

Google Earth Activities

Load Google Earth on your computer by going to <http://earth.google.com>

Open Google Earth and in the “Fly to” box type Stillwater, OK.

Zoom in until you see Boone Pickens football stadium.

See if you can find at least three differences on the Oklahoma State University campus, from the time this picture was taken until today.

*(Examples include: Football end zone, Village Dorms, Athletic Village, Dairy Barn)
(If you unfamiliar with this area select an area that is more appropriate)*

Click on the blue/white circles. (If there no circles, on the left side menu, under layers, check geographic web)

What information do these circles provide?

Click on the little gray globes.

What information do these circles provide?

Some of the buildings on the Oklahoma State University campus are in 3D. To view them, go to the navigation control in the upper right hand corner. Using the tilt slide, click on the right side of the bar to tilt.

Sketch up – These buildings are created in Sketch up, which can be downloaded for free from <http://sketchup.google.com/>. The tutorials are helpful when learning how to use this program. Interesting places to look at include college and major leagues stadiums and buildings in cities.

Zoom out some. In the layers section click roads, lodging, and government. How can this information be used?

Find your hometown. Does it look like you remember it? Can you find you house/farm?

Fly to the neatest, coolest place you have been (vacation, study abroad, road trip with friends). How hard was it to find specific locations? How did you find these locations?

If you have time, fly to Oklahoma City and look at Bricktown. Is this what it looks like today?

Other Activities:

Flight simulator – Google Earth has flight simulator. It can be activated by pressing Ctrl + Alt + A or click tools, then flight simulator. Commands to fly the plane can be found at <http://earth.google.com/intl/en/userguide/v4/flightsim/index.html>

A website with lessons for teachers to use with Google Earth is located at www.gelessons.com

Fun Questions to Answer: Develop questions for students to answer using Google Earth. Examples include:

1. Which U.S. city is closest to the equator?
 - Houston, TX
 - Key West, Florida
 - Evansville, Indiana
 - Camden, Maine
2. Which U.S. city is closest to the North Pole?
 - Houston, TX
 - Key West, Florida
 - Evansville, Indiana
 - Camden, Maine
3. Which North American city is farthest from the North Pole?
 - Syracuse, New York, U.S.
 - Monterrey, Mexico
 - Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada
 - Houston, TX

Icons:

Google Earth contains many icons with each one representing a different topic. Interesting ones include:

- UNEP – These show changes in the environment/landscape over a period of time. Two examples are located in the Everglades in Florida and the Tensas River Valley in Louisiana.
- National Geographic – It is represented by a yellow rectangle.
- Discovery Network – It is represented by a globe or world icon
- Hiking trail – A stick man hike with an arrow shows location in national parks that will take you along hiking trail. There is one located in Colorado.
- Earthwatch – Icon is a compass and these represent research projects that are ongoing.
- Camera with picture behind it – These are high resolution pictures that allow you to “fly into” them.
- Magnifying glass with a G – Panoramic high resolution picture

What do other icons show or tell you?