

Google Maps

Objective: Learn to use online mapping tools and programs.

Google Maps is an exciting online mapping application. It has five different view options: road map, satellite images, traffic, street view, and terrain. It also has the ability to map a trip. It is easy to use and you can change the roads used on your trip. The ability to create your own map and share it with others is also available.

To begin, go to <http://maps.google.com>. If time allows, click the take a tour link on the left hand side of the page (under welcome to Google Maps). You can select a specific item you want to learn about. The tutorials include getting started, street views, creating a map, driving directions, and adding content.

If you were planning a vacation or Roadtrip, you would click the “Get Directions” link. Starting and ending locations are entered. For example: Enter N. Monroe St., Stillwater, OK as a starting location and Hotel Phillips, Bartlesville, OK as an ending destination. Click the “Get Directions” button. You decide not to take toll roads. Zoom into the map and click on the driving direction line. A white circle will show up. Drag the circle to the road you would rather take. The directions, mileage, and time on the left side will change to accommodate the changes you made. Another option is to select the “Avoid Highways” box. Once to Hotel Phillips, you decide you want to eat BBQ for lunch. Zoom into Bartlesville, click on “Search the map” and type in BBQ restaurants. The left side will show a list of restaurants and their address.

To add more than one stop in your trip, on the left hand column, under the directions, select “add destination”. Type in a new location, such as Okmulgee, OK and directions will show up. Add another destination, Bricktown in Oklahoma City. Under each stop, the individual mileage and time will show, with the entire trip mileage at the top of the left column. To change the order of your stops, grab the stops and drop them in the order you want. If you will be in a city, you also have the option of checking the traffic by selecting the traffic tab. To print the directions and maps, select print above the map. A box will pop up showing the directions and maps. You have the option to hide the maps and print only the directions.

Street view is an option that allows you to walk down a street and rotate 360° to view the area. It can be expanded to a full screen view and zoomed to view details on the street. However, it is only available in certain cities. To access, click on the street view button and camera icons will show up where it is available. The closest cities to Oklahoma are Denver, Dallas, and Kansas City. Select a city and zoom in to the street you want to view. The streets available to view are outlined in blue. Drag the orange man to the location you want to see. When you drop him, a box will pop up with the view you selected. By clicking the white arrows, you can move up and down the street. To rotate the view, click the angled arrow keys in the left hand corner.

To create your own personalized map, go to “My Maps”. Click on “Create new map” and then log in to your Google Account. (You can use any email address to create the Google account.) Zoom into the area you want to put a placemark. The placemark tool looks like a blue push pin. Select the placemark tool and then drop it where you want it to be. It may be helpful to switch over to the satellite view to put the placemark exactly where you want it. A dialog box will pop up and allow you to name the placemark and add a description. You can also add photographs, videos, etc. by clicking on rich text mode and then the picture icon. You have the option of making your map public or private. The link to your map can be sent to friends or it can be viewed in Google Earth by clicking the KML link. To edit a placemark, click on it or select it from the list. To delete a placemark, click the “x” button in the left pane next to the placemark you want to delete. To create a path, select the path tool which looks like a lightening bolt. To create a shape, select the shape tool and outline the area you want. You can add pictures and videos to lines and shapes the same way as with a placemark.

Google Maps also has a feature to allow you to add content to your maps from 3rd parties. Examples include gas prices, real estate, area calculator, etc. To do this, select “My Maps” then “Add Content”. Select what you want to add from the list. You can delete selections the same way as with a placemark. You can save a placemark to look at later. If you want to add something to an already created map, select “Browse the Directory”. After adding the content you want, select “Go Back to Google Maps”, then “My Maps”. The selected content will be in the left column.

ACTIVITY

A. Create your own road trip. Select at least four locations (including your starting point). Enter them in Google Maps. After creating the initial road trip route, do the following things:

1. Select a different road to take from location 1 to location 2.
2. Find a restaurant in one the locations using the search tool.

Select different roads to use on the trip. Which ones take the longest time and distance? What about the shortest time and distance?

Zoom out and select the terrain button. What can you tell about different locations from this view? How could this view be used in real life?

Use the satellite view to see aerial photos.

B. Select a city with street view. Using street view, “walk” down a street and write down what you see. (street signs, people’s faces, trees, etc.) Zoom in and out of the picture and rotate your view.

In a large city, look at the traffic congestion. By changing your view, can develop any hypothesis about why this area may cause traffic congestion?

Google Maps

The image shows a screenshot of the Google Maps website interface. The top navigation bar includes links for Web, Images, Maps, Shopping, and Gmail. The search bar contains the text "10 market st, san francisco" or "hotels near lax". Below the search bar are buttons for "Search Maps", "Show search options", "Search the map", "Find businesses", and "Get directions". On the right side, there are links for "Saved Locations", "Sign in", and "Help". Below the search bar, there are tabs for "Search Results" and "My Maps", and buttons for "Print", "Send", and "Link to this page". The main map area shows a map of the United States with various states and cities labeled. A callout box labeled "5 Different views" points to the "Street View", "Traffic", "Map", "Satellite", and "Terrain" view options. On the left side, there is a sidebar with a "Welcome to Google Maps" message and several links for tutorials and help. A callout box labeled "Tutorials" points to these links. Another callout box labeled "To create own map" points to the "Add a place to the map" link. A third callout box labeled "To get directions" points to the "Get directions" link. The bottom of the page shows a scale bar for 500 miles and 500 kilometers, and a copyright notice for 2008 Google.

To create own map

To get directions

5 Different views

Tutorials

Web Images Maps Shopping Gmail more

Google Maps

10 market st, san francisco" or "hotels near lax"

Search Maps Show search options

Search the map Find businesses Get directions

Search Results My Maps

Print Send Link to this page

Street View Traffic Map Satellite Terrain

New! Add a place to the map.

Welcome to Google Maps

You can drag the map with your mouse, and double-click to zoom. [Take a tour](#)

Search the map, e.g.
[kansas city](#)
[10 market st, san francisco](#)

Find businesses, e.g.
[hotels near lax](#)
[pizza](#)

Get directions, e.g.
[jfk to 350 5th ave, new york](#)
[seattle to 98109](#)

Use Google Maps on your phone: [Learn more](#)

Add or Edit your business: [Learn more](#)

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500 mi
500 km

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Internet 100%

Creating Personalized Maps

To add 3rd party content

Placemark Tool

To view in Google Earth

The screenshot shows the Google Maps interface with several callouts:

- To add 3rd party content:** Points to the search bar area.
- Placemark Tool:** Points to the placemark icon in the map toolbar.
- To view in Google Earth:** Points to the "View in Google Earth" link in the top right.
- Add picture:** Points to the image icon in the "Description" field of the "Placemark 1" dialog box.
- Privacy setting:** Points to the "Public" radio button in the "Privacy settings" section.

The "Placemark 1" dialog box is open, showing a title field with "Placemark 1", a description field with a rich text editor (including bold, italic, underline, and font color options), and a "Description" label with links for "Plain text", "Rich text", and "Edit HTML". The "Add picture" callout points to the image icon in the rich text editor toolbar.

The "Privacy settings" section shows "Public" selected, with the text "Allow others to find this map in search results and on your profile." and an "Unlisted" option below it.