



Google Maps *in the Classroom*

Created by CUE and WestEd for Google

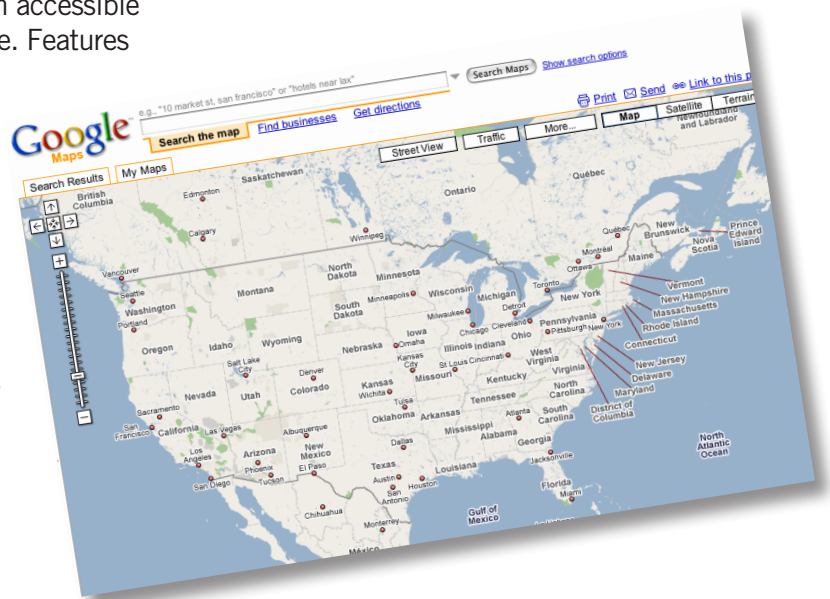


Get the tool: <http://maps.google.com/>

Google maps

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, or browse the custom map directory to access maps created by other users.



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.

Teachers can use Google Maps to:

- Plot a specific geographical area by making a custom map.
- Import KML files from Google Earth to create custom maps
- Access Google Earth through their web browser.
- Augment instruction based upon the five themes of geography.

Expert Tip



When using Google Earth on your mobile device you can access your customized maps or any other kml files you have imported into MY MAPS.

Instructional Ideas

Elementary. Incorporate the five themes of geography by having students identify geographical regions (urban, suburban, rural), organizational structure (city, county, state, country, continent), and location (relative or distance from a point).

Middle 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 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.

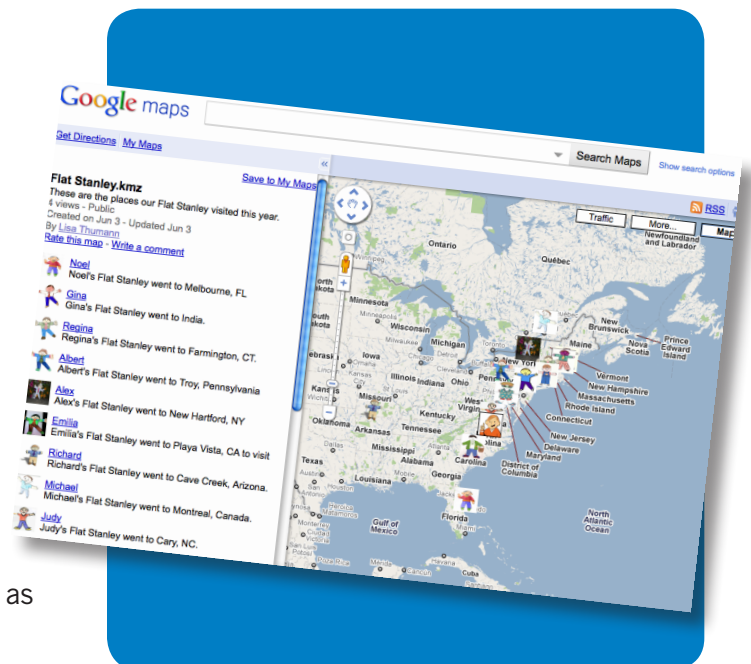
Google Maps in Action

Project: Where in the world is Flat Stanley?

Grade/Subject: Fourth Grade

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

More Examples

Google Transit:

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

Google Maps Tips for Life:

<http://www.google.com/help/maps/tour/>

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>

Complementary Tools

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