

Title of Session: Frazel Features - Google Maps

Moderator: Midge Frazel

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MidgeF: William is excited to get started. How cool!

MidgeF: I am a writer, computer geek and genealogist. I live in Massachusetts. I don't have a teaching job anymore but when I did I did professional development for teachers.

WilliamJo: I am social studies student teacher

BJB2: William, I hope you'll be able to join the SSForum on April 9

MidgeF: I love social studies.

WilliamJo: depends on the time

WilliamJo: I work evenings part time

BJB2: I am in Pennsylvania and teach communications

WilliamJo: hi all

MidgeF: Hey Jeff

JeffC . o O (GOOGLE RULZ!)

MidgeF: He's so inspirational.

BJB2 . o O (good thing he's not a spelling teechur)

MidgeF: I am editing my book this week.

JeffC: my son found several buildings in the shape of swastikas using google earth yesterday... one was a naval base in San Diego.

WilliamJo: what is your book about

MidgeF: It's an awful job. I yell a lot

MidgeF: Yes, I have seen those. It's terrible.

JeffC: he thought it was bitterly ironic.

BJB2: maybe we should start over, Midge, with intros?

MidgeF: Sure

JeffC: I'm on Helpdesk here, and live in Forest Grove Oregon. I'm also just going to lurk because I have to go to a neighbor's and try and fix her computer.

WilliamJo: I am a student teacher in Cleveland

BJB2: welcome, James. please introduce yourself

MidgeF: We are here tonight to talk about Google Maps and I hope Jeff gets to his neighbor without a map.

LindaNJ: Hi I'm a computer programming teacher in VA

JamesPM: Hi, I'm a math teacher at Hoover High School in San Diego

MidgeF: I always get such variety!

TrentW: Hi all, I'm a student teacher attending Franklin College of Indiana

MidgeF: That's super. Interesting mix and from all over too.

MidgeF: Soon it may seem strange to see print maps! When cars have standard GPS devices and everyone gets used to using them, maps of streets will be outdated.

MidgeF: No one can fold them anyway.

BJB2 chuckles

WilliamJo smiles

MidgeF: Most adults look up driving directions with online mapping tools so why are online mapping and GPS not something that is taught in the classroom? Let's think about maps going the way of the telephone book; soon no one will even remember using either of these print tools.

MidgeF: Like a dial telephone.

JamesPM: lol

MidgeF: But, this is a worry. Schools are used to having globes, atlas and wall maps yet they don't spend much time using them

MidgeF: Kids are so far ahead of us now that we soon will be saying stuff they don't understand

MidgeF: Like record

MidgeF: meaning the round vinyl things

BJB2 Nods

MidgeF: Google Maps is undergoing a big transformation. With the popularity of Google Earth, the folks at Google are adding some of the popular ideas for that application to Google Maps and making it easier to use in the classroom.

TrentW: that's neat

MidgeF: Using Google Earth is like teaching Oregon Trail. Kids want to just fly.

WilliamJo: can I ask a question

MidgeF: So there's a lot of zooming around and not much learning

MidgeF: Sure...

MidgeF: go ahead

WilliamJo: does google maps show topographical information

WilliamJo: I have never used it

MidgeF: yes there is terrain but not mountain ranges and elevation (well not yet)

WilliamJo: ok thanks

MidgeF: I think there are the things that will come to it eventually.

MidgeF: Google Earth has lots of that but you have to select it to show.

MidgeF: And, it takes a lot of computing power and a new computer

MidgeF: I think this is something to keep your eye on.

MidgeF: Other questions?

JamesPM: Question, this may sound dumb, but, what should we be looking at if we're new to google maps? Where should we start?

MidgeF: Yes, that's a good question.

MidgeF: I think that at first, Google Maps looks like driving directions

MidgeF: Which is what everyone looks at

MidgeF: But there are new things to discover

MidgeF: Let's take a look at my blog for a new skill I have recently learned.

