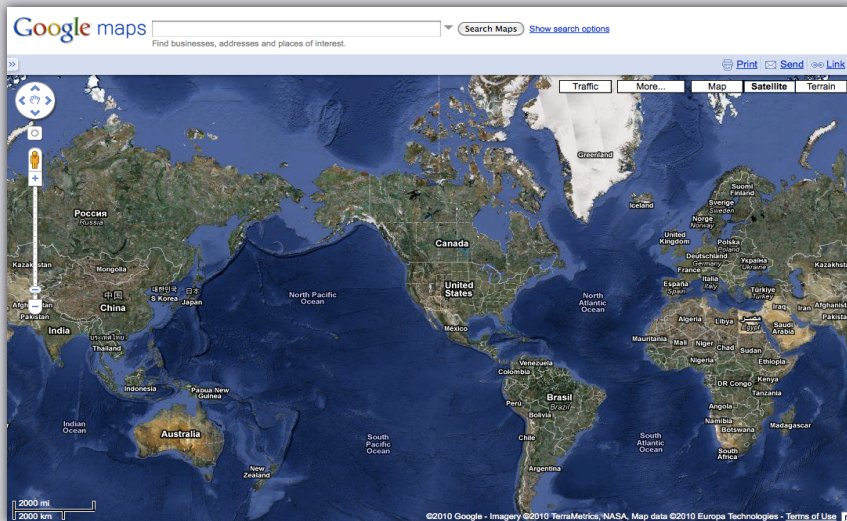


The Digital Diet

A small byte of



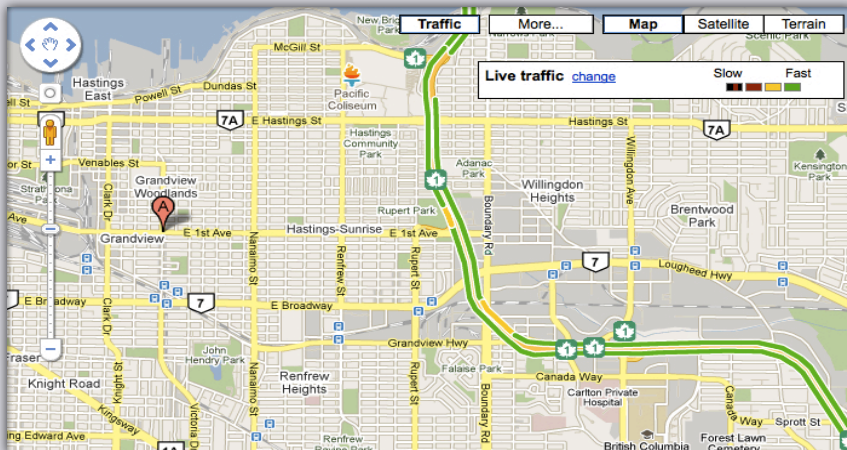


What Is Google Maps?

Google Maps combines street maps and satellite imagery in an exciting and captivating way. This is a free tool available with no registration, though to get the best from it this is recommended.

The tool allows you to toggle between map, satellite, or hybrid views. You can zoom down onto the map by double-clicking on the image, and navigate maps by mouse or using the navigation tool.

There is also a “street view” feature. This street-level viewer allows you to travel virtually down roads looking at cleverly compiled images which give a 270° view of the location. This tool brings maps to life and enables virtual field trips. Visit <http://maps.google.com> to get started.

