

LESSON PLAN 40: DISPLAYING STUDENT WORK ON A GOOGLE MAP

Objective: Research, create and publish a video tour of a location or activity.

Age range: 7-17

This lesson plan was submitted by **David Kinane**. He explains:

“This is essentially a project to produce a film. The key difference is that the film content is contextualised by being placed in your own Google Map at the location the film features. Creating a map in Google Maps on which to share students work gives relevance to what they’re asked to produce; additionally, the map becomes an authentic environment and audience for the end product. This technique could just as easily be used to create a tour of WW1 trenches in Belgium, an investigation of volcanism at Mt St Helens or, as we have done, to create virtual tours of our local environment.

YOU WILL NEED

Digital camera, microphone, video editing software (Photostory 3/ Movie Maker/iMovie), Internet access, Google/YouTube account.

DEVELOPING SKILLS

Visual language, video editing, sequencing, critical thinking, evaluation, reflection, verbal skills, collaboration, presentation, photography.

METHOD

1. Before commencing the project ensure that your accounts with Google (<http://maps.google.com>) account and You Tube (www.youtube.com) accounts are set up and working.
2. Get students to research and collate the information necessary for their story (voice-over, image ideas, etc.). We encouraged them to use the Internet, library and people in school as sources. Only let students start taking photos when they know what images they needed to support their story. This is important because it means that they have to locate material that represents what they have already researched rather than the other way round.
3. Once they start to take photographs, encourage them to explore different angles and distances to create visual impact. Also, allow them to take far too many images. Students then have to argue for or against the inclusion of images based on an individual image’s suitability and visual impact relative to the intended script.
4. Download the images and decide which ones best suit the story being told. I would encourage restricting the number of images or duration that a video is to last (although YouTube only allows films of 10 minutes). By doing so, students are forced to distill the essential from the padding in their film.
5. We use Photostory 3 to create our videos. Students have to import their chosen images and place them in the appropriate order for the story. It’s at this point that they record their voice-over, explaining what it is the viewer is seeing in the image.
6. Export the finished video into a wmv, avi or .mov format (depending on your platform) and upload to YouTube.

7. Once uploaded, the video needs to be ‘geo tagged’ so that it can appear in the right location in Google Earth. If you know the longitude and latitude co-ordinates you can use them to exactly locate your film on the planet. If not, use the mini Google Map to find your location. When done, save. Keep YouTube open and copy the embed code of the video you wish to put into Google Maps.
8. Open Google Maps, sign in and click My Maps, then Create New Map. Choose a name and decide if your map will be public or not. Fill out the description section, so that people know what they’re going to see in your map. Now you’re ready to start adding student-generated content.
9. Click on the blue pin on the top left of the map area, then drag it to the location that you want the video to appear. Use the zoom tool and the satellite option to get an exact location. When you’re happy, double click on the pin so that it opens. Click on the ‘Edit html’ option and then paste the embed code that you copied from your YouTube video. You have now embedded a YouTube video into a Google map. Continue until finished and save – incidentally, you can always add more at a later date.
10. To see your videos in Google Earth you have to turn on the YouTube layer. To do this click on the layers option in Google Earth, expand the gallery button by clicking on the plus sign. At the bottom of this list is the YouTube option.
11. You have now successfully created your own Google Map with student content displayed in it.

COMPILED BY **DAVID KINANE**, ICT DIRECTOR AT MEADOWBANK SCHOOL.

Check out what David’s students have done by opening Google Maps and searching either ‘Sustained Student’ or ‘Meadowbank Enviro Tour’.

