They Chose South Omaha
An Immigrant History of "South O"
Making Invisible Histories Visible

Activity:	Examine trends of immigration by six ethnic groups to historical and contemporary core areas of South Omaha and the imprint they left on the landscape.
Nebraska State Social Studies Standards	**SS HS.3.2.b** Examine the importance of places and regions to individual and social identity and how identities change over space and time. **SS HS.3.4.a** Compare trends in human migration, urbanization, and demographic composition at a local, national, and global scale over time and short-term and long-term causes and effects. **SS HS.4.1.c** (US) Evaluate the impact of people, events, and ideas, including various cultures and ethnic groups, on the United States.
Learning Outcomes	Students will learn about the distribution of ethnic groups in South Omaha by examining historical and contemporary (Post-War Era) ethnic core areas.

Map URL: https://arcg.is/18HrbX

Ask: *How can we see the Cultural landscape of South Omaha?*
? Where areas of Omaha are considered "South" Omaha? [*Answers will vary*]
? What ethnic group(s) are primarily associated with South Omaha now? [*Mexican, Dominican, Hispanic*]
? What types of structures/areas would be important when trying to determine the "identity" of a place [*Businesses, Churches/Cemeteries, bars/restaurants, ethnic halls, etc..*]
❯ Click on the link above to launch the map
❯ With the Details button underlined, click the button, Show Contents Of Map.

Acquire: *What ethnic groups make up South Omaha and what brought them there?*
? What central feature are the different ethnic groups centered on? [*Stock Yards*]
❯ In the contents bar turn on the Ethnic Core Areas of Omaha Layer. Left-click on some of the colored boxes that come up to explore what they represent
? What ethnic groups do the different colors represent? [*Croatian-Yellow, Czech/Bohemian-Blue, Irish-Purple, Mexican-Red, Italian-Orange, Polish-Green*]
? Why might some of the ethnic core areas overlap? [*Ethnic groups lived among each other, newer ethnic groups moved in as other ethnic groups moved away from South Omaha*]

Explore:
❯ Turn off all of the layers except the StockYards in the Contents Menu. Turn on the Historical Ethnic Dot Map layer
? Why might the different ethnic groups have clustered in areas without a lot of mixing between ethnicities when they first moved to Omaha? [*Possible Answers: Attracted to work in particular industries, want to live near other people with similar culture, moved to live near family, Advertisements and sponsorship*]
? Which of the ethnic groups are not heavily distributed near the StockYards? [*Italians and Czechs/Bohemians*]
? What ethnic group has the most locations along South 24th Street? [*Irish*]
❯ Click on some of the historic locations to find out what they represent. Scroll through the pop-ups and read what information is included
❯ Search for 3353 Q St, Omaha, NE, 68107 in the search bar in the top right. What is located there? And who is it most associated with? [*St. Mary's Cemetery, Polish*]

Analyze:
❯ Turn off all the layers. Turn the Ethnic Core Areas of Omaha back on. Zoom out so you can see all of the data
ℹ Core areas are established by looking at concentrations of where people from a certain ethnic group lived and worked
❯ Switch on and off the different layers of each of the different ethnicities. Which one has the most locations tightly grouped near its core area(s)? [*Italians or Croatians*] The least tightly grouped? [*Irish or Czech/Bohemian*]
? Which group has mostly moved out of South Omaha (Hint - they will have many historic markers, but few contemporary markers)? [*Irish*]
❯ Turn off all of the layers except for the Ethnic Core Areas of Omaha and the Croatian Areas layers

❱ Hover your mouse over the layer's title in the contents bar and then select the "Show Table" option to look at a table format of all of the data included in that particular layer. Click on the "Croatian Mural" data point to highlight it on the map.

? Was the mural placed in an appropriate location? Explain your answer. [*Yes, its located near the historic core and a majority of the Croatian sites are located nearby*]

Act: *How can geospatial data be used to make decisions?*

ⓘ The South Omaha Mural Project was a program started by A Midsummer's Mural to highlight community history in different parts of Omaha. They have completed murals for the Mayans (To celebrate heritage of Omahans who originated in Central America), Lithuanians, Croatians, Irish, Mexican, and Polish so far.

❱ Turn off all the layers. Turn on the Italian Areas layer.

❱ Do a cluster analysis to identify and purpose a location for an Italian Mural in South Omaha.

? Where would you recommend an Italian Mural? Explain. [*Near 8th and William Streets, Answers will vary*]

Do a Cluster Analysis

- Cluster analysis is possible for dot maps with sorted attributes
- In the Contents pane, hover over a layer and click Cluster Points button that appears under the layer name
- Ensure the Enable Clustering box is checked
- Zoom in and out to see the clustering at different scales.
- Move the slider back and forth to allow more or less clustering. Uncheck the Enable Clustering box to uncluster the points.

View a Table

- Tables are only available for certain map layers.
- In the Contents pane, hover over a layer and click the Show Table button that appears under the layer name.
- Click the field name and choose Sort Ascending or Sort Descending.
- Click a record to select it.
- Click the Options button (horizontal bars in upper right of table) and select, Center on Selection.

Next Steps:

- Examine your own community's history by mapping out historic locations and researching their history
- Choose one of the other historic ethnic groups of Omaha, or more recent groups of immigrants and investigate their own history to recommend the placement of a community mural in Omaha.

References:

- *E Pluribus Omaha: Immigrants All*, Otis and Erickson (2000)
- A Midsummer's Mural, https://www.amidsummersmural.com/
- Omaha Public Schools: Making Invisible History Visible (MIHV), https://bit.ly/2tyffZq
- Making Invisible History Visible South Omaha Projects, https://bit.ly/2PFJiHa
- Making Invisible History Visible South Omaha Student Project, https://bit.ly/2PYQ0a8

About:

An initiative of the Omaha Public Schools, Making Invisible Histories Visible gives students and teachers the opportunity to explore Omaha's hidden history. Together, they create digital history projects, which OPS social studies teachers can use in their classrooms during future school years. The learning materials collected on this site helps students engage with multiple perspectives and enhance their classroom experiences. The program also aids participating teachers' professional development, contributing to effective social studies instruction throughout the school year.