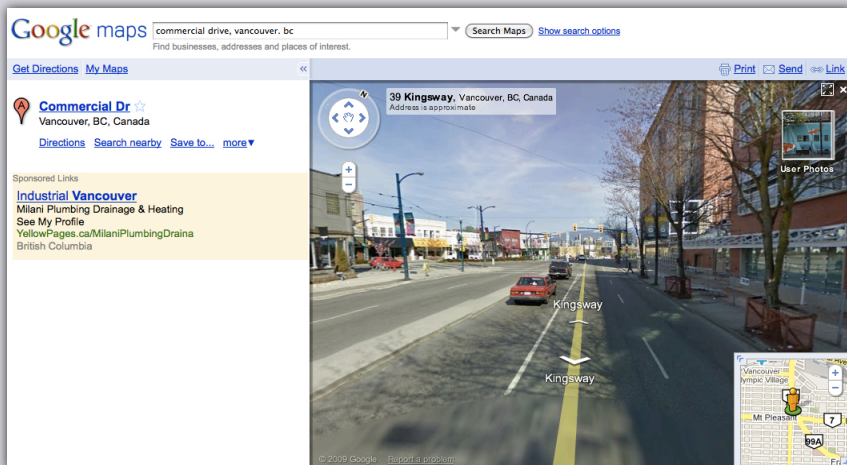


Getting Started

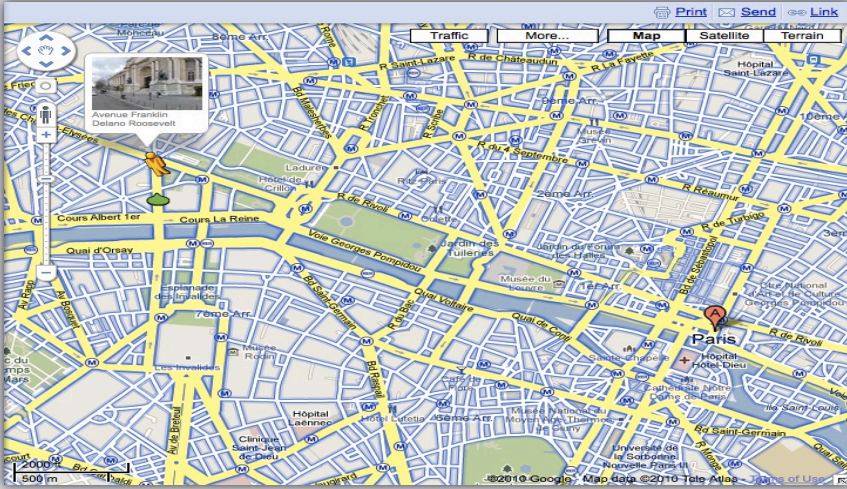
You have the option of creating an account, but this is not necessary. On the Google Maps homepage, You enter a location in the search field at the top of the page, and then move it around or zoom in on it using either your mouse, or the navigation tools provided. If your mouse has a scroll wheel, use it to zoom in or out, and click and hold your mouse button down to move the map around.

You can also toggle views between satellite and map views. Share your maps either by email or embedding a link to them.

Finally, under the navigation bar on the left of the screen, you see a little yellow “man” icon. If you click and drag him over your street map, the streets that will give you a camera view are highlighted in blue. Below the man icon is a bright green highlight shadow. Place this on the street you want to see in “street view,” and you get a picture view of your location. You can interact with this feature just like you navigate your other Google Map locations.



Microsoft Live’s Multimap is an online alternative to Google Maps, and is available at the URL www.multimap.com. This is a free tool. Google Earth is also a powerful consumer-level GIS (Geographical Information System) tool that can be downloaded. Once installed, it connects to Google to provide an engaging learning experience. Again, this tool is also free.



Google Maps in the Classroom

Welcome to the World, Virtual Style

Street View, which is Google Maps' visualization tool, has captured street level images in many different countries, including USA, Australia, France, Italy, Japan, New Zealand, and Spain. This presents great opportunities for virtual field trips for students of Humanities and Languages.

Something that's key to learning a language is developing an understanding of the country's culture. Selecting Google Maps and zooming in on Paris will allow you to find street names and zoom in on them.

Checking Out Street View

You can navigate around the streets in the same way you do your with your maps. The students get to their street by dragging and dropping the "person" icon on the location they want. They'll get a small preview window showing them the view at the location.

Areas mapped with street view appear with a blue highlight. Students use Google Maps and the street views to visit the Eiffel Tower or the Arc de Triumph, to walk the Avenue des Champs-Elysees, or stroll the banks of the River Seine.

