

# Project Lesson Plan

**Project Title:** Let's Take a Trip

**Core Subject:** Geography

**Grade/Level:** 4th or 5th Grade

**Software/App/Other Technology:** Google Earth, Google Presentations

**Description of Project:** Students will be creating a trip from their hometown to a city in the United States of America that is at least 1,000 miles away. They will need to plan the route that will be traveled and choose at least 4 points of interest to visit along the way. They must include 2 or more sites to visit at their final destination. Of their points of interest, students must include the following: 1 historical site, 1 national or state park, and 1 land formation.

## **WHAT IS IT I WANT MY STUDENTS TO KNOW, UNDERSTAND, BE ABLE TO**

**DO?** I want students to explore the interesting places in the United States. They will gain a better understanding of distance and places to see in the United States. Students will also improve their presentation skills when they share their new knowledge.

**List your lesson objectives. Strive for SMART Objectives! (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, and Time-Bound)**

1. Students will calculate the distance between any 2 cities.
2. Students will identify places of historical significance.
3. Students will mark points of interest in Google Earth.
4. Students will create a presentation of their planned trip.
5. Students will use geographic terminology to discuss their trip.

## **HOW WILL I KNOW IF THEY KNOW, UNDERSTAND, AND/OR CAN DO IT?**

**Artifact/Product:** Students will create a tour of their planned trip using Google Earth. They will use a placemark at the beginning, the end, and at least 4 sites along the way. Students will also create a presentation to accompany their tour so that others can understand why they should visit these locations.

**Student tasks necessary to successfully complete the project:**

1. Students will choose their final destination and map the route that will be traveled.
2. Students must choose their points of interest to include in their project.

3. Students will create a Google Earth Tour that showcases their road trip.
4. Students will create a presentation to highlight their trip including pictures and explanations.
5. Students will share their final projects with the class.

### Assessment Tool

This project would be graded in three parts. The first part would be the Google Earth Tour. I would grade this part by using a checklist such as:

#### Google Earth Tour Checklist

Item Description	YES	NO
1. Starting Address Pin		
2. Ending Point Pin		
3. 2 Points of Interest in destination city pinned		
4. 4 Points of Interest along the route pinned		
5. At least 1 Landformation		
6. At least 1 Historical Site		
7. At least 1 Park		
8. Descriptions at each pin		

I would grade the presentation with a rubric. I would be sure to include a scale to evaluate the writing, the quality of the images, and the presentation organization. The final portion would be evaluating their sharing. Again, I would use a rubric highlighting the actual sharing. This would include things such as the clarity of speaking, the volume of speaking, and the overall quality of their presentation. Do they understand what they are sharing with the class? Can they interest us in taking their road trip and visiting their chosen locations?

### The Hook

As a class we will discuss different places in the United States that we could visit. We will talk about why you might want to go to certain areas. We will talk about different types of activities that can be experienced when you travel by car. Showing pictures of places such as the Lost Sea, Ruby Falls, Niagra Falls, and the Grand Canyon will get

students excited. It is also important to show places such as the Lincoln Memorial, Mount Rushmore, and Gettysburg.

### **What will your students do? .**

1. Students must identify their starting point in Google Earth (their home address).
2. Students need to choose their final destination of travel and it must be at least 1,000 miles away.
3. Students need to calculate the total miles they will be traveling.
4. Students must plan the route that will be traveled to take their trip. (Using Google Maps or Mapquest)
5. Students need to choose at least 2 places to visit in their final destination and explain why they are important.
6. Students must choose at least 4 other points of interest along the way including at least 1 landform, 1 historical site, and 1 national or state park.
7. Students will mark each of these locations in Google Earth to create a tour.
8. Students will describe their points of interest in the description box to share why they chose these particular places.
9. Students will create a presentation to highlight their roadtrip including pictures of their personal places.
10. Students will share their presentations and tour with the class.

### **TANGIBLES**

Students need to know their address and how to locate it using Google Earth. Students will learn how to place a marker at their points of interest in Google Earth. They should already know how to create a presentation using Google Presentations. They must be able to copy and paste pictures, as well as, change the font color and size.

### **Resources (media, worksheets, data...).**

- Pictures of interesting places to visit in the United States
- Atlases
- Lists of historical places
- Lists of landformations
- Lists of National Parks
- Lists of State Parks

### **Technology (hardware/software) needs.**

- Computer
- Internet

- Google Earth
- Google Maps or Mapquest
- Google Drive to create Presentation
- G-Mail