

Fabulous Field Trips with Google Earth

Give your students an opportunity to go places you can't take them on a yellow bus. Use Google Earth, still images of your location, informational sites, and maybe even a video, to put together a presentation that is the next best thing to being there!

Join me as I take you on a trip to the USS Arizona memorial in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

Step 1 - Collect your materials

I wanted to link a video about Pearl Harbor, an image of the USS Arizona Memorial, and a couple of links to research information



about Pearl Harbor and the USS Arizona. I found the links to all my sites and saved them in a place where I could find them easily. I opened a Word document and saved my links to I could easily copy and paste them later.

I first found a video I wanted the students to see. You would only want to use this feature if you are viewing this as a class. You will be streaming this video straight from United Streaming. We have to be careful with streaming because it takes up bandwidth and slows down our system.

To find the address of the video, let the video start to stream and then right-click and choose properties. Copy and paste the address into your word document.

http://vod.esc11.net/Videos/25359/pgr25359_256k.asf

Next, I wanted to add links to great websites for my students to use to research the topic.

I found my websites and copy and pasted them into my word document. This way I will be able to use them later in my field trip.

Video of Underwater Search of Pearl Harbour:

<http://www.pearlharbormemorial.com/site/pp.asp?c=fqLQJ2NNG&b=2258169>

Other Pearl Harbor websites:

<http://www.history.navy.mil/photos/events/wwii-pac/pearlhbr/pearlhbr.htm>

<http://www.nps.gov/usar/>

Last, I would like an image of my topic. This image must be available on a website to be universally available. If a local copy is all that is available, it will only show up on that machine. A good place to upload images is www.pics4learning.com. Find the image you would like to use. Right-click on the image and go to properties. Copy and paste the address into your word document to use later in your field trip.

<http://www.pics4learning.com/catalog/p/pearlharbor.jpg>

<http://www.nps.gov/archive/usar/photos2/PC-m2.htm>

I now have all of the elements I want for my field trip.

What is it that makes this so special?

You can use placemarks to mark any location on the planet. Once you have created a placemark, it appears in the My Places folder in the Places panel. You can then quickly go to the marked location at any time by double clicking the placemark in the Places panel. Additionally, you can edit, move, share or delete any placemark. Be sure that you have selected VIEW: Toolbar and know that you are looking for the Placemark tool (a pushpin).



Step 2 – Launch Google Earth

Put in the name or address of where you would like to go.

In this lesson we will type in the USS Arizona Memorial. Press Enter and Google Earth flies off to Hawaii. You might also put in latitude and longitude or a city/state/zip code combination.

Step 3 – Click on the pushpin in the toolbar to name your placemark.

The New dialog box appears and a placemark icon (pushpin) appears in the exact center of the 3D viewer. Try moving around the pushpin by clicking and dragging it. You can use this method to move the pushpin to any location in the 3D viewer. In the New Dialog Box, enter the following information:

Name: "USS Arizona Memorial - Hawaii" Ignore the other fields for now. Click on the pushpin and drag it to the area you want it.

TIP

If there are already a lot of markers there, try turning off some Layers. The one called Geographic Web shows other people's additions to Google Earth. Sometimes they get in your way while you are designing.

Step 4 – In the description box, add your video and website URLs. Remember to copy and paste links from the word document you created earlier.

TIP

Right click and go to properties to edit the description box. Add a title before the link to make it easier to read. There is no way to get each piece of information on a separate line.

Step 5 – On the toolbar select Image Overlay. Name it and enter the URL for the image. Remember to simply copy and paste it from the word document you created earlier.

Step 6 - Right click on the pushpin you created and select Save As. Move to your H:drive and name your file. Its file extension will be .kmz.

TIP

Right click and go to properties to edit the description box. Add a title before the link to make it easier to read. There is no way to get each piece of information on a separate line. When you open the .kmz file it will automatically open Google Earth with the information for this trip ready to go! If you see two pushpins, uncheck the Temporary Places box.

Enjoy the trip!

This activity was adapted from a presentation from Lance Rougeux from Discover Education titled “Two Roundtrip Tickets to Anywhere in the World.” It was updated for Windows XP, Google Earth v 4.2.0205.

Resources used for the USS Arizona/Pearl Harbor field trip:

Online websites

<http://www.history.navy.mil/photos/events/wwii-pac/pearlhbr/pearlhbr.htm>

<http://www.nps.gov/usar/>

United Streaming “Pearl Harbor” from Discovery Channel School. [Online video clip]

<http://www.unitedstreaming.com>

Images from Pics4Learning

<http://pics.tech4learning.com>