

Creating Cross Curricular Units with Google Earth Walks

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Abstract

This presentation will help inspire students by creating fun and motivating Google Earth Walks. Participants will learn to use Google Earth and engage students in real-world problem solving, connecting the students' world to the outside world, and thus personalizing their learning. Participants will learn how to create placemarks that offer an engaging, geotagged image as well as compelling questions, challenging students to apply what they've learned in class to the outside world. Participants will learn how to use content in Google Earth and create and personalize their own content to fit their classroom needs.

Prerequisites

Participants must have their own laptop computer. They must have basic navigation knowledge of their own device. Participants should come with Google Earth 7 predownloaded and with Java up to date. To be the most successful, participants should have an idea of a unit or topic that will lend itself well to geotagging. Coming with a few images to use and posed questions for their topic is an added bonus.

Objectives

Individuals will learn how to use Google Earth to create and personalize their own Google Earth Walk. They will integrate subject matters across the curriculum linking Google satellite images, links, and locations to the content areas. Google Earth Walks allow teachers to create challenges to solve real life problems literally around the globe. Students will be inspired to investigate the environments and cultures around the world through the eyes of the Google Earth lens. Motivational levels, as well as their higher level thinking skills will grow with the complex creation of these cross-curricular units.

Topical Outline

Participants will explore and learn the diverse uses of Google Earth. They will create Google accounts; create placemarks connected to course content to create a Google Earth Walk. They will create placemarks that offer an engaging, geotagged images as well as a compelling questions that will challenge students to apply what they've learned in the real world. The goal is to engage their students in real-world problem solving as they work their way

through a virtual tour on Google Earth. Participants can store their walks in the cloud, export, or share their creations with the Google community. The sky is the limit with Google Earth Walks.