

MAPPING LOS ANGELES

Objectives

- Students will explore the neighborhoods and landmark locations in the City of Los Angeles that are mentioned in *Twilight: Los Angeles, 1992* by Anna Deavere Smith.
- Students will create their own landmarks in today's Los Angeles (2023) based on their individual lives and experiences and visually see how they connect to the world of *Twilight: Los Angeles, 1992*.
- Students will understand how vast the City of Los Angeles is and how they each uniquely fit into the interwoven fabric of the city and the rich and diverse stories it has to tell.

Materials needed

- Post-its
- Floor or wall space

Using post-its, create a map of Los Angeles identifying the following neighborhoods and landmark locations found in the play:

Neighborhoods

- South Los Angeles (formerly known as South Central L.A.)
- Pico-Union
- Koreatown
- Brentwood
- Beverly Hills
- Downtown L.A.
- Hollywood
- Simi Valley

Landmark Locations

- Intersection of W Florence Ave and S Normandie Ave (where L.A. "riots" began on April 29, 1992)
- Hansen Dam Park, 11800 Foothill Blvd, Lake View Terrace (where Rodney King was pulled over and beaten by seven Los Angeles Police Department officers on March 3, 1991)
- Empire Liquor Market, 9100 S Figueroa St, (where Latasha Harlins was shot by store owner Soon Ja Du on March 16, 1991)
- Metropolitan Detention Center, 180 N. Los Angeles St (formerly known as The "Glass House" Parker Center Jail)
- First African Methodist Episcopal Church, 2270 S. Harvard Blvd
- Los Angeles City Hall, 200 N. Spring St
- Beverly Hills Hotel, 9641 Sunset Blvd

Activity

Twilight: Los Angeles, 1992 recounts events surrounding the uprisings that happened in Los Angeles.

- Take students on a walking tour of Los Angeles, pointing out each neighborhood and landmark on the map.
- Ask students to add their own post-its to this map of Los Angeles in response to the following prompts:
 - Where is your home?
 - Where is your school?
 - Where do you have family members?
 - Where is your favorite place in the city?
 - Where in the city do you never go to?
 - Where in the city are you curious to know more about?
- Ask students to share about where they placed their post-its and why.

Reflection Questions

- Did you learn about any new places in Los Angeles today?
- Are you curious to know more about them?
- What parts of the city do you never visit? Why or why not?

While you watch *Twilight: Los Angeles, 1992*, remind yourself that this is a local story. A uniquely L.A. story. Take this play as an opportunity to grow more curious about the history of Los Angeles and all the different communities that live here, and the rich and diverse stories this miraculous city has to tell.

Lesson Extensions

The conversations inspired by these prompts and the reflection questions can lead into other creative activities such as theatre, writing, visual art.

This activity can lead to more in-depth research about different neighborhoods of Los Angeles and using that research as content for a creative project.

Lesson Variations

To make the post-its responses clearer, each prompt can be attached to a different color post-it.