

# Lesson Plan

Jim Wilken

Title: Maps and Aerial Photographs

Overview: To compare maps with aerial photos of the same place and to teach about the use of both.

Objectives and Standards: Students will understand that maps are made with the help of aerial photographs and that national borders are mostly not painted on the Earth. Students will see that physical map features like rivers and deserts can be seen on the photos and may extend across national borders. Students will discuss why natural features are often national borders and how this affects the development of nations.

Grade Level: Third

Subject: Computers and Geography

Time: Four 45 minute lessons

Prerequisites: Basic computer skills with mouse and keyboard. Basic map reading skills.

Required Materials: Thirty computers. Map and aerial photo of Middle East.

[www.terraserver.com](http://www.terraserver.com)

Suggested Procedure: DAY 1

\*Pre-Assessment\*

Have students make a Venn diagram. One circle will be aerial photographs and one circle will be political maps. The overlap will be things found on both.

Categorization/Key Word Strategy  
List geographic terms on the board that we will discuss later; such as - borders - mountain range - river - shore - city - desert - plateau and more.

Have students break into small groups and list the terms by man-made or not and a brief definition.

Everyone's writing must be on the paper (at least one word)

Hold up the Middle East map that we got in class; with the aerial photograph on one side.

Flip it over.

Discuss similarities between aerial photos and map.

Discuss the fact that national

boundaries are rarely painted on the ground.

Ask students to look for physical features that extend across borders; and, others that are national borders. Why?

## DAY 2

Pass out maps of our town. Explore and discuss natural and man-made objects. Teach students how to use [www.terraser.com](http://www.terraser.com). Then, practice using this website by looking up locations for which we have classroom maps. Look up our own town. Discuss and list on the board the similarities and differences in two different columns.

## DAY 3

Give students a political map.

Have students look up their map area on terraserver.com. Have students make two lists: differences and what is the same. Discuss and make a similar list on the overhead.

Day 4      \*Post- Assessment\*

Have students make a Venn diagram. One circle will be aerial photographs and one circle will be Political maps. The overlap area will be things found on both; like roads and lakes.

Differentiation: Older students (4th and 5th) might be asked to draw more detailed maps; with legends.

Credits: Jim Wilken - I will be teaching Computer Science this fall. I have also taught 3rd Grade for many years in Farmington, Minnesota.