

# The GREAT GATSBY

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## THE GEOGRAPHY OF DESIRE (map activity)

RL1 Key Ideas & Details: Textual Evidence; RL3 Key Ideas & Details: Interacting Elements  
SL5 Presentation of Knowledge and Ideas: Presentation Media

Fitzgerald uses the locations in *The Great Gatsby* as thematic elements. The landscape reflects what Maureen Corrigan calls "...an inner geography of yearning." The settings are more than just places for the events to occur; the locations add layers of meaning.



**Thematic element:** Any aspect of a narrative that aids in developing the message.

**Motif:** A distinctive and repeating feature that develops the elements of a narrative. It does not necessarily represent something other than itself.

For example, one motif in *The Great Gatsby* is bad driving and car accidents.

**Symbol:** A person, object, place, or event that the author imbues with added meaning.

Whether we identify the geography of the novel as symbolic or as a motif is unimportant. (Does an amusement park symbolize fun or is it simply a place where fun happens?) What matters is understanding how Fitzgerald uses the geography to specific effects.

**Create a map** illustrating the role of geography in *The Great Gatsby*. Include visuals (images, icons, symbols, etc.) to represent the settings and make connections. Each location should include **an image**, **an excerpt**, and **an explanation** of its importance. Your visual aid must illustrate how the geography of the novel interacts with and **develops other elements**.

**1) COLLECT TEXTUAL EVIDENCE.**

Location	Excerpt	Page
<b>New York City</b>	<hr/> <hr/>	
<b>The Valley of the Ashes</b>	<hr/> <hr/>	
<b>East Egg</b>	<hr/> <hr/>	
<b>West Egg</b>	<hr/> <hr/>	
<b>Long Island Sound &amp; The Atlantic Ocean</b>	<hr/> <hr/>	
<b>Middle West</b> (This may be off the map, but it still has a role.)	<hr/> <hr/>	

**2) SKETCH THE BASIC GEOGRAPHY.**

You could start with a map of Long Island, NY, but accuracy is not the point of this map.

**3) ADD RELEVANT DETAILS, VISUALS, AND EXPLANATIONS.**

How does each setting interact with or **develop other elements** like theme, character, mood, symbol, plot structure, or even other settings?

**4) FORM A CONCLUSION.** Explain Fitzgerald’s overall approach with the story’s geography.