



How To Use GOOGLE EARTH in the Classroom

Bring the World Inside Your Classroom
Use This Powerful Tool to Amplify Learning

1 Why Use Google Earth?

"In our modern, globally interconnected society, it is more important than ever that we understand the world around us. Google Earth and Google's mapping tools aren't just about geography. "Place" is universal, spanning disciplines, cultures, and nature, connecting us all to the surrounding world.

With Google Earth and mapping tools you can learn about diversity across biomes and cities, measure how a river has changed shape overtime, or create a project highlighting architectural styles across the ages. Using Google Earth and maps in classrooms can help visualize abstract concepts across a global canvas, allowing students to connect what they learn inside to what they experience in their daily lives, community, and to the larger world."

This tool is free, and can be used on any device to amplify learning in any grade and in any content area. Bonus: everything you do saves automatically!



Where do we
live?



Why should we
care?

"What's important is that children have an opportunity to bond with the natural world, to learn to love it and feel comfortable in it, before being asked to heal its wounds."

~David Sobel

2 What Can You Do With Google Earth?



5 Tips to Start Creating Your Own Maps and Tours on Google Earth

Creating Stories in Google Earth

Google Earth's creation tools allow you to create your own projects. Add points, text, personal images and rich multimedia content to share stories and maps visualized on a 3D globe.

Watch [this video](#) to learn how and check out [this story](#) that I created about climate change and who's trying to slow it down.

Voyager on Google Earth

Google Earth's Voyager is a showcase of interactive guided tours, quizzes, and layers that aim to help educate everyone about the world.

Click [here to browse Google Voyager](#). Explore the topics: Nature, Games, Layers, Street View, Culture, Travel, and especially, Education

GO TO

[Google Earth Education](#)



Google Earth Tutorial [video](#)



Mapping

Investigate the World. Let students become cartographers by charting, plotting, planning, and surveying areas all over the world, including ocean features. By creating and comparing My Maps students gain important insights into the relationships among variables and an overall geographic area.

TIP



Check out this [collaborative indigenous plants map](#) I made so students can input pictures they take of the indigenous plants and where they find them in our city.

Create a Map of Your Own on [My Maps](#)

Timelapse on Google Earth



Earth [Timelapse](#) is a global, zoomable video that lets you see how the Earth has changed over the past 35 years.

[How to use the time lapse tool & create your own](#)



Maps for Mathematics



You can use Google Earth to bring the world of math to your students. Students can discover shapes, use the measuring tools to discover perimeter, area, and distance, can plot the most efficient route, etc.

Check out Tom Barrett's Blog [Maps for Mathematics](#) to learn more

3

More Ideas

THE CHALLENGE



The only challenge is putting in the time to learn how to use this powerful tool so you can connect learning to the land in which we live!



COLLECT/CURATE LOCAL INFORMATION COLLABORATIVELY:

Track plant & animal life in an area. See an example [here](#).

Track local points of interest (ie: indigenous sites - pictograph sites)



COLLECT/CURATE and EXPLORE GEOLOGICAL INFORMATION:

Create maps to show plate tectonics, volcanoes, earthquakes, islands, things that have been found on mountain tops, etc. Comparing past and present.



COLLECT/CURATE and EXPLORE MIGRATION INFORMATION:

Create tours to show how and when animals and humans migrate. What routes do they take? Describe the cause and effect of these migrations. You could also have students connect to climate change.



CREATE YOUR OWN VIRTUAL FIELD TRIPS:

Create virtual field trips or have your students create virtual field trips for each other. To learn how, look at this [video with Dr. Nathan Lang-Raad](#)



CREATE YOUR OWN ANCESTRY STORY AS YOU EXPLORE YOUR IDENTITY:

Learn more about your personal ancestry and create a virtual tour of where and when your ancestors lived. See this [video](#) for inspiration. How has your family migrated around the globe? Why did they move?



COLLECT/CURATE and EXPLORE ORIGIN STORIES:

Find origin stories from across the world and plot them on a map. Link the stories so people can explore the similarities and differences.



COLLECT/CURATE and EXPLORE CREATIONS & INNOVATIONS:

Find out where famous artists or poets lived and post the art/poetry they created and where.

Find out who, where and when people made scientific or mathematical discoveries. Create a tour.



CREATE MATH CHALLENGES WITH THE MEASURING TOOL:

As your students to find the most efficient route from one place to another. Ask how much area around the Okanagan has been cleared of forests? What is the area of all the water on earth? What is the area of all the forests? How is that changing? To learn more, see [Global Forest Watch](#)



COLLECT/CURATE and EXPLORE HISTORICAL EVENTS:

Find out where and when historical events happened. Have students plot the battles of WWII. Have students show how maps change over time - how did the Roman empire rise & fall? Track the movement of people in the underground railroad.

TIP



Play and Be Creative!

There are so many ways you can use this tool!

How To Create Collaborative Google Maps With Your Class



Videos With Keely Flannigan & Kelly Hanson: Members of the Central Okanagan Public School's Instructional Leadership Team

1

SET UP YOUR MAP

GO TO:
<https://www.google.ca/maps/about/mymaps/>



Article Instructions

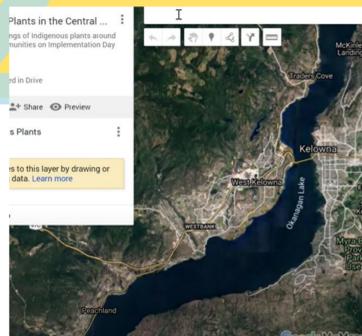
Google Maps allows you to create custom maps and share them. Here's how to use Google Maps to collaborate with others.

Video Instructions

Creating a collaborative map with your class

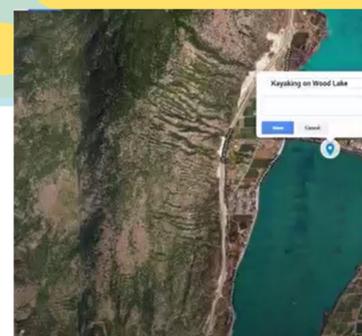
See [this collaborative map](#) which was created for students & staff to pin the indigenous plants they find in the places near their schools.

2



[How to add pins to a collaborative map - for adults](#)

3



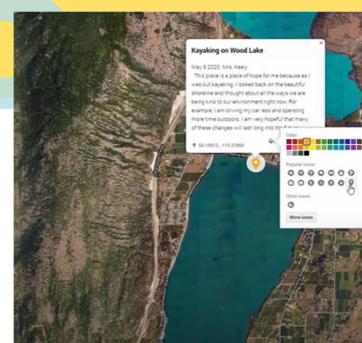
[How to add a pin to a collaborative map - for kids](#)

4



[How to write an explanation for a pin - for kids](#)

5



[Customizing your icon - for kids](#)

See more videos for students here:

[how to add a photo](#), [how to enter an address or location](#), & [how to zoom in and out](#)

Sources:

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