Ask

Where did Twain’s travels begin?

- Click the URL above to launch the map.
- Examine the layer, Twain’s Beginnings.
- What proof can we see already that Twain’s life influenced his literary work? [Answers may vary but could include Jackson’s Island and the Mississippi River from Huck Finn and Tom Sawyer. You can also zoom in and see places named after Twain.]

Acquire

What was Twain’s world?

- Read aloud: “Knowing where someone came from and their personal experiences helps you understand them better — including the westward expansion, Civil War, Native American battles, etc.”
- With the Details button depressed, click the button, Content.
- Click the checkboxes to the left of the layer names that start with “Twain’s World”.
- Click items on each layer to learn more.
- What historical events were happening in Twain’s lifetime and near his home? [Westward expansion: He saw many pioneers headed west for better opportunities, which made him curious, as well. The Civil War: He was from a border state. During the Civil War, these states were the slave states that did not leave the Union. Native American events: He traveled very near these events or covered them as a reporter.]

Explore

How did his life’s work become literature?

- Turn off the Twain’s World layers.
- Turn on the layer, Twain’s Travels.
- Click the cities on the map to explore his travels.
- What did Mark Twain write during his life as a reporter in Missouri? In San Francisco? In Europe? [Mississippi River – Huck and Tom; San Francisco – Celebrated Frog (turn on Calaveras County); Trip to Hawaii – travel writer is born; Europe – The Innocents Abroad.]
Analyze

What was it like to travel by boat from San Francisco to New York in 1866?

? Using the Measure tool, determine how far Twain traveled [~ 5150 miles].
→ Click the stops to learn more about each one.
? How long did it take to travel from San Francisco to New York City in 1866? [About 51 days]

Act

What did he see and whom did he meet?

→ Examine Twain’s total journeys on the map, the historical events, and general era.
? How can Twain’s journeys give insight into your writing or the writing of other authors? [Answers vary but should include reference to personal experiences, personal interests, life-changing events, and interesting or influential people.]

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.

USE THE MEASURE TOOL

• Click Measure, select the Distance button, and from the drop-down list, choose a unit of measurement.
• On the map, click once to start the measurement, click again to change direction, and double-click to stop measuring.
• Hint: Position the area of interest on the map so that it is not obscured by the Measure window.

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...
• Make your own timeline and journey. Perhaps a modern journey might be shared with social media. What would you tweet from each location, using 140 or fewer characters?
• Map other elements of literature that are part of Twain’s letters.
• What geographic connections can you make to other authors?

TEXT REFERENCES

This GIS map has been cross-referenced to material in sections of chapters from the following Mark Twain works.

• The Adventures of Tom Sawyer
• The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn
• The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County
• The Innocents Abroad

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