

JUNIOR HISTORIANS

Clean Getaway

What are Green Books?

The *Negro Motorist Green-book* (now referred to as *Green Books*) was originally published in 1936 with a focus on New York. It was eventually expanded to include important information for African Americans on how to travel safely throughout all North America in a dangerous and intensely segregated time in U.S. history. Written by postal worker Victor Hugo Green, the guidebook identified gas stations, hotels and other lodgings, as well as restaurants and other businesses that would serve African Americans. At the time, many businesses practiced “open and often legally prescribed discrimination against African Americans and other non-whites” making travel extremely dangerous. In *Clean Getaway*, G’ma gives Scoob the *Green Book* she and his Grandfather had used to travel in the 1960s. Through the *Green Book*, Scoob becomes aware of not only the history of travel for African Americans, but the history of his own family. Check out these links and resources to learn more about the history of black travel in America.

- [Library of Congress: Green Book, 1946](#)
- [The New York Public Library: Green Book Collection](#)
- [Listen: NPR – “Driving the Green Book”](#)
- [Slideshow: USA Today – “How to Visit Green Book Sites Where Black Travelers Once Found Refuge”](#)

