

# The Theodore Boone Files 2: BACKGROUND

Now that you've read at least one of the books, you will be able to add to your picture of Theo and his friends and family. Use the information in *The Theo Files 1* and *2* to build your own illustrated profile of Theo, and find out Theo's deeper secrets in *The Theodore Boone Files 3*.

## Where is Theodore Boone?

**Stratzenburg**, in Stratzen County, is a medium-sized town of around 75,000 population. We aren't told exactly where it is, although sometimes we are given a clue: for example, in *The Abduction* it takes Theo and Ike six hours to drive from home to Chapel Hill, North Carolina. Also, we're told that there is a river to the east of the town forming the border with the next county.



## Activity: Add to the picture

- Find Chapel Hill, North Carolina on a map of the US and search for towns six hours' drive away that could be like Stratzenburg.
- Collect contemporary and historic images of possible Stratzenburgs.

We're told about some of the neighbourhoods in Stratzenburg, for example:

- **Waverly Creek**, a smart suburb with a golf course.
- **Downtown** where you'll find the courthouse, the offices of Boone and Boone and Truman Park.
- **Delmont**, a run-down district in the north-west of town.
- **'The bridge'**, a very deprived area under the Yancey River bridge to the neighbouring county, where the population are called 'river rats'.

## Activity: Theo on the map

Make a map of Stratzenburg showing all the neighbourhoods and important buildings referred to in the books. Don't forget Theo's school, Stratzenburg Middle School, the Highland Street Shelter and the restaurants where the Boones like to eat. Every time you read about a new district or building, or one of Theo's favourite food vendors, add it to your map.

## Theo at school

Theo's not very interested in much of his school life: he'd much rather be in court. But as well as his Government lessons, he enjoys debating club and Scouts. He's in 8th grade, which is equivalent to Year 8 in a UK secondary school.

- How is Theo's school different from yours? Is it bigger? Organised differently?