

User Guide to Google Earth

Google Earth is a free utility which allows you to browse across the Earth's surface looking at aerial photos.

You have to be connected to the internet to use Google Earth - it really needs a broadband connection and a reasonably modern computer.

You can download Google Earth at <http://earth.google.com/download-earth.html>

You may have an older version of Google Earth on your machine. It should work fine, but you might want to update it because the new version is better (as of April 2007 version 4 is the most up to date).

Install the software in the usual way - double click and agree to the various licences.

Open Google Earth (this might take a little time - just be patient)
You'll get an image of the earth which will zoom in to centre over North America.



Help, I Need Somebody (to show me what to do)

Google Earth can be a bit tricky to get the hang of using to start with. That's where this guide comes in.

There is also a Screen Movie on the school network. That will take you through step by step and show you the instructions. You can save it to a USB device at school or download it via the internet if you visit the school folders (the url is on my website). You'll find it in the Geography section.

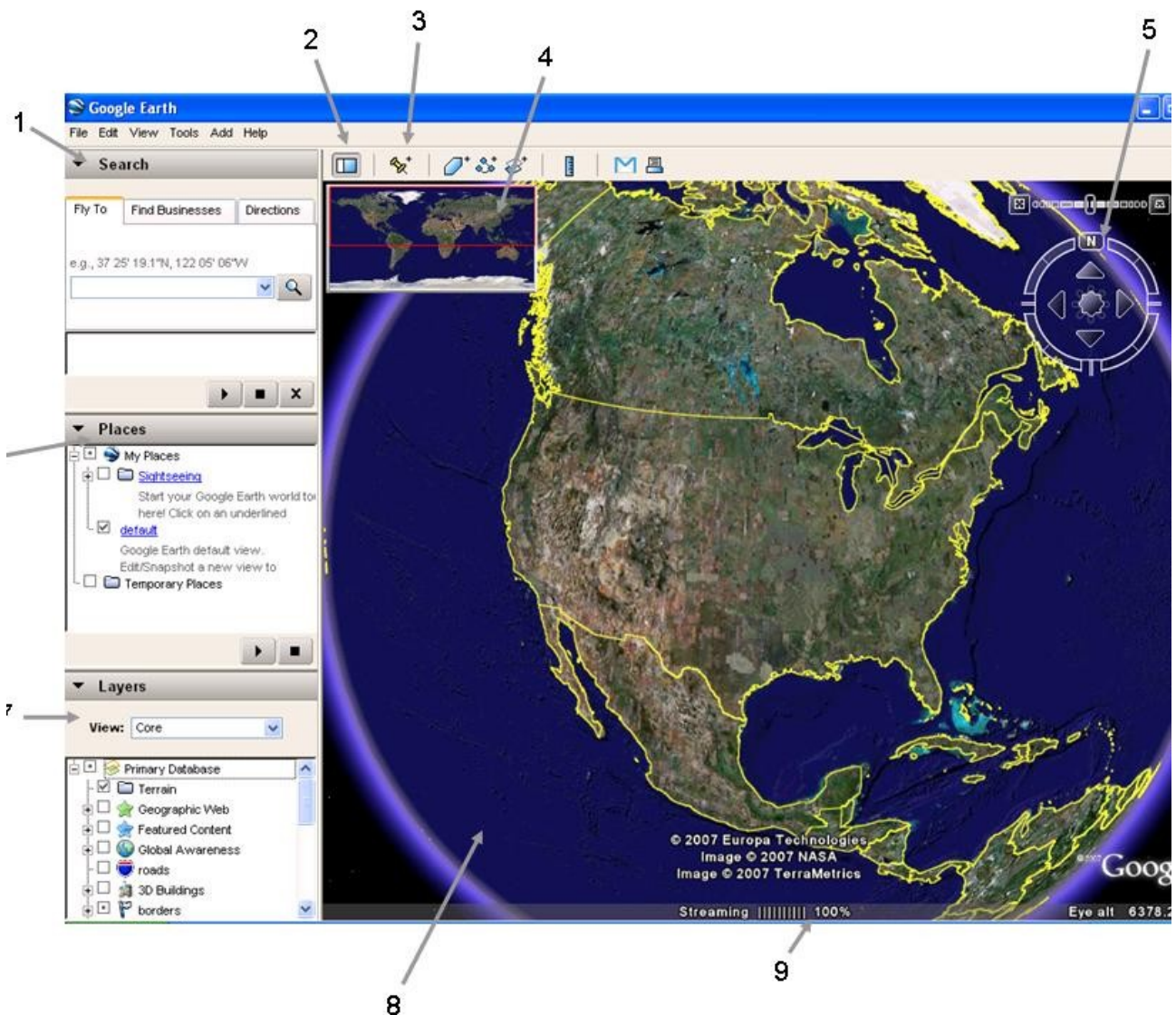
There is also a Google Earth help section you can find at <http://earth.google.com/userguide/v4/index.html>. It's quite technical in places but if you get into Google Earth you might need it.

