

Post-primary school A - Lesson 1: Using Google Earth in a geography lesson to identify familiar places and leisure services

Sample teaching and learning activities

Junior Certificate subjects	Topics	PLUs	Elements	Learning outcomes
Geography	Map drawing and map interpretation	Numeracy Living in a community	Developing an awareness of length and distance Using local facilities	Use a ruler to draw and measure different lengths of lines List ways of spending leisure time Identify familiar places and organisations in the local community
Keywords	The following keywords are pre taught: Frame, background, middle ground, foreground, leisure and symbol, community, facilities.			
Pre-learning	The student should have some experience of using a ruler. Students should be familiar with the key words prior to this lesson.			
Resources	(1) Worksheet on familiar places and leisure facilities (2) Aerial map Ruler, colours, paper, Google Earth, Scoilnet maps,			

<p>Brief description of the lesson</p>	<p>Using Google Earth of the local area students will be able to distinguish between background, middle ground, and foreground.</p> <p>They will also be able to locate and identify different facilities and landmarks e.g. church, beach, road, car park etc. on the photograph using the terms background, middle ground and foreground.</p> <p>Students will be able to draw a sketch map with a grid frame and put in a range of symbols.</p>
<p>Introduction</p>	<p>The teacher has a data image of the local area from Google earth on the projector. Students are asked to take a look. This session involves the teacher zooming in and out. Moving to the east moving to the south, etc.</p>  <p>A discussion is started by the teacher prompting the students with questions i.e. What can you see? Which direction will I go for the school, for the church, etc.</p>
<p>Main activity</p>	<p>Students will be given a simple worksheet (1) on familiar places and leisure services to name the main services in the town and what these services are used for.</p> <p>Students feed back their list of services to the class and teacher in a group discussion.</p> <p>Next students look at various ways they spend their leisure time, after a brainstorming exercise students working in pairs identify a range of places where they can spend their leisure time e.g. Park, library, swimming pool, community centre, skate board park etc. and they then complete the section on leisure facilities in their worksheet</p> <p>The teacher introduces the concepts of foreground, middle ground, and background, referring to the Google Earth image, reminding them that they have already come across these keywords and they will be familiar with them from Art class when they were looking at the Renaissance Artists.</p> <p>As a group discussion, students are asked to identify on the Google Earth Image whether a number of items are in the background, middle ground or foreground.</p>

	<p>An aerial map (2) is handed to each student and students are shown how to divide the map into a 9 section grid. Working in pairs students divide the aerial photograph into a grid.</p> <p>Students will now draw their own map. This will involve measuring the Google Earth Image given by the teacher. (Level 2 students should attempt drawing the frame and assistance may be required for breaking the map into 9 sections.)</p> <p>Students are introduced to the different symbols (using the OS booklet) that can be drawn to identify places of interest and amenities. Students draw their own sketch map using the following guidelines:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Drawing a frame 2. Breaking it into 9 boxes 3. Filling in the following features: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Church, • School, • Main road, • Library, • Beach.
Closure	<p>The teacher revisits the Google Earth Image on the data projector and questions the students in relation to the location of various services and points of interest to check their understand of foreground, middle ground and background.</p>
Follow up Lessons/Activities	<p>Eventually moving on to maps and using the various symbols to highlight the services and functions of the town.</p>
Gathering evidence of learning for the portfolio	<p>Measure straight lines using a ruler – a photograph of the student drawing the grid frame.</p> <p>List ways of spending leisure time – Completed worksheet 1 which identifies places to spend leisure time.</p> <p>Identify familiar places and organisations in the local community – the sketch map with the symbols representing the local places and organisations.</p>

Criteria for Success	Learning outcomes	Activity	Checking whether it was successful	Yes/No
	Use a ruler to draw and measure different lengths of lines.	Drawing the grid frame using the ruler	Are all 8 lines straight?	
	List ways of spending leisure time.	Worksheet on familiar places and leisure facilities	Are there at least 2 ways of spending leisure identified?	
	Identify familiar places and organisations in the local community.	Worksheet on familiar places and leisure facilities	Are they at least 4 familiar places and organisations identified?	
Parents' involvement	During these lessons parents are asked to support the student in drawing a map of their local estate, or a map from their house to the local shop or school.			