

Google Earth Assignment
PDS Partnership – Lincoln Elementary
Spring 2011

Google Earth

1. Go to the following website *Google Earth – Free Download* <http://earth.google.com/> and explore one location in the United States and two locations outside of the United States.

1. What three places did you choose and why? What did you learn about each place through exploring it using Google Earth?

I chose Minneapolis, MN because it is my first choice for student teaching. All three of the sporting venues (Target Field, Target Center, and the Metrodome) are within a couple of miles of each other making for a fun time with interested individuals. I also chose Dublin, Ireland because I have always wanted to go there. It is a very large metropolitan area with rich history like Kildare Street. Finally, I picked Kampala, Uganda because I was there during the months of May and June 2006. This Google Earth view brought back memories of the taxi-filled streets and Makerere University.

2. In connection with the article that you read titled, “Google Earth: A Virtual Globe for Elementary Geography,” explain how you can use Google Earth to teach **two** out of the five themes of Geography Education.

You could use the theme of place to have students look at the physical characteristics of the location you are viewing. Then compare those differences with places like my example of Dublin, Ireland compared to Kampala, Uganda. What are the buildings like in each place? Which place has more appealing buildings? Second, you could use movement and link this theme to the roads in the location being looked at. For example, how would farmers in Dublin, Ireland navigate the downtown to get to a farmer’s market? Similar questions like that can be asked and the students can use Google Earth for their benefit.

Google Lit Trips <http://www.googlelittrips.org/>

3. Visit and explore the above site. Make sure to visit at least one Google Lit Trip for Grades K-5. Then answer the following questions:

a). What are Google Lit Trips?

Google Lit Trips are trips taken from a particular piece of literature and explored through the eyes of Google Earth. Students are able to make connections to the work of literature and have a deep understanding along with the pursuit to acquire knowledge from this trip.

b). Explain the Google Lit Trip you explored. What was it like? How did it work? What was beneficial or not beneficial about it?

I explored Possum Magic by Mem Fox. It was very interesting to go through the route planned out and learn about Anzac cookies, vegemite, and other foods Hush ate to make herself appear. You clicked on the food choice and a text box popped up explaining the specific food that Australians ate. You could zoom in or out of the map and rotate the map to face north. It was very beneficial to look at the physical features of Australia, the main cities, along with the map drawn out for the route of Possum Magic.

Google Earth Related Resources

Twenty-Four ideas for how to use Google Earth

http://docs.google.com/present/view?id=dhn2vcv5_175fp5qg9d3