Placemark Files – they mark your place you know...

You'll find various Placemark files on my website at freespace.virgin.net/i.ford (no www).

These are designed to be used for revision as an alternative to reading through books. You simply save them to your computer and open them from Google Earth.

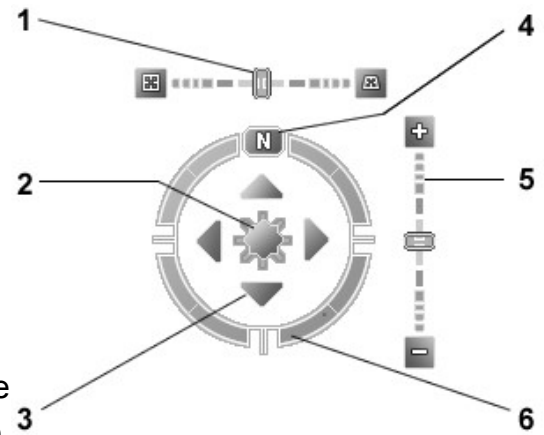
Navigating in Google Earth:



1. **Search Panel** – for finding places. If you click on the word Search it minimises which can be useful
2. **Hide/Show Sidebar** – gets rid of the left sidebar
3. **Placemark** – Adds a Placemark to the screen so that you can find somewhere quickly again
4. **Overview Map** – turn it off by using <View> <Overview Map>
5. **Navigation Controls** – see below
6. **Layers Panel** – use to add or remove information from the screen (see the Screen Movie). If you click on the word Layers the panel minimises
7. **Places Panel** – where Placemarks are stored. This is where the revision material will be found.
8. **Main Viewer Pane** – where you see everything happening
9. **Status Bar** – the 100% bit tells you the image has totally loaded. Until it gets to 100% it can be fuzzy. Sometimes everything hangs up and it never gets to 100 – exit Google Earth and start again!

The Navigation Controls:

1. **Tilt Slider** – to move from overhead view to a ground level view. Pull it to the left to go to overhead and to the right to move towards the ground. A ground level or oblique view is only really useful in mountainous areas.
2. **Joystick** – use it like a joystick to move around. You can also use the arrow buttons on your keyboard or hold the left mouse button down and use the mouse (to use mouse controls make sure you've clicked inside the Main Viewer Pane first)
3. **North Arrow** – click this and the view rotates so that north is up. Useful so as you know which way is up...
4. **Direction Arrows** – you can use these to move as well.
5. **Zoom Slider** – drag it up to zoom in and down to zoom out. You can use the mouse wheel to do the same thing.
6. **Navigation Ring** – click and rotate it to change the direction of view.



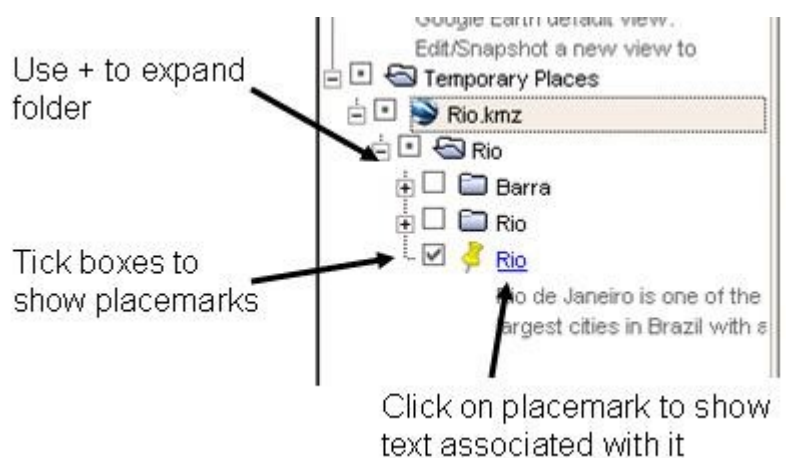
Placemarks Again:

Placemarks record the location of somewhere so you can go back to them easily. They appear in the Places Panel.

To open a Placemark file:

1. **<File>** and choose **<Open>**
2. Find the file and select it
3. Click **<Open>**
4. The Placemark file loads and you fly to the approximate area

- You can tick or untick boxes to get Placemarks visible or off the screen. This can be useful to make things less crowded at times.
- The + symbol will expand a folder to get at files or subfolders



If you click on the Placemark a bubble appears telling you about the place – assuming there is any text entered about it. This is the key revision element of the Placemark files – not just seeing things but reading short bits of text about them as well.