

## DEVELOPING FLUENCY AND ACCURACY USING TECHNOLOGY

# Google Earth Field Trip

Emma Tudor

---

<b>Levels</b>	<i>All</i>
<b>Aims</b>	<i>Practice using adjectives and comparatives</i>
<b>Class Time</b>	<i>15–20 minutes</i>
<b>Preparation Time</b>	<i>5 minutes</i>
<b>Resources</b>	<i>Internet and projector with screen Laptop, tablet, or phone with internet (1 per pair of students)</i>

---

**B**ringing the outside world into the classroom with the use of Google Earth maps adds relevance to the class. Students can explore their home city as well as their classmates' or take a virtual tour around national parks, the International Space Station, volcanoes, oceans, and more. Students describe and compare different locations as they explore the area, practicing their speaking fluency skills and grammatical accuracy of adjectives and comparisons.

### PROCEDURE

1. Choose a location on Google Earth that will engage and interest your students (e.g., the city you are in or a World Heritage Site). Display the image on the board/screen and explore the area on Google Earth. An option is to ask students which direction they want to go in by calling out directions to lead you to where they want to explore. As you explore the area, elicit some adjectives from students to describe the location and note these on the board.
2. Choose a second location on Google Earth that contrasts to the first location and explore the area. Elicit more adjectives from students to describe the new location and note these on the board.
3. Ask students to make comparisons of the two places, using comparatives. Note these sentences on the board or invite students to do so.
4. Put students into pairs or groups of three. Give them a device (laptop/tablet/phone, etc.) linked to the internet to share. Ask each pair or group to choose two or three locations in the world they would like to explore.
5. Tell the students to go to Google Earth and explore their first chosen location, describing the area using adjectives, and then go their second location, describing the area using adjectives as well as comparatives to the first location. While students are speaking, monitor and make notes of any errors they are making; do not address them at this time.

6. Once students have described and compared their locations, address any accuracy errors you heard while monitoring. Write the incorrect utterances on the board and invite students to come to the board to correct them.
7. Repeat the activity by mixing up the pairs/groups and choosing different locations. As students speak, their accuracy using adjectives and comparatives should improve as they address their previous errors.

## **CAVEATS AND OPTIONS**

1. To ensure a wide range of adjectives are used and comparisons are possible, encourage students to choose locations that are very different.
2. If students find it challenging to choose which locations to explore, offer suggestions, such as students' home cities or options from the Google Earth gallery (e.g., a World Heritage Site, an ocean, or the International Space Station).
3. The locations chosen need to be viewable from the Google Earth street view to allow for a realistic and in-depth exploration, as some Google Earth images are only photographed from above. If a student chooses a location without street view, encourage them to pick a different location.
4. An alternative option to Google Earth is to use live webcams or virtual field trips that are offered online.
5. To expand the activity, students could plan a scavenger hunt around the location using directions to navigate through the area.