

Google Earth Lessons Guide and Tips

Google Earth

- * Coordinates are approximate. Look for tree symbol and hover mouse over to observe the name of the area.
- * Places and photos should be checked in the google earth settings on lower left side of program.
- * Students are to zoom out to find name of city and state or country if outside of US (and are encouraged to write in the table next to the area name) in order to gain perspective of their surroundings as they travel from place to place.
- * Identifying accurate coordinates requires the user to be zoomed in as far as possible.
- * The meaning of longitude and latitude should be discussed prior to this activity along with the format, units and how to verbally express the coordinates. The coordinates are posted in this activity without all of the units for ease of pasting onto google earth search bar.

Biomes

- * Since there are variations of biomes, discussions during the evaluation of the project can occur. For example, a student may notice that a picture of the tundra could be one that represents an alpine tundra or an arctic tundra. Also since there can be more than one picture posted that represents the area accurately answers may vary.
- * There can be several different biomes in one park or area. This is also a great time for discussion about how this occurs. For this project, students will need to pay attention to the type of biome they are to be exploring in order to acquire the correct picture that best represents that biome. For example, Olympic National Park is to be explored for the temperate rainforest but not all of the park would represent a true temperate rainforest. This is where students are then required to use their previous knowledge of the conditions that make a particular biome and search for pictures or areas that represent those the best. In addition, I will encourage students to glide over the mountain tops (zooming in and out) and use street view to explore the area in a more enhanced view than just the pictures that are posted. Some areas do not provide street view access so there are limitations when assigning this type of exploration but could certainly be used for others.
- * Guide students to find the environmental issues from the national park or forest websites. Park websites usually have “nps.gov” within the address. Click on Learn about the park and then click on Nature. Answers may vary since many areas have more than one environmental issue.

Course Standards

- * Students are required to know the biotic and abiotic aspects of biomes and be able to identify them previous to the Biology I course according to state standards. This lesson is used as a review of the biomes and to fulfill course requirements of knowing environmental issues and how they are managed.