Google Treks™

Engage, Excite, and Empower K-12 Students

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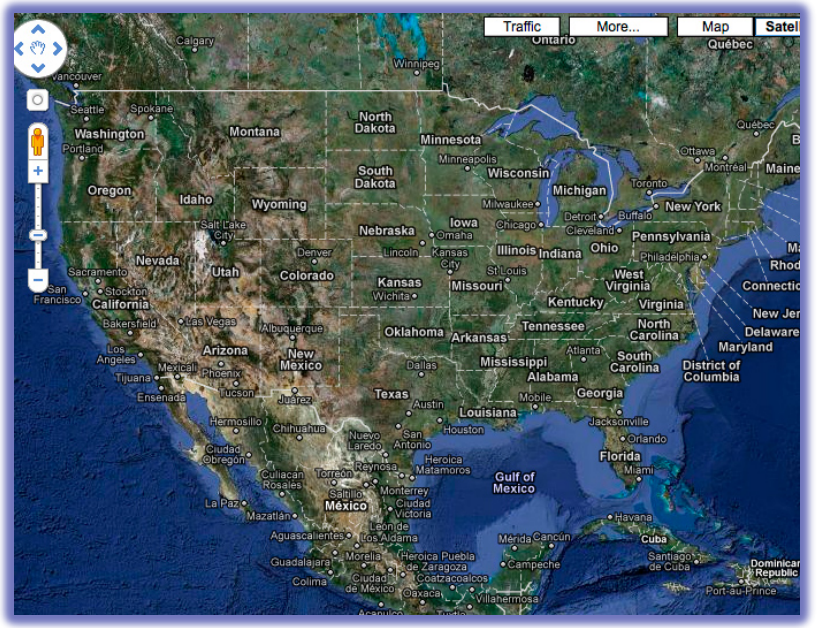
Overview

- What is GoogleTreks™?
- Distinctions Between Google Earth and Google Maps as Educational Tools
- Curricular Examples
  - K-12
  - LA, SS, Math, Science, The Arts, Quick Treks
- How to Create a GoogleTrek™



What is GoogleTreks™?

- An exciting new approach to teaching and learning
- Tool for creating curricular units
- Totally Web-based
- Enabled by Web 2.0 tools
- Easy to share

Google Treks™

What is GoogleTreks™?

- A way to synthesize information in one easy-to-use map that may include:
  - text
  - photographs
  - charts or diagrams
  - audio files
  - video files
  - Interactive web sites
  - more

Google Treks™

What is GoogleTreks™?

- Created and coined by Dr. Alice Christie
- A repository of GoogleTreks™ created by teachers and students
- Organized by grade level and content area
- GoogleTreks™ Movie

Google Treks™

Google LitTips vs GoogleTreks™

Google LitTrips: Jerome Burg

- Use Google Earth
- Literature ONLY
- Limited Number of Authors
- Steep learning curve

GoogleTreks™: Alice Christie

- Use Google Maps
- All Curricular Areas
- Unlimited Number of Authors
- Easy learning curve

Google Treks™

Distinguish Between GE & GM

	Google Earth	Google Maps
Software	Free. Download and install for to Mac, Windows, Linux	None. Can use with any current browser
Hardware Requirements	Medium to high. Needs at least 512mb of RAM (1mb is better) and newer processor	Low to Medium. Will run on most computers built in the past five years
Connection Speed	DSL/Cable or better is essential. May not work well with slower wireless points	DSL/Cable modem or better is generally adequate

Distinguish Between GE & GM

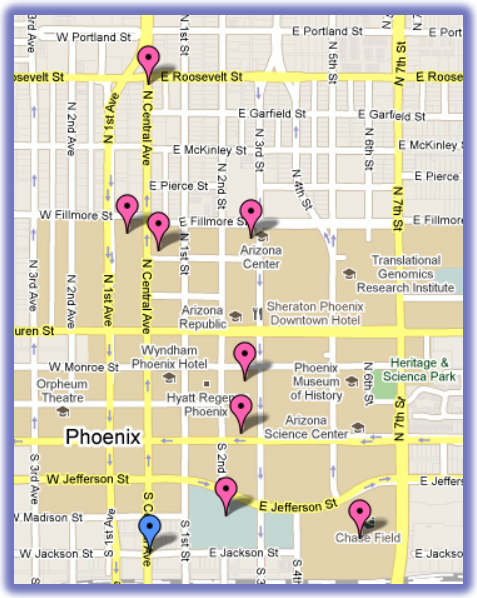
	Google Earth	Google Maps
Creating Applications	No account needed Collaboration on projects not yet supported	Requires free Google account Can collaborate with others with Google accounts
Distributing Applications to Others	Send small file by email or link to file for download	Send URL or embed in web page

