Title of Session: Using Google Earth to Extend Lessons
Moderator: Donna Hendry
Title of File: Google Earth
Date: July 19, 2006

Room: Comfy Conference

DonnaH: Okay...do we have everyone we think is coming?

BJ: Welcome to this Festival Event about Google Earth!

BJ: Donna Hendry is our discussion leader

DonnaH: Before I start, if you downloaded your google earth, please open it, as this will be a practical session...

DonnaH: if not, you may wish to do so, or follow along as best you can:)

MidgeF: Flying in (it is so cool)

JeffCoop hopes we get to look at Donna's house today.

DonnaH: You do, Jeff...right into my daughter's upstairs bedroom window:) *laugh*

DonnaH: Over the last year, I've had the opportunity to use this often in a variety of classes

DonnaH: We have used it for a various lessons, from landforms, to natural disasters, mapping...to landmarks.

DonnaH: so the first thing I want everyone to do, is, in the top left hand corner, you'll see what looks like a search box.

DonnaH: type the following in: 90 Ridgewood Rd, Willimantic, CT

JeffCoop: Actions: Send to Pasteboard will allow you to copy/paste it in

DonnaH: you will see it will zoom you in. *yes, that's my neighborhood)

AlaneMariC: cool

DonnaH: With smaller children, I've played it up, that we're flying around, telling them that they need to buckle in, etc.

MidgeF: Peter Pan like

AlaneMariC: With older students?

DonnaH: now, just left of center on the bottom, you'll see a button with a + and one with a -

AlaneMariC: Have you used it with older students

DonnaH: if you click on the plus, you can zoom in closer.

DonnaH: The oldest I've used it with is 8th grade; though that was more so because that's what I had access too

DonnaH: Did everyone zoom in?

MidgeF: yes, but it isn't exactly on your side of the street?

DonnaH: (the house with the tan colored roof is mine. and if you look to the right eve, you'll see a black smudge that is my kids' bedroom window *laugh*

JeffCoop . o O (or use a scroll wheel if you have one on your mouse)

DonnaH: Now, I show this, because in younger grades, we used this and 'flew' to the school's address.

DonnaH: it can be used to help illustrate neighborhoods,

AlaneMariC: Okay, I finally got it downloaded and put in the address and could not locate it

DonnaH: what are the local 'landmarks' etc.

DonnaH: Alane, try adding the zipcode....

DonnaH: 06226

DonnaH: If you zoom out a bit, you will see, my backyard is a college.

DonnaH: Now, Midge, this is where I wanted to illustrate...

DonnaH: you'll notice a baseball field in the bottom center of the screen?

DonnaH: that's been the library since 2000.

DonnaH: so, the one thing you can't use it for (and I wish you could) is for current events.

AlaneMariC: I misspelled part of the address!   all is well!

DonnaH: It is live feed, but off a patchwork of photos.

DonnaH: so some may come in badly, some may be blurry, etc.

DonnaH: In the 8th grade, we used it to look at Boston, as that was where they were going on their field trip.

DonnaH: But the thing I liked most for the older students...

DonnaH: type in 'Mount Everest'

DonnaH: (let me know when you're there)

MidgeF: Very fast

DonnaH: (I love the flying *laugh*)

EmilieD: I have dial-up - veeeeeery sloooooow

DonnaH: I understand, Emilie:)

AlaneMariC: this was fun

EmilieD: *sigh*

MidgeF: Kissing my cable modem

DonnaH: Take your pointer, and point it to the bulls eye.

EmilieD: I'm jealous...

DonnaH: you'll notice just above the toolbar, there is a row of #'s.

AlaneMariC: no

MidgeF: L&L

DonnaH: the first 2 are the coordinates...(hours min and seconds...which we used in math) the third set is the elevation.

MidgeF: just above the lodging and stuff

DonnaH: so if you put your pointer on the bulls eye, you will see exactly how tall Everest is.

AlaneMariC: at the very bottom of the page

MidgeF: 26437

DonnaH: As a class challenge, the students 'visited' Nepal. Using their pointers, they were to try and find which mountain was Everest by reading the elevation

DonnaH: If you zoom out a bit, you'll see there are actually a number of mountains to choose from

DonnaH: (and we did this with a 3rd grade class, so it may be challenging, it isn't difficult)

DonnaH: We also used this to find Plateaus (since we were comparing what's the difference between mesas, buttes and plateaus)

DonnaH: does everyone see this?

