

How Far is Far? Using Google Earth

Distance is a very important concept in Geography. Also distance can be exact or relative. To understand how close or how far things, places or people are from each other is necessary. Before we think about how far India is from Japan lets figure out how far our school is from your house. Do you think that you live far from your school?

Objectives

The students will be able to find their house using google earth with 100% confidence.

The students will be able to measure distance from one place to another with an accuracy of 1000 ft.

Procedure

- 1.) Start Google Earth.
- 2.) Find your house. (to zoom double left click, it will zoom to the point that your cursor hand is over.)
 - a.) zoom in on your state
 - b.) zoom in on your city
 - c.) zoom in on the part of town you live in.
 - d.) find your neighborhood or street.
 - e.) find your house and zoom in again until you can see your house in detail.(if you cant find your house by zooming you can type your address in the "Search>Fly to" box and Google earth will find it for you")
- 3.) Add place mark.
 - a.) On the top right of your screen you will see a yellow thumbtack with a plus sign next to it. Click "Add Place mark"
 - b.) A screen will appear and a yellow place mark will now be near your house. Click on the place mark and drag it until it is over your house.
 - c.) Now name the place mark "My House". Notice that the screen gives you the exact latitude and longitude of your house.
- 4.) Repeat steps 2-3 to find your school and add a place mark to your school. Give your school its own name.
- 5.) Find the distance from your school to your house.
 - a.) Zoom in to your house.
 - b.) On the top of your screen, 4 icons to the left of the place mark icon there will be a ruler icon. Click Ruler.
 - c.) A ruler window will pop up. Chose the "path" tab.
 - d.) Click the "mouse navigation" box

- e.) We are going to trace the way that you get from your house to your school by car, so we will follow the streets. You will have to be zoomed in close. Now place the cross hairs, that is now your curser, over your house and click. Then go down your street (the way you would go to school) and click. Keep clicking your way to school, if the road makes a turn you may have to make more clicks to keep the path line on the road. If you get to the edge of your screen you can Click and hold to move the screen over. Using the navigation tools you can zoom in or zoom out if needed.
- f.) Once you have reached your school the total distance that you travel will be listed.

Now you will have a better understanding of how far one mile is, or if you thought the beach was far away, you will now know how far “far away” really is.