

Geography in the Elementary Classroom ***Using Google Earth and Google Maps***

Student Name: Sarah Gerding

Lesson Grade Level: 2nd Grade

Name of Lesson: Communities – Then vs. Now

Geography/Social Studies GLCE (s):

- 2 – G4.0.1: Describe land use in the community (e.g., where people live, where services are provided, where products are made).
- 2 – H2.0.4: Describe changes in the local community over time (e.g., types of businesses, architecture and landscape, jobs, transportation, population).

Brief Description of the Lesson: Using the Google Earth Desktop program, I would have the students explore the city of Troy to find different areas of land and what those areas are used for (i.e., schools, businesses, subdivisions, etc.). We would do this as a whole class since I think second graders would have trouble using the program on their own. I would divide the class into groups – one group for schools, one for types of homes, one for certain types of businesses, etc. Each student from that group would have to think of an example of a place in Troy and we would find it using Google Earth and discuss how the land around it is used.

In addition to Geography, we would also pick some of the places we find to relate it to the history unit “How Do Communities Change Over Time” by using the history feature on Google Earth Desktop. Certain places have historical photos from years past so you can see how the land has changed over time. We would utilize this feature for each location that is chosen and discuss if the land has changed over time and, if so, how and what the reason might have been (i.e., new business developed, forests cleared for building a neighborhood, etc.). I have provided a sample on the next two pages of Smith Middle School in Troy. The first picture is from 1999 and the second picture is from 2010. You can see that a new track was built during the years in between and we could discuss why it might have been built and also what parts of the land haven’t changed over time.

Smith Middle School - 1999 (Troy)



Smith Middle School 2010 (Troy)