AlaneMariC: yes!

SusanR . o O (fires up Google Earth)

AlaneMariC: Where do we go next? I like this

DoloresG: Yes, Donna, It's great!

DonnaH: Mt. St. Helens

AlaneMariC: on my way!

DonnaH: (sorry, spell it out)

DonnaH: mount saint helens

EmilieD: but I just finally got to Everest! *sigh*

DonnaH: Emilie:) Feel free to investigate everest first:)

DonnaH: you can catch up:)

JeffCoop: Is there a difference between the DirectX and GL modes? Which is preferred?

DonnaH: *make sure you cap everything, or it will send you to the town, and not the mountain)

DonnaH: to be honest, Jeff, I'm not entirely sure...unless it's a mac/pc difference.

DonnaH: they only made it workable on Mac last fall

DonnaH: Now, if you look at the volcano, it is VERY clear...looks like a model.

DoloresG: Mine looks rather blurred so I zoomed out a bit

DonnaH: now, if you look at the toolbar, you will see to the right of center an arrow pointing in a clockwise motion.

AlaneMariC: I can't get it to zoom in

SusanR: fully workable on a MAC now

DonnaH: you can click on that and rotate it a bit so you can see the portion of the mountain that was blown out.

KeikoSc: Cool, Susan

DonnaH: (Alane, do you have the comment box closed?)

DonnaH: now, here's the really cool thing.

DonnaH: you know where you clicked to zoom in and out on the toolbar? there's another slide toolbar on the right hand side that looks like it.

DonnaH: click the bottom button (the one that looks like a spliced 90 degree angle?) and see what happens

DonnaH: Can anyone describe what happened?

MidgeF: it tilts the globe

DonnaH: that's a way to put it...

DonnaH: my students said it was like taking off

DonnaH: coming into a place, rather than just above it.

BJ . o O (I thought I felt the earth tilt!)

DonnaH: basically, it's giving you a bit of a 3 dimensional view

DonnaH: This is interesting, esp on a landform like this.

DonnaH: You DO have to make sure you're looking at it from the right side though, or it doesn't work as well.

DonnaH: Another place that this works well, is visiting the Forbidden City in Beijing.

KeikoSc: Cool

SusanR . o O (you feel like you are in an iMax theatre)

DonnaH: However, it does have its limitations.

DonnaH: for example.

DonnaH: type in Eiffel Tower

DonnaH: (if you click the clear button on the left hand side beneath the results box, it will clear the bulls eye for you)

AlaneMariC: Very good image of Paris

DonnaH: what you have now is a great picture facing down.

DonnaH: now try the tilt feature

DonnaH: you'll notice it totally flattens the Eiffel tower

DonnaH: *laugh*

DonnaH: so it DOES have its limitations

DonnaH: does everyone see that?

EmilieD: yes

KeikoSc giggles

EmilieD: yes

DoloresG: Fantastic!

SusanR nods

DonnaH: Now. As I said, we used this a lot when we were looking at landforms.

DonnaH: We could see peninsula's, we could see canyons, plateaus, mountains, islands, etc.

AlaneMariC: Great! I have figured out the zoom and the tilt!

DonnaH: Remember that elevation piece I showed you?

DonnaH: Check out the Grand Canyon

DonnaH: You'll find you'll need to zoom out just a bit

DonnaH: (don't know why it zoomed in so close)

SusanR: a virtual trip around the world!

DonnaH: Now, if you use your tilt feature you can see more plainly the canyon itself

AlaneMariC: I really can't zoom in out well with the free version

DonnaH: it might be your connection, Alane, I've only ever used the free version, and haven't had any problems.

DonnaH: you might also want to try shutting it down, and restarting.

AlaneMariC: However, when you zoom out a long distance it is interesting how small the Grand Canyon looks when it is incorporated in the large landscape of North America

DonnaH: (I've had problems before when I know there's a clear picture, and when I brought it in class, ended up with a smudge instead)

AlaneMariC: yes, I'll try after this session

DonnaH: Now, this is where I had students check the elevation at the top of the canyon wall, and at the riverbed level.

