

Where on Google Earth is Carmen Sandiego?

Detectives & Travel Agents Google Earth Activity

The infamous Carmen Sandiego is at it again! If you've wondered where in the world "Carmen Sandiego" has been for awhile, you can now explore the world in search of the elusive fictional criminal with Google Earth. Expand your student's world geography skills, ignite critical thinking, and decision-making talents by turning them into geo detectives and tourists inspired by the Carmen Sandiego quizzes.

In this series of four activities, students will **explore** global cities and cultures, **explain** their conceptual understanding of shared and unique cultural experiences, **elaborate** on their discoveries by creating a travel itinerary, and finally **evaluate** each other's work and travel recommendations.



Appropriate Age Levels: 10 - 14 yrs.

Estimated Time: Varies depending on existing classroom curriculum. 1 month, 1-2hrs a week.

We recommend that you start with an 'Earth Orientation Session' but then all of the activities can more or less be executed independently.

Subject Matter: Social Studies, Culture, Geography

Materials Required: Computer with a Chrome Browser with access to Google Earth.

**Recommended:* Play one of the Carmen Sandiego Quizzes in Google Earth in advance to help guide questions and clues.

Pt. 1 Get to Know Google Earth

Instructions:

1. Go to www.google.com/earth
2. Have your students use the 'I'm Feeling Lucky' Button to start exploring the world and navigating the Earth experience.
3. Practice entering and exiting Street View with pegman.

4. Use the Search tool (Magnifying Glass) to look for places local to your school : ask your students what they notice about the imagery and how it might be different from the imagery they observed before.

5. Set aside 15m for your students to play one of the 3 Carmen Sandiego quizzes in Google Earth. We recommend that you start with [The Crown Jewels Caper](#), but the [Tutankhamun Caper](#) and [Keys to the Kremlin Caper](#) are also a lot of fun!

6. Ask your students to share what they observed about Google Earth, it's features, and the Carmen Quiz!

Pt. 2 Learn about Cities and Cultures around the World

Instructions:

1. Over 2-3 weeks, assign the students to research the following list of cities in Google Earth. When they research the cities, they should put their "Detective Hats" on, as if they were going to catch a global super thief or villain and needed to be able to collect clues.

The goal should be for each student to learn 5-10 facts about that city and country. Encourage them to research music, culture, food, and the interests of people their age.

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil	Paris, France	Agra, India
Rome, Italy	Auckland, New Zealand	Cancun, Mexico
St. Louis, USA	Sydney, Australia	Reykjavik, Iceland
Toronto, Canada	Nairobi, Kenya	St. Petersburg, Russia
Athens, Greece	Cape Town, South Africa	Tokyo, Japan
Giza, Egypt	Asleund, Norway	Nadi, Fiji
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	Berlin, Germany	Vientiane, Laos
Huairou, China	Chiang Mai, Thailand	Huayna, Peru
Barcelona, Spain	Zermatt, Switzerland	London, UK
Dubai, UAE	Castries, St Lucia	Bali, Indonesia

Prompt students with questions such as:

- Is the city large and metropolitan or small? What is the population?
 - Is the city located by a body of water?
 - Are there significant monuments or tourist attractions close by?
 - Can you observe religious traditions in the imagery?
 - What time of the year would you travel there if you wanted it to be hot? Or cold?
 - What language do the citizens speak?
 - What is the currency?
 - Are there very popular cultural traditions attached to the city?
 - What are the colors of the country's flag?
 - What are National Treasures that are key to the city?
 - What are neighboring countries and transit routes if you had to make a quick get-away?
2. At the end of the week, divide the students into groups to share their observations with each other. Each team will then select a student to share some of the fun facts that they learned.

Pt. 3 **Guess What Country**

Your students have now been exploring cities, countries, and culture for the past few weeks as well as building their travel itineraries. It's time to test their knowledge with a visit to a travel agency.

Instructions:

1. Give out cards of researched cities/countries to pupils as they enter (they should not trade)
2. One pupil is the tourist and one is travel agent - the tourist is going to write down the place that they want to travel to, hidden to the agent and the class, and hand it over to the teacher.
3. Tourist sits with their back to the class, travel agent is facing the classroom.
 - a. All other pupils start off standing, holding their cards
4. Tourist asks travel agent for certain aspects of a holiday and those that can't provide it sit down. E.g. 'somewhere hot / somewhere cold / not an island / somewhere I can ski / somewhere with a volcano etc, a type of food to eat.
5. The travel agent 'wins' if they can choose the location prior to the last 3 cities/countries standing, the tourist 'wins' if they get down to the bottom 3 and the agent can't suggest a city/country to visit.

Pt. 4 **Trip Planner**

Where in the *world* do your students want to go?

Instructions:

1. **Writing Assignment:**

Prompt the students to plan out and write a 5 Day Travel Itinerary. They need to look into hotels, points of interest, museums, flight times, and food. They should be well prepared based off their weeks of research!

2. Split the students up into small groups to present their travel itineraries - each group will select their favorite itinerary to present to the entire class. (As a math supplement, you can have your students work on travel budgets and spend forecasting)
3. Everyone votes on their favorite!

This classroom resource was authored by Mr. Everen Eryeruk, an educator based in Bratislava.