



Google maps

in the classroom



Get the tool: <http://maps.google.com/>

What is it?

Google Maps is a user-friendly mapping application accessible through your Internet browser or your mobile device. Features include point-to-point directions by car, public transportation, bicycling, and walking. Google Maps allows the user to control the visual interface in order to view such features as terrain, satellite imagery, web cams, panoramic photos, local business information, and Street View. Web-based geographical viewing from Google Earth is now available in Google Maps. Users can create and collaborate with others on custom maps in My Places.

Why use it?

Students can use Google Maps to:

- Get an authentic view of an area by using street view.
- Create 3D buildings for Google Earth by using Building Maker.
- Create and collaborate with others on a custom map in My Places

Teachers can use Google Maps to:

- Teaplot a specific geographical area by making a custom map.
 - Import KML files into Google Earth to view
 - View My Places with Google Earth in a web browser
 - Bring a global perspective to their classroom
 - Use the globe and map as their textbook
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Expert Tip

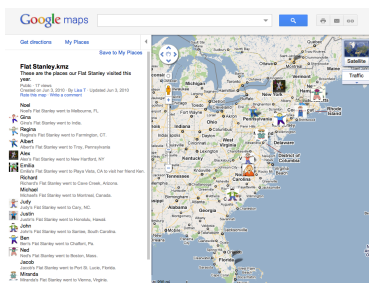
Instructional Ideas

Elementary/Primary. For state research projects, have each student create a custom map in My Places and create 4 custom pin locations for locations of interest for their state. Example: <http://goo.gl/nPdrA>

Middle/Early Secondary School. A class or group can create a travel journal. The group can work together on a collaborative map. Each place or location they visit, a different student can be assigned to document in writing and photographs, their experiences. Example: <http://goo.gl/xzTn>

High/Secondary School. As a part of their community service requirements students can create local business placemarks. They can visit businesses, interview owners, and take pictures to get detailed information about the business prior to adding it to Google Maps.

Google Maps in Action



Project: Where in the world is Flat Stanley?

Grade/Subject: Fourth Grade/Year 5 (9-10 yrs)

URL: <http://goo.gl/QDHC>

Students are tasked with doing a short write up about Flat Stanley, from the accompanying book by Jeff Brown. Students, along with the help of their teacher, send Flat Stanley to friends or colleagues in order to send Flat Stanley on an adventure. The recipient records information about their geographical location, takes photos (hopefully with Flat Stanley), and shares information about what they did with Flat Stanley. This information is compiled and sent back to the student so they can learn about what Flat Stanley did, as well as that particular location.

Additional Resources

Educator Site

- Google Maps for Educators: http://www.google.com/educators/p_maps.html

More Examples

- Google Transit: <http://www.google.com/transit>
- Google Maps YouTube Channel: <http://www.youtube.com/user/GoogleMapsHelp>
- Google Maps Blog: <http://google-latlong.blogspot.com/>
- Create Custom Address Lists from a Google Spreadsheet: <http://mapalist.com>
- Visit the Amazon with Google Maps:
<http://googleblog.blogspot.co.uk/2012/03/visit-amazon-on-world-forest-day-with.html>

Complementary Tools

- Google Earth
- Google Sites
- YouTube
- Google Mobile
- Picasa
- Google Building Maker
- GMaps Pedometer: <http://www.gmap-pedometer.com/>

In order to comply with federal law and the Google Terms of Service, students need to be over 13 years of age to use any product which requires a Google Account. Students may participate in product use if the account is owned by a parent or teacher and that parent or teacher is present when the product is being used.

<http://www.google.com/edu>