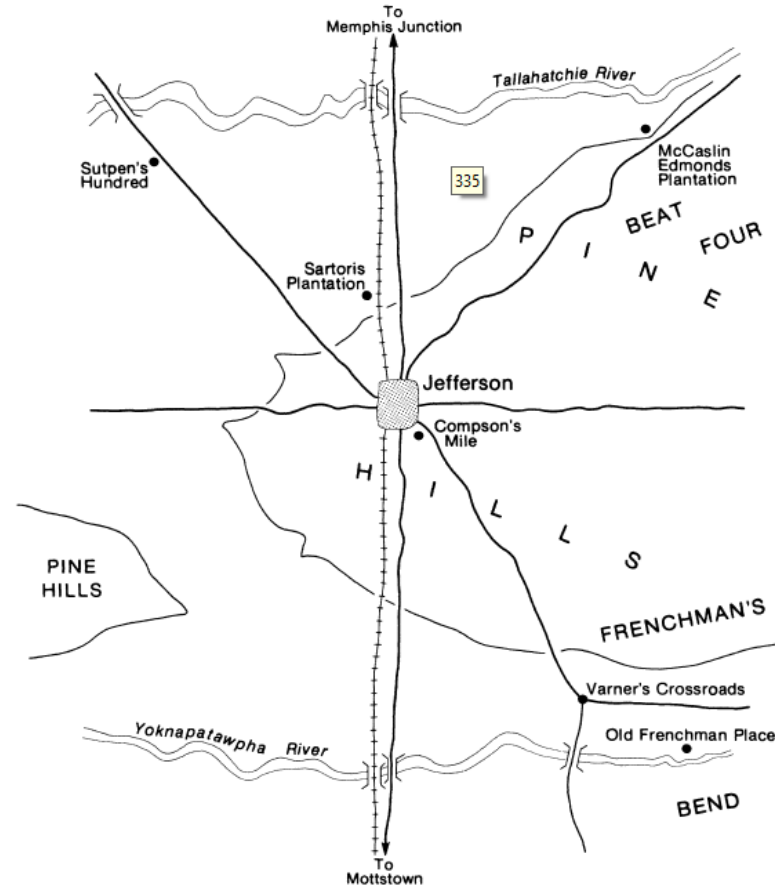
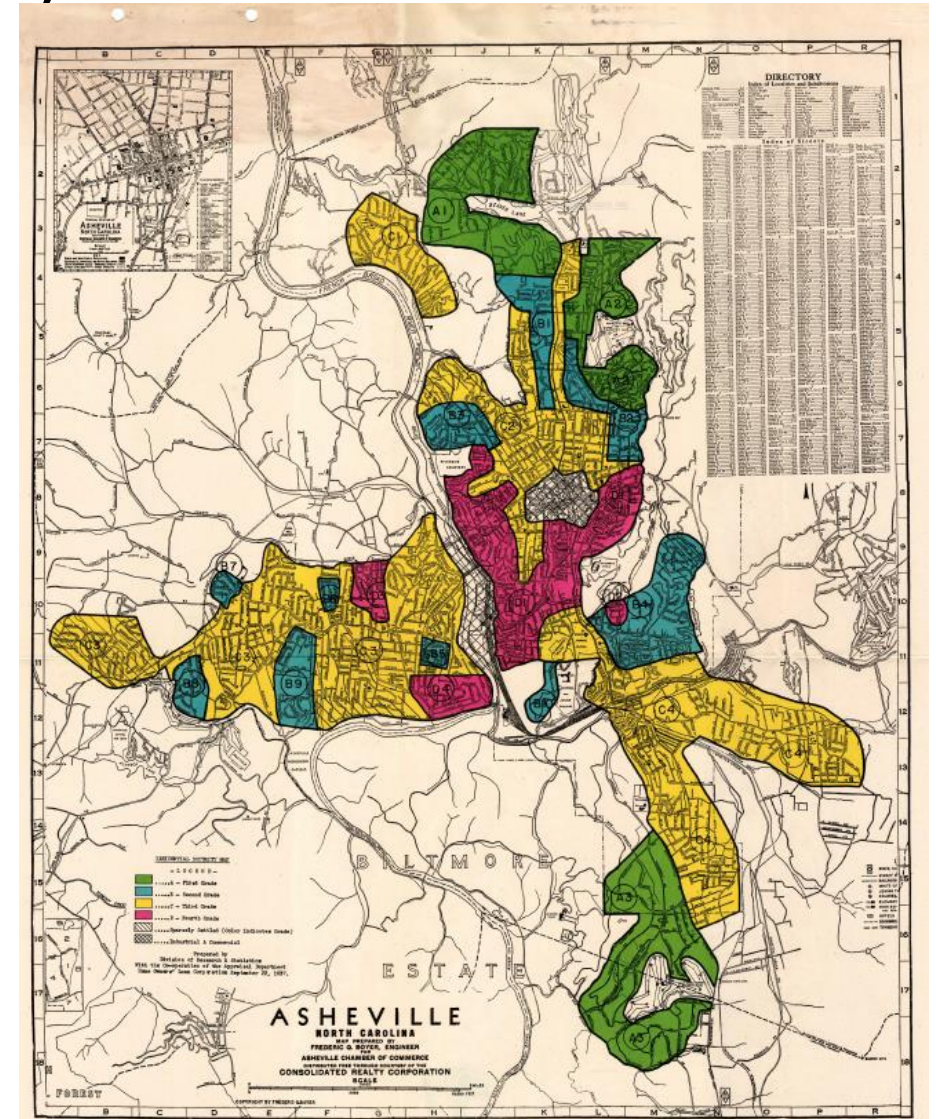
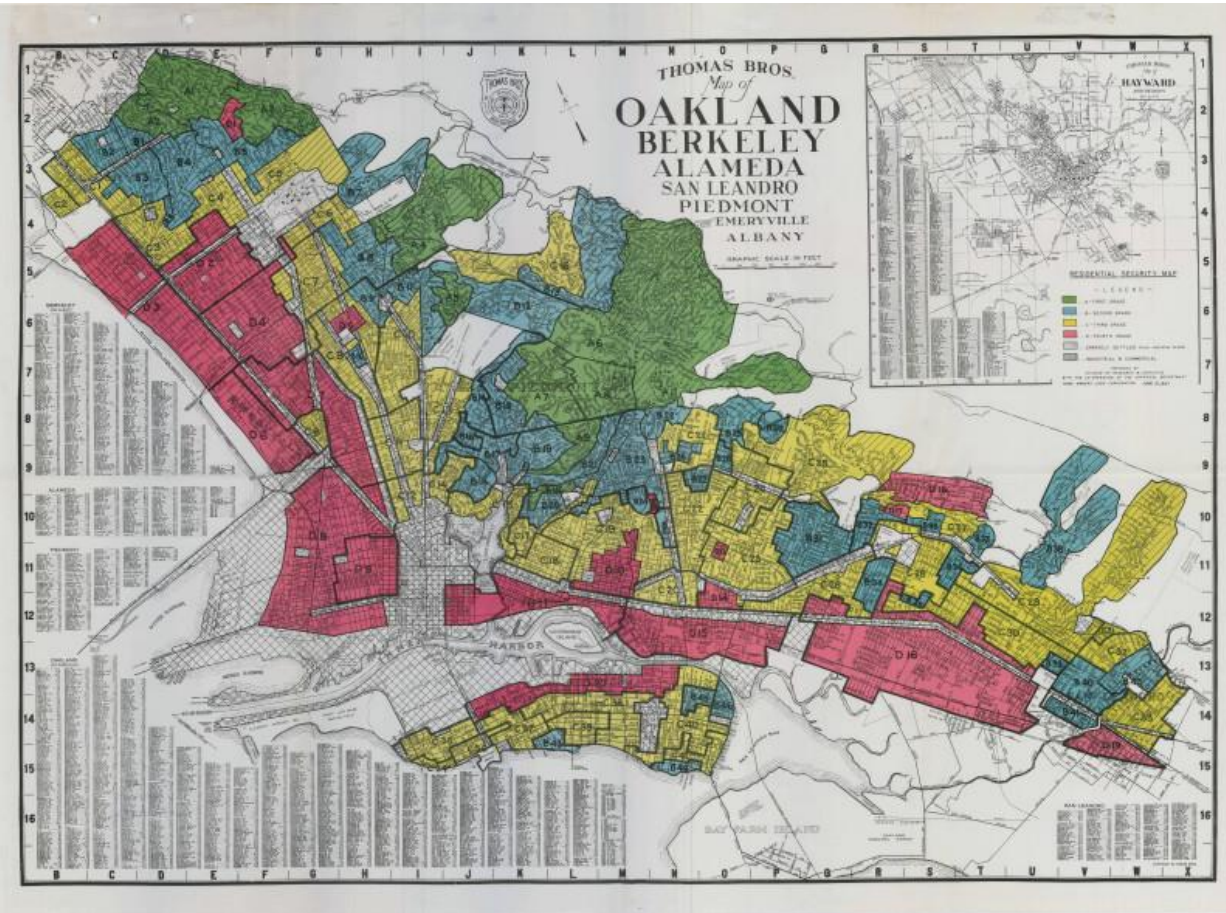
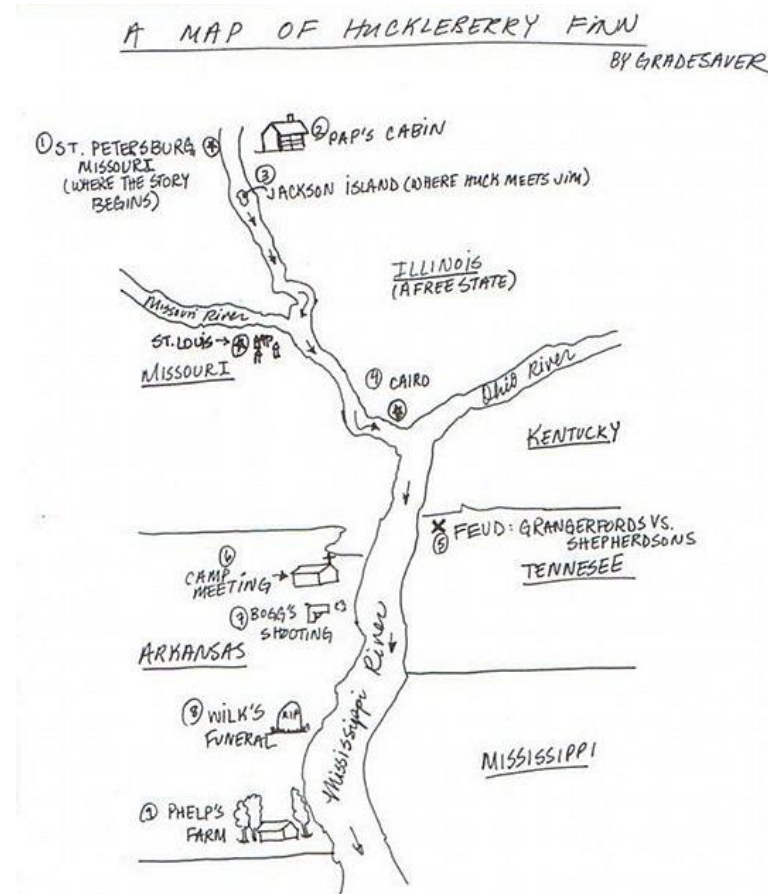


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Example of Redlining Housing Map, Oakland area (CA) and Asheville (NC) U.S.A.

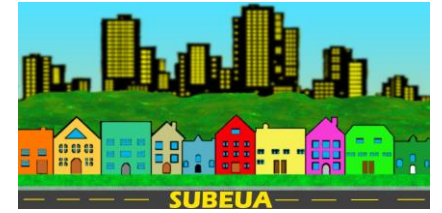


Map of the Journey of Huck Finn in the novel by Mark Twain (The Adventures of Huck Finn)





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