



AMERICAN  
LITERATURE

# Beyond religion: Scarlet Letter

from the Esri GeoInquiries™ collection for American Literature

Target audience – American literature learners

Time required – 15 minutes

## Activity

Explore the patterns of religion in the U.S. and world beyond the Puritan foundations found in *The Scarlet Letter*.

## 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 change over time in U.S. religion.
- Students will analyze diversity in world religions.

Map URL: <http://esriurl.com/litGeoInquiry1>

## ? Ask

### Where did religious freedom begin in the U.S.?

- Read aloud, “Hawthorne’s book was popular because it was one of the first to deal with a taboo subject, adultery. We know a lot about the founding colonies and their seeking religious freedom. Hester was hardly free from the ties of religion.”
- Click the link above to launch the map and explore religious patterns.
- ? Hester lived in a Puritan community, but what other religious affiliations existed in the colonies?  
*[Protestant, Quaker, and Anglican]*

## ! Acquire

### What happened with regions beyond Colonial America?

- With the Details button depressed, click the button, Contents.
- Deselect the two checkboxes for the layers, Massachusetts and Colonial Religion.
- Check the box to the left of the layer name, Congregations by State, 2010.
- Zoom out to view the United States.
- ? What states have more than 10,000 congregations? *[Most to least: TX, CA, NC, FL, PA, NY, OH, IL, GA, TN, AL, and VA]*
- ? What patterns exist across the country? *[Answers will vary.]*
- ? What happens when the number of congregations is divided by the population? *[It’s a more realistic view based on the number of people.]*

## 🔍 Explore

### Who participates in religion?

- Check the box to the left of the layer name, % Congregations.
- Deselect the checkbox to the left of the layer name, Congregations by State, 2010
- ? What states have the greatest percentage of congregations based on population? *[In order: WV, AR, MS, SD, ND, AL, UT, OK, TN, and MT]*
- Turn off the % Congregations layer.
- Turn on the Adherence layer.
- ? What states have the greatest adherence? *[UT, ND, AL, LA, OK, MS, SD, MA, MN, and NE]*

more ►

## Analyze

### How are congregations and adherence different?

- Compare congregation patterns to adherence patterns.
- ? What can be concluded about religion from the 2010 data? [*Direct correlation in UT, AL, MS, OK, MT, SD, and ND*]
- Turn off all congregation or adherence layers.

## Act

### What religions are most influential around the world?

- Turn on the layer, Major Religions.
- Zoom out to see the entire map.
- ? What religions are in the U.S.? [*Roman Catholic, Mixed Christian, Protestant, and Mormon*]
- ? What country or region of the world has the most diversity? Least diversity? [*Most diverse: Africa; least diverse: Eastern Europe, Russia*]

## TURN A MAP LAYER ON AND OFF

- 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.

## IDENTIFY A MAP FEATURE

- 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 selected.
- Click the button to scroll through the features.

## 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...

- Learn more about global religion in a Human Geography GeoInquiry at <http://esriurl.com/Geo4131>.
- Learn more about Colonial America in a U.S. History GeoInquiry at <http://esriurl.com/Geo4132>.

## TEXT REFERENCES

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

- *The Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne