

Cross-Curricular and Across the World with Google Earth

By

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Google Earth is an excellent tool for schools to teach all content areas, as well as imbed videos and images from unitedstreaming to further enhance these areas! You can also create cross curricular lessons- for example, investigating tectonic plates and measuring their dimensions. Examples of practical uses include: Earth Science: mountains, volcanoes, glaciers, weather patterns; History: Visit the sites of famous battles; Literature: Visit the sites of famous novels, settings and authors; Math: Measure distances and areas, determine travel time, study angles and intersecting lines; World languages: visit the landmarks and cities of foreign countries; Geography: see the cities, countries and geographic features of the world; Civics: learn about the layout and businesses of your hometown. This workshop will enhance your curriculum with good uses of Google Earth for your classroom as well as a brief overview of the geometry tool, Sketchup, where students can create 3D models and imbed them inside Google Earth. Sketchup is a free 3D modeling program that enables you to explore the world in 3D. The free versions of Google Earth and Sketchup will be shown as useful technology tools to teach all curriculum areas in the K12 classroom. Useful websites to further enhance both pieces of software will be shown and demonstrated to develop understanding of global issues.

The Lindbergh School District is currently using these programs in various curriculums to demonstrate global issues that affect us all. The students are collaboratively working on real world situations and coming up with strategies to solve those using math and science skills. They are collaborating with peers, and the larger community in order to nurture student learning. Modeling of these software tools will be demonstrated as well as our vision of incorporating video conferencing next year with other students that are addressing these problems.

ISTE Standards Addressed:
NETS-T IA, NETS-T IIIA,C, D, NETS-T IIA,C