The Green Book
The Green Book: The Guide to Travel and Vacations
To avoid “embarrassing encounters”

Mr. Victor H. Green was a Harlem postal service employee and civic leader.

He envisioned a guide that would serve African-American travelers embarking on the All-American Road Trip.
From Reconstruction to Jim Crow

What is Reconstruction and what is Jim Crow?

• Reconstruction 1866 to 1877
• Plan for reorganization and readmittance of Southern states to Union
• There were opportunities for African Americans to vote, participate in politics and own land
• The South saw Reconstruction as humiliating, vengeful and did not welcome it
• Many began looking for ways to fight against the new freedoms of African Americans

Jim Crow” laws were a response to Reconstruction and based on the theory of white supremacy.
Jim Crow in Miami

• Ordinance 457

• Famous performers like Ella Fitzgerald could perform on the beach, but not stay there.

• Floyd Patterson and other athletes spoke out against segregated audiences
Plan a trip to Miami

Plan a trip to Miami using this online application from the New York Public Library:

Navigate the Green Book
Getting here is only half the trip...

What draws people to South Florida and Miami, even today?

With Jim Crow laws in effect in Miami into the late 60’s, what forms of entertainment and amusement could African American travelers enjoy?
Virginia Key Beach Park

- Est. August 1, 1945
- Had been an unofficial beach for People of Color for years because there were no integrated beaches
- Accessible only by boat
- Caribbean, South American and Cuban immigrants found Virginia Key Beach to be the only beach that they too could visit, or the beach they preferred
Historic Virginia Key Beach Park