



AMERICAN  
LITERATURE

# F451: Ban or burn the books!

from the Esri GeoInquiries™ collection for American Literature

Target audience – American literature learners

Time required – 15 minutes

## Activity

Explore banned books, population density, religion, and global literacy related to *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury.

## 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 patterns of reported book challenges.
- Students will analyze how book challenges and *Fahrenheit 451* are related to religion, education, and literacy.

Map URL: <http://esriurl.com/litGeoInquiry14>

## ? Ask

### Where are the challenges to remove books?

- Read aloud, "According to the American Library Association, 'A challenge is an attempt to remove or restrict use of a book from a library, public circulation, or a teaching curriculum, based on objections by an individual or group. Censorship is a review of books, movies, or other forms of expression to prohibit publication, viewing, or distribution.'"
- Click the link above to launch the map.
- Examine the distribution of the book challenges and the population density.
- Describe the pattern of the challenges—clustered, linear, random? *[Answers vary but may include clustered in the northeast and Texas. It looks random in other places.]*
- Zoom in to view large clusters of Challenged Books.
- ? How is population density related to the number of challenges? *[Clustered near large cities]*

## ! Acquire

### What books were banned?

- With the Details button depressed, click the button, (Show) Contents.
- Uncheck the two layers, All Challenged Books and Population Density.
- Turn on the layers, Challenged Books Retained and Challenged Books Removed.
- Explore the distribution of retained and removed books by turning the layers off and on.
- ? Is there a pattern to the challenged books that are removed versus those that are retained? *[Answers vary but may include a similar distribution. Far more books are retained than removed. More are removed in Texas.]*

## 🔍 Explore

### How does religion influence challenged books?

- People challenge books for many reasons, but religion is a strong influence on challenged materials.
- Turn on the layer, Religious Adherence For Evangelicals.
- ? What is the relationship between evangelicals and the number of challenges? *[Strong connection in the South]*

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## Analyze

### How does education influence challenged books?

- Turn off the layer, Religious Adherence For Evangelicals.
- Turn on the layer, Population With A University Degree.
- ? Do areas where citizens are well-educated see fewer challenges? *[Not necessarily; however, this hypothesis is supported in Colorado, where there is a high education population and fewer challenges.]*
- ? Does religion or education have the stronger influence over the number of challenges? *[Religion seems to be a stronger influence.]*

## Act

### How important is reading?

- Read aloud, “In *Fahrenheit 451*, reading had become a crime. Democracy, freedom, and many other individual rights exist in countries where literacy and education are supported.. “
- Turn off all active layers and turn on the Global Literacy layer. Zoom out to see the world map.
- ? What are the patterns of global literacy? *[Wealthier and more educated countries]*
- ? What countries have high literacy rates? *[Countries in Europe, North America, and Japan]*
- ? What continent has the lowest literacy rates? *[Africa]*
- ? Do countries with higher literacy rates have a responsibility to support education in countries with lower literacy rates? *[Answers will vary. Open discussion for class.]*

## 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.

## LEGENDS, LAYERS, AND SYMBOLS

- To the left of the map, click Details and then click the Show Contents Of Map button. The Contents pane allows you to turn on and off layer visibility.
- Press the Legend button. The Legend pane allows you to identify symbols.
- On the map, click symbols for more information that will appear in a pop-up box.

## 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 distribution and relationships between other religions and book challenges by symbolizing the existing layers.
- Filter the data layers to explore other relationships.

## TEXT REFERENCES

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

- *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury