

Jeremy Bateman
953 Wrenwood St
Memphis, TN 38122
901.497.5964
White Station High School
514 South Perkins
Memphis, TN 38117
Jeremy Bateman [batemanjeremym@gmail.com]

Using Google Earth as a Geographic Visualization Tool.

Standards: How to Analyze the Spatial Organization of People, Places, and Environments on Earth's Surface [3](#) 1: The World in Spatial Terms The Physical and Human Characteristics of Places [4](#) 2: Places and Regions That People Create Regions to Interpret Earth's Complexity [5](#) 2: Places and Regions

Your project is to build a 3-D fly through using Google Earth with voice narrative. You may pick any place, city or country you prefer, but please make sure it is manageable. Once you have picked your city, you will research the city using the 5 themes of Geography (found below.) After your research, you will write a script, please limit the script to no more than 7 minutes. After you have written the script, you will choose places in Google Earth within that city and create flythroughs. Once you have completed the other steps, you will read and record your script onto the fly through. Basically, you are going to make a mini virtual documentary using freeware and research. The project occurs in several steps. If you follow the steps, which I am providing, then your ThinkShow! will be something you can be extremely proud of. Within this document you will find a contract sheet, which you sign and agree to the terms for this project. The contract is part of the MCS ThinkShow! Google Earth is free and can be downloaded with no add-ons, malware or spyware through Google. Just make sure you get it from Google and not another company. Please note, I have microphones and headset that you may use. They must be checked out and returned the next day. No exceptions.

My computers in the class are there for your use. Please feel free to use them.

Below is the timetable for which you will be responsible. You are to check in at least once a week with me as well as sign the feedback sheet.

Week 1: Choose a city or place.

Week 2: Collect data using the 5 themes: Below you will find examples of the type of information needed. You need to find more than just the examples to make a good project. Use your geographic skills and knowledge to do some research. I am leaving it up to you to tell me what you think is important to know about a city.

1. Location
 - a. Relative-Describe what it is near.

- b. Absolute- Latitude and longitude
- 2. Place
 - a. Physical characteristics-In a short paragraph describe the land and landforms.
 - b. Human characteristics- (found at US Census)
 - i. How many people live there?
 - ii. What are the races?
 - iii. What are the religions?
 - iv. What is the average cost of living?
 - v. Etc.
- 3. Human Environment Interaction-
 - a. Is there any hazards that we need to be aware of?
 - b. What is the average temperature?
 - c. How much rain
 - d. Etc.
- 4. Movement
 - a. Are there any main highways or interstates?
 - b. Are there any exports or imports that come from here?
 - c.
- 5. Region
 - a. Formal-What are the boundaries?
 - b. Functional-
 - c. Perceived (vernacular)-Does the place have a nick name?

After you have collected this information, you are to write a script, which you will read.

Week 3: Create your 3-D visual fly through with Google Earth.

1. Open Google Earth. If you do not have Google Earth
2. Go to Google Earth and click Add in the top toolbar.
3. Select Add New Folder. In the folder name put your city/place name and your name. Example: Memphis Bateman. The computer should save it to the left hand side under "Places."
4. There are two choices to building a "fly through"-1st if you want to "jump" from place to place. 2nd if you want to "fly from place to place. To decide which you prefer, play with both of them. You need to zoom in to the level you would like to show. Google Earth will not zoom in or out on its own, you have to tell it how close to be.
 - a. How to "jump" to places.
 - i. Go to the icons on the top of the Google Earth screen and click the "push pin" icon.
 - ii. A new screen and a push pin will pop up. Place the push pin wherever you would like to "jump" to first. (Place the push pin moving the cursor over the yellow box until it turns into a pointing finger.) Once you have placed the

cursor where you want it, give the push pin place a title in the box that popped up with the push pin. Remember to place a description in the box. As you jump to a place-the icon will pop up during your flight and you can put anything you want in there. You can edit how the Google Earth image looks like by changing the style, color, view and altitude from the pop up window. This may take some practice. This is how you change the different views for the fly through. Once you are satisfied with everything, click "ok." This should close the "push pin" pop up box.

- iii. Once you close the "push pin" box, you need to make certain that the file was saved under your folder that you created first. Look on the left hand side of the screen and you will see "Places" and then a list of words and boxes. *Make sure that you "push pin" is indented underneath your folder.* If it is, then you are fine. If it is not, then all you have to do is click and drag and drop the "push pin" file on top of your original folder.
- b. Fly-through. If you want to create a seamless less jumpy fly through use this option. (Make sure your folder is clicked on the left before your begin.)
 - i. Click the "Add Path" icon on the top of the Google Earth screen. This will pop a window. Give this a title-do not hit ok, it will close the window and the path.
 - ii. Decide where you would like to start and click there (a cross hair will show you where you are). Once you click there will be a green dot. This is the first stop. Then click on your next place you would like to go. There will be a line connecting the two dots. This is the flight path that Google Earth will follow. You can place as many points as you would like. To edit the altitude and speed at which GE travels-go to Preferences>Touring>Creating a tour from a line>increase speed with slide bar.
 - iii. After you are happy with your speed, altitude and view of the line tour-click ok. Make sure it saves under your folder.
5. Add your voice. Week 3 continued. After you are happy with the flythrough, watch it a few times and determine what you want to say based on where the visual is. Edit your script-to go with the flythrough.
 - a. Make sure your folder is highlighted on the left side.
 - b. Go to the video camera icon on the top-click it.
 - c. A microphone and a red stop button will appear at the bottom of the screen, click the microphone-confirm that it is recording by watching the seconds tick by-once 1-2 seconds start passing. Begin reading your script.
 - d. When you finish-click the stop button. GE will automatically start showing your presentation. Unfortunately-you cannot edit

different parts of the flythrough-it has to be done in one take.
Make sure you get it right the first time.

6. If you are satisfied and feel that you have a good project you save it.
 - a. To save the file. Go to File>Save My Place> Put your name as the file name(last name_FirstnameFall2010). ***Make sure you save this as a .kmz file. You must save as a .KMZ**** Make sure you know where you save it to.
 - b. Once it is saved, get the .kmz file to me either by a flash drive or email!
 - c. That's it-you're done and congratulations.

Other information:

Make sure you state your references at the end. For example, say something like-information comes from Wikipedia.

Google Earth can be found at <http://www.google.com/earth/index.html>

Other internet resources include:

Wikipedia

US Census Bureau

Any Convention and Business Bureau or city website

CIA World Factbook

World Geography Books

Encyclopedia Online

World Atlas.com

Any place you would like as long as the source is reasonable.

If you have any questions please let me know.