MidgeF: <http://midgefrazel.net/blog/>

MidgeF: The top entry shows the house where my grandparents lived. It is on the edge of Providence RI.

MidgeF: Control click on that URL

BJB2 checks to see if everyone got the url

MidgeF: They are reading..I think

MidgeF: I forgot to tell them to come back

BJB2: let us know when you're back!

MidgeF: Midge hums to herself while she waits

WilliamJo: is that a live view

JamesPM: Cool. I'm back. My mom's from Woonsocket, RI

MidgeF: The next blog entry shows you what the house looks like now. This is a new view of Google Maps called "Street View" and is only available (right now) for selected cities.

MidgeF: No, none of it is live

MidgeF: That's not far from Providence

MidgeF: I doubt if we ever have live images

MidgeF: They could do that IF they put cameras on the telephone poles

TrentW: lol

MidgeF: But it would be an invasion of privacy

MidgeF: I actually found this out by accident.

LindaNJ: cool

MidgeF: I think it is amazing. Google doesn't OWN the images.

JamesPM: Question, what would be a good start for introducing Google Maps to the classroom?

MidgeF: I would say that you could have students start with the school address

JasonQ: I have used google maps to teach orienteering in physical education at my school.

MidgeF: and try to find it and then learn the zooming in and out and the driving directions from home to their school

MidgeF: That's a cool idea

MidgeF: I did something with it in my graduate work to help teachers locate the famous places here in Massachusetts

MidgeF: Most had never been here.

MidgeF: We went to Ellis Island with Google Earth

MidgeF: I think this makes geography more fun. I never had much geography in school so I struggle to learn where my ancestors lived.

MidgeF: Oddly, I was a science major and they never covered it even in anthropology

MidgeF: But, I think this is getting better. In my blog, there is a list of cities that have street view

MidgeF: You have to learn to drag the little Google guy around and then figure out how to move up and down the street

MidgeF: I picked my grandparent's neighborhood because it is next to a big park

MidgeF: You can use it for your classes too!

MidgeF: Help

MidgeF: <http://maps.google.com/support/>

MidgeF: search for street view

MidgeF: That's the URL for the help file and where you can get ideas for using this

MidgeF: I think kids will have to learn about the satellite view and the terrain view

MidgeF: And you have to learn to turn on the labels to see the street names

MidgeF: I am sure you are all off playing with this

TrentW: is it hard to download google earth?

WilliamJo: I want to use the maps to discuss the role of geography during the civil war

MidgeF: No it is easy but you need to read the system requirements and have a steady fast connection

JasonQ: Are there fees for the downloads?

MidgeF: Google Earth in its basic form is free

MidgeF: William you will want to see one of my Civil War ancestors

MidgeF: <http://www.midgefrazel.net/barber.html>

MidgeF: He was awarded the Medal of Honor

MidgeF: People are making Google Map trips going from one location to another

MidgeF: Here's a teacher created information sheet to get you started

MidgeF: http://www.google.com/educators/activities/Maps_JCescalante.pdf

JasonQ: where can you find the free version?

MidgeF: Let me get the URL for you...

MidgeF: <http://earth.google.com/>

JasonQ: Thanks!

MidgeF: There is a way to make what is called a mash-up of maps

MidgeF: a mash-up is a combo of different media

MidgeF: This is one on our Presidents....using Google Maps

MidgeF: <http://www.mibazaar.com/ushistory/>

MidgeF: You might be able to find one on battles of the Civil War.

WilliamJo: my computer will not let me use the links so I am writing them down

JamesPM: Did Google help you locate your ancestry?