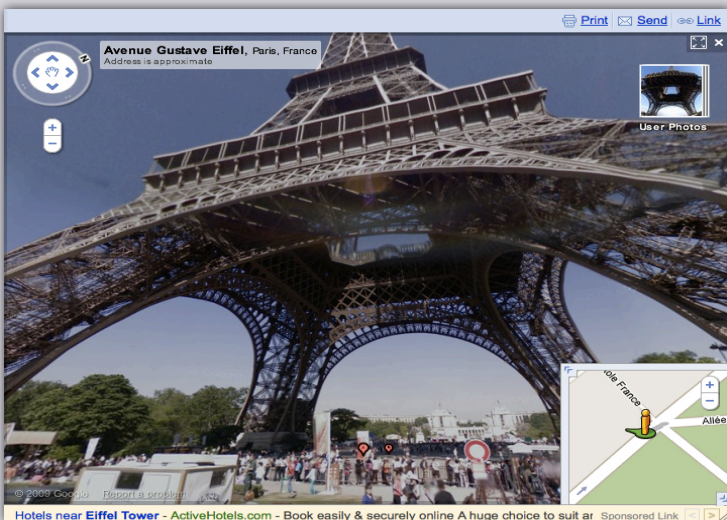
This feature takes the students on a true "virtual tour" of whatever location they want. In many cases, you can zoom in close enough to read street signs. This makes for a real world immersion into the busy streets and histories of faraway countries.



Other Cool Features

If students like, they can also email the maps to share them, or embed a link to the map in whatever project they're working on. The tools for this are located in the top right of the map screen.

Also on some street view screens is a feature called "Photos." Clicking on this gives you icons for pictures of nearby areas of interest. For example, if a student is checking out a street view of Madison St. in Seattle, and wants to know what other interesting things might be nearby, they just click on the Photos bar. On the top left side of the screen, there appears a list of other photo icons in rows. Clicking on one of these gives the student a look at interesting locations near Madison St. such as St. James Cathedral, Town Hall, or the Space Needle.



How Do You Use Google Maps to Develop the Five Fluencies?



Solution Fluency—Google Maps provides a great way to search for the best most efficient routes to locations. The instantaneous access to maps, street views, and directions gives a method for finding effective solutions to challenges concerning time and distance.

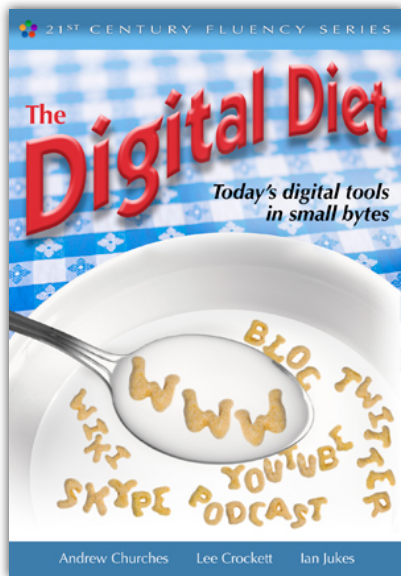
Information Fluency—With the number of locations available for viewing on Google Maps, a user goes right to the heart of the action. Street view allows a person to see locations throughout the world as they actually are, not as they may look represented through an another's viewpoint. Google Maps is also a premium tool for getting useful and relevant maps with different views, and traveling directions.

Collaboration Fluency—Students can collaborate on projects by picking a city or country for a report, and each of them can use Google Maps to find their own unique locations in and around the chosen location. They can write about them, and provide links to images of each separate area, and combine them for an effective project with useful information and impact.

Creativity Fluency—All the images that are available in Google Maps offer great visual reference for projects pertaining to geography. The various map views can be used in capturing all the right images to bring a creative enhancement to a project.

Media Fluency—The power of Google Maps is the features that truly represent global locations. With the street views, this medium provides an accurate real-life representation of a location, and it provides an example of how digital technology blends with the world to create truly immersive interactive experiences for the user.

The Digital Citizen—The detail provided by Google Maps is thought-provoking from the stand point that in the evolution of this kind of tool, future privacy issues are potentially raised. In terms of convenience and digital enhancement vs. moral standards for privacy, the student has to decide where the boundaries are as this technology develops in other fields as well, and becomes more and more powerful and diverse.



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21st Century Fluency Project

This resource is the collaborative effort of a group of experienced educators and entrepreneurs who have united to share their experience and ideas and to create a project geared toward making learning relevant to life in our new digital age. Our purpose is to develop exceptional resources to assist in transforming learning to be relevant to life in the 21st century. At the core of this project are our [Curriculum Integration Kits](#)—engaging, challenge-based learning modules designed to cultivate the essential [21st century fluencies](#) within the context of the required curriculum. For more information please visit our web site www.fluency21.com.