Why I Choose Google Maps

	Google Earth	Google Maps
Ease of Use	Easy to navigate Fairly difficult to create Moderately difficult to share	Easy to navigate Easy to create Easy to share
Bandwidth Issues	Very high bandwidth demand	Low bandwidth demand
Programming Skills	Some required	None required

Google Maps Overview

- Free, web-based Web 2.0 tool
- Satellite imagery with geographical content:
  - maps and terrain
  - layers for pictures, Wikipedia, and more
  - easy to use
  - easy to create interactive maps
  - easy to share user-created maps



Why create/use GoogleTreks™?

- To engage and excite learners
- To help learners conceptualize, visualize, share, and communicate information about the world
- To provide cross-curricular learning options
- To add a new dimension to learning environments not previously possible
- To leverage ubiquitous tools for learning
- To create active, exploratory, and empowering learning environments

Rationale

- *When students use geographic maps as adjuncts to text, they recall more text information than they would if they studied the text alone.*

Vekiri 2002

Importance for Educators

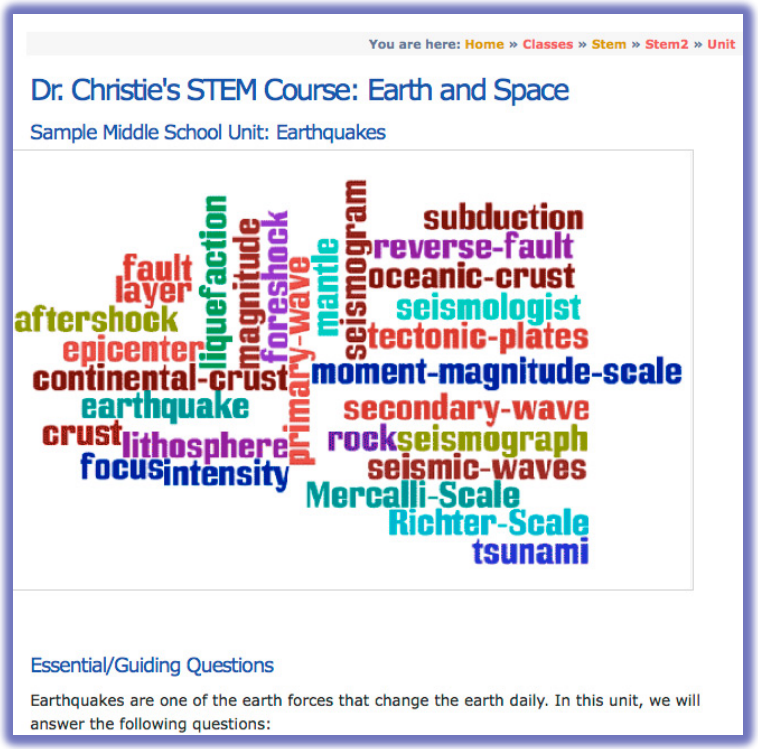
- Emerging digital tool with potential to enhance learning
- Uses real-world data
- Continually updated
- Kids gain perspective about the world in which they live
- Kids explore:
  - mapping conventions & cardinal directions
  - Settings of novels, poems, biographies
  - historical events
  - scientific discoveries

Opportunities for Students

- to exhibit their learning to others
- to use emerging technologies and digital tools
- to communicate their research in a personally meaningful way (using Web 2.0 tools)
- to view their world from a more connected, global perspective
- to enhance map reading and navigation skills
- to engage more complex dimensions of human perception