DonnaH: (by subtracting the two, they could find out how deep the canyon is.)

MidgeF: Thanks Donna, gotta run (or is it fly?)

MidgeF left the room (signed off).

DonnaH: But, there is also another small issue with the elevation.

EmilieD: do you know why certain sections are very gray and hard to see? I've found that around Washington, DC

DonnaH: and I'll illustrate...type in Death Valley, CA

DonnaH: It might be your connection, Emilie. DC I've found to be very clear...I even used it to show my husband where the WWII memorial was in relation to the others...

DonnaH: and it was very very clear.

DonnaH: It might be too, that you need to restart it.

EmilieD: ok

DonnaH: fortunately though, if you use this at school, you're more likely to have a really good connection:)

DonnaH: if you check the elevation in Death Valley, you'll notice whereever you go, it says 0.

DonnaH: the elevation doesn't understand below sea level, so you can't ever get lower than 0 (which was a frustration when I was trying to explain that not all below sea level is actually under water.)

DonnaH: DC though, is a great place to check out landmarks.

EmilieD: I'm seeing minus 1 ft at certain spots

DonnaH: there are a number of landmarks already in the program, though I have to admit there are a few I want to find, that I haven't been able to yet (the coliseum in Rome is one)

DonnaH: Really?! That's wonderful...

DonnaH: I checked quickly, but maybe its something they've fixed recently.

DonnaH: (mine still shows 0's.)

EmilieD: hmm - nope just did it again and it's all 0 ft

DonnaH: *giggles*

AlaneMariC: yes, so does mine

DonnaH: Another thing that I loved this for, that really opened the students' minds...

DonnaH: was when we were doing landforms...

DonnaH: okay, we have a canyon, the grand canyon, yes we have mountains, the rocky mountains...yes we have peninsulas, (cape cod, fl)...

DonnaH: it's very regional.

DonnaH: by using google earth, we could look at Italy as a peninsula...

DonnaH: We could look at Mt. Everest as a mountain, and though I couldn't find it, we did attempt to find the three rivers gorge in China.

DonnaH: The other thing I'd like to find (but haven't yet) is Pompeii.

SusanR: what about Mount Kilimanjaro

DonnaH: Haven't done it...check it out:)

SusanR: could you actually zero and find the climbers

DoloresG: I believe Pompeii is under water now. Some geographical site should list the coordinates.

DonnaH: That's true, we really didn't use it much for literature...but I bet it would make it easier to understand setting if you could SEE it.

EmilieD: do you know how often these photos are updated?

AlaneMariC: yes, I was wondering myself

DonnaH: I know they've been trying to go through and 'fix' the ones that need fixing...

DonnaH: but I haven't read anything about it otherwise.

DonnaH: like I said, the picture of my house has to have been taken between 1999 and 2000.

EmilieD: I found my house and the image was at least 7 years old (didn't include a house that was constructed since then)

DoloresG: This is fantastic. I can't wait to show it to my Social Studies teacher!

DonnaH: (we redid our roof in 2000 and the color changed to tan) but the college library wasn't broken ground yet.

AlaneMariC: Thank you Donna!!!!

DonnaH: You're welcome:)!

AlaneMariC: I enjoyed this

JeffCoo: There is another program that would integrate very well with Google Earth: Real Lives http://www.educationalsimulations.com/index.html

EmilieD: thanks - I really enjoyed it!

JeffCoo: It gives you a chance to live out the life of someone anywhere in the world (virtually).

BJ: Thanks, Donna. We're crossing our fingers that you'll come back and present more often at TI!

KeikoSc: You still rock, Donna

DoloresG: Thanks again. I have learned so much.

AlaneMariC: Well good night all

DonnaH: If anyone uses it in the classroom, I'd love to hear from you, and how you used it!

SusanR: Thanks Donna!!!! This site might add to the session. ..http://www.juicygeography.co.uk/googleearth.htm

DonnaH: Thank you everyone for attending!

DonnaH: Enjoy the rest of your summers!

TapioH: Thank you. Bye...

EmilieD: Thanks so much! Bye.