

Google Earth Unit

Start up and tutorial.

Google Earth is a free downloadable software program that allows the user to view a digital Globe. The images that you see are like a patch work quilt of satellite photographs all put together. Google Earth provides the user many different tools to navigate the globe, some of which you will learn how to use in this tutorial.

Downloading Google Earth

- 1.) **Log on to the Internet.**
- 2.) In your web browser type **<http://earth.google.com/>**
- 3.) In the top right corner of your screen there will be a green rectangle that says **“Download Google earth (free)”** **Click.**
- 4.) Read the “terms of service” window and then **Click “Agree and Download”**
- 5.) A window pops up and asks you to if you want to save the file, **Click “Save File”**
- 6.) If Google earth does not automatically begin installing, A “Google earth” icon should appear on your desktop. **Click the icon** to begin the installation wizard.
- 7.) **Click Next** to all the installation wizard prompts until you reach the installation wizard completed screen **Click Finish.**
- 8.) The Google Earth program should launch. A tip of the day screen may appear read it if you wish then **Click close** to close the tip screen.
- 9.) The installation process is now complete and you should be looking at the earth focused on the U.S..

Getting to know Google Earth

Now that the Google Earth program is open there are features to be noticed. On the left is the side bar with three main categories Search, My places and Layers. Under My places and Layers there are small boxes. These boxes can be checked or unchecked, when they are checked the feature or layer is shown on the map. On the top of your screen there is a tool bar with 10 different icons that complete different tasks.

The most used tool is the little white hand which is your mouse cursor. By placing you mouse over a certain location and left double clicking, this will zoom you in. Once you have zoomed in wait a few seconds until the “streaming” level at the bottom of your screen has reached 100%. Once you reach 100% all of the features at that particular scale have appeared. If you right double click, this will zoom you out. If you left click and hold this will allow you to grab the earth and move it to view a different location. Take a few moments to play around with all of these features. See if you can find you house. To learn how to use all the features of Google Earth, click the Help menu button and then click user guide (it may take a few moments for the guide to pop up).

Another useful feature is the Navigation Controls. This is the circle with a vertical bar and a horizontal bar located at the top right of your screen. The circle has an “N” at

the top of it. By clicking this “N” it realigns your point of view to the north. The top vertical bar is the tilt feature. By moving the tilt slide to the right or by clicking the right square at the end of the bar, this tilts your point of view down and vice versa. The vertical bar is another way to zoom. Take a few moments to play around with all of these tools to familiarize your self with Google Earth.