MidgeF: You may need to control-click on the link

MidgeF: Sometimes Google does help with map locations and finding free resources but

MidgeF: only to a point. I joined Ancestry.com and paid for a membership

MidgeF: Some of what I know about my family I have know since I was a little kid

MidgeF: I was always interested in that and I am a keeper of photos which fits with genealogy and technology

WilliamJo: do u know if google is working on any new features

WilliamJo: for maps

MidgeF: I don't actually know what they are going to do next. There's a blog for each area of Google and sometimes you can find out what's coming

MidgeF: But you might want to read all the help files and then see what will help you

WilliamJo: Midge have you ever used the maps to trace the migration of your family

MidgeF: This was a hard part to write about since Google doesn't allow screen shots of there maps or earth applications since they don't own the content

WilliamJo: I was thinking about using that in a geography assignment

MidgeF: I have done some of that but only from the old country to America

MidgeF: I helped my doctor find his family from Austria (now Poland) to America

WilliamJo: cool

MidgeF: It was very hard since I don't read Yiddish or even German but after moths of work I found them

MidgeF: getting on a ship in Hamburg to Ellis Island

MidgeF: He was so excited.

MidgeF: He has been unable to get as far as I did.

MidgeF: I learned a lot but I still need help with Yiddish and German!

WilliamJo: you have a real passion for ancestry research

MidgeF: Since I was 7 and I discovered my grandparents had grandparents too.

WilliamJo: or is it genealogy

MidgeF: genealogy

MidgeF: I haven't updated this page since I wrote a book for teachers

MidgeF: <http://www.midgefrazel.net/genealogyclass.html>

WilliamJo: sorry to get side tracked

MidgeF: I have taught this to teachers

MidgeF: That's OK it IS history

MidgeF: Lots of people find a place for self discovery in their classrooms

MidgeF: It is research, organization, timelines, and of course, maps

JamesPM: Speaking of subjects, any math twists to Google Maps? I can see mileage from one place to another, but anything else?

WilliamJo: yes it is!!!

MidgeF: I think that measuring distance may be the only math thing

MidgeF: But there is also Google Sky and Moon too

MidgeF: <http://www.google.com/sky/>

JasonQ: How up to date are the images provided by google? I noticed that the free version is at least 7 years old.

MidgeF: Sure Sue...

MidgeF: I think the paid version may have newer ones. You can compare your own area to see if you can figure out how old the images are

MidgeF: Remember, some people think this is an invasion of their privacy

JasonQ: I would like to get an updated map of my school to use for orienteering. Am I going to need to pay a fee to obtain an updated image?

MidgeF: I don't know how you would get a map of a specific location for pay

MidgeF: You might try your own town or city first for a scan

MidgeF: I would try to have kids take the photos themselves and figure out where they go on the map

MidgeF: There's only a few minutes left. Any ideas I didn't cover?

JasonQ: Thanks for your insights.

TrentW: yes...very informative

MidgeF: I think this is the kind of thing we will think is normal for the future.

WilliamJo: very helpful and great links

MidgeF: I have learned a lot writing this book.

WilliamJo: what is the title?

MidgeF: I know a lot about searching

MidgeF: Google and Google Tools for the Classroom, I think

MidgeF: I have a deadline of May 1st

MidgeF: Then once I give it to them, they set the publication date

MidgeF: do the cover, send it out to be reviewed, etc.

MidgeF: And oh, yes, pay me

BJB2: Midge will be back in May for the next Frazel Features.

WilliamJo: funny

MidgeF: Yes, but I have jury duty

MidgeF: in May

MidgeF: So, I will have to see what we can do about a date.

WilliamJo: thanks for the time and info

MidgeF: You're welcome and thanks for coming

WilliamJo: bye

MidgeF: Email me anytime

WilliamJo: ok

MidgeF: midgef@midgefrazel.net

MidgeF: By the way, don't you want to know how much?

WilliamJo: oh ya

MidgeF: Two thousand bucks

MidgeF: That's it.

LindaNJ: this has been interesting and given me some ideas for my class, thank you

MidgeF: The other book is more and with royalties but is harder

BJB2: Thanks, Midge

MidgeF: You are free to go back to your life! Thanks BJ

WilliamJo: bye Midge

MidgeF: Goodnight

LindaNJ: thank you