GoogleTrek™: Feel the Earth Move

Original Earthquake Unit



Earthquake GoogleTrek™

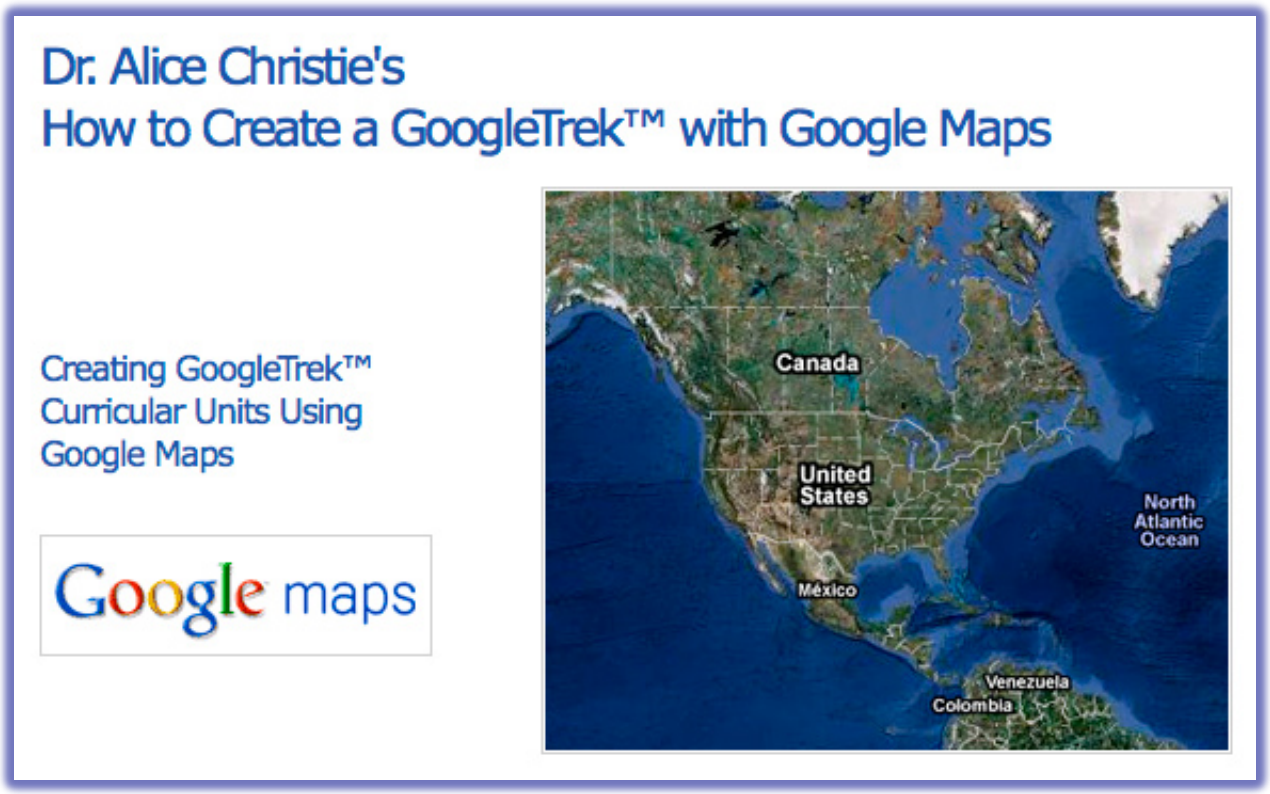
http://googletreks.org

Curricular Examples

- Teacher created GoogleTreks™
  - Content
  - Level
  - Determined by participants
- Student created GoogleTreks™
  - The Olympics (one student)
  - A Region in Turmoil (many students)
- On the QT (QuickTrek)
  - Central Corridor of Phoenix, AZ

Creating GoogleTreks™

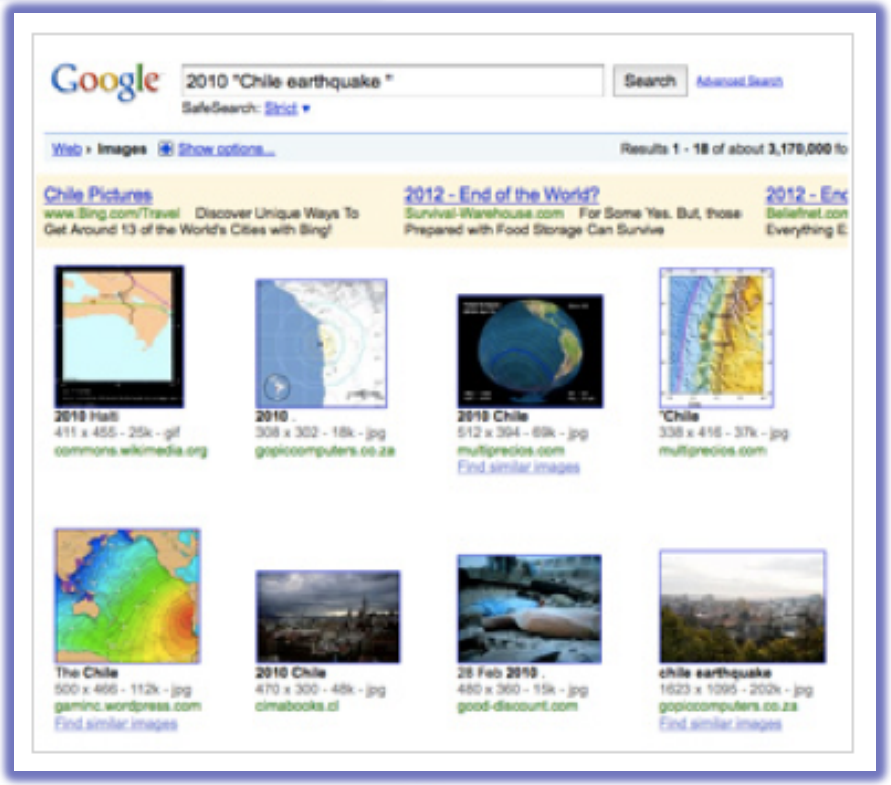
- GoogleTreks™ Tutorial



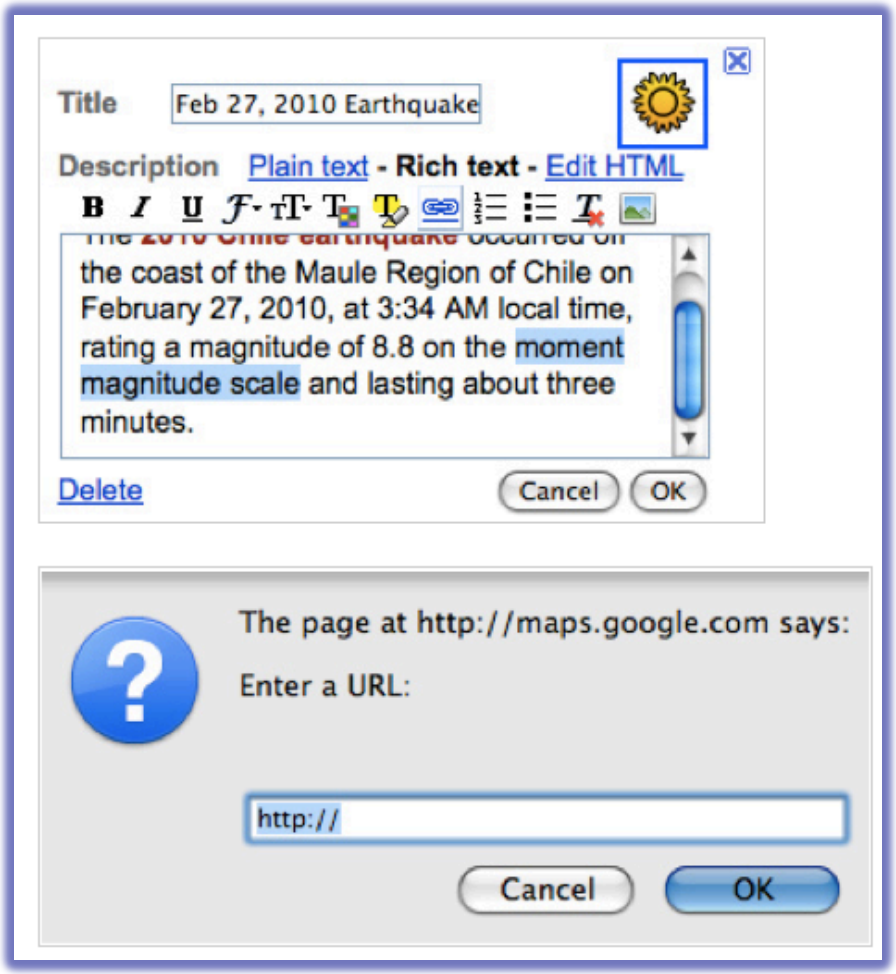
Adding the Place Marker

Adding Pictures from the Web

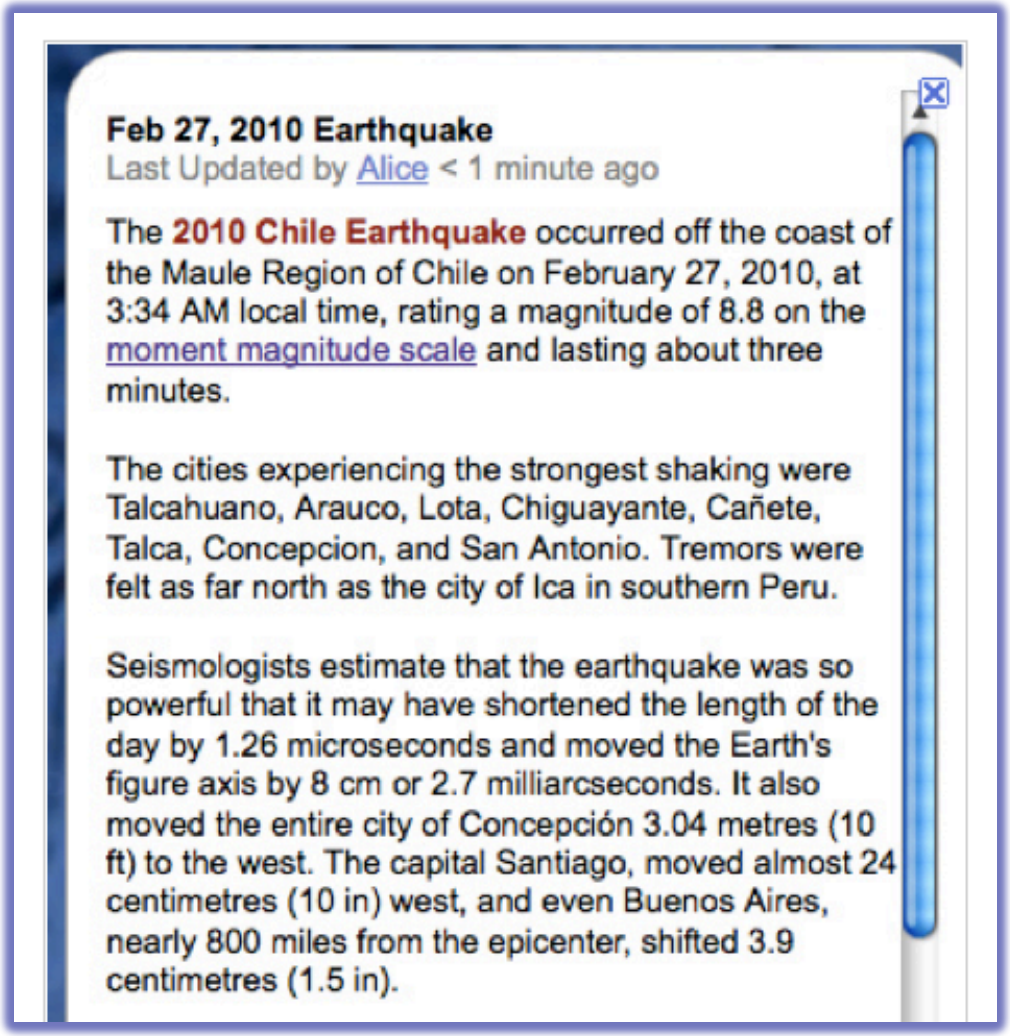
Google **Advanced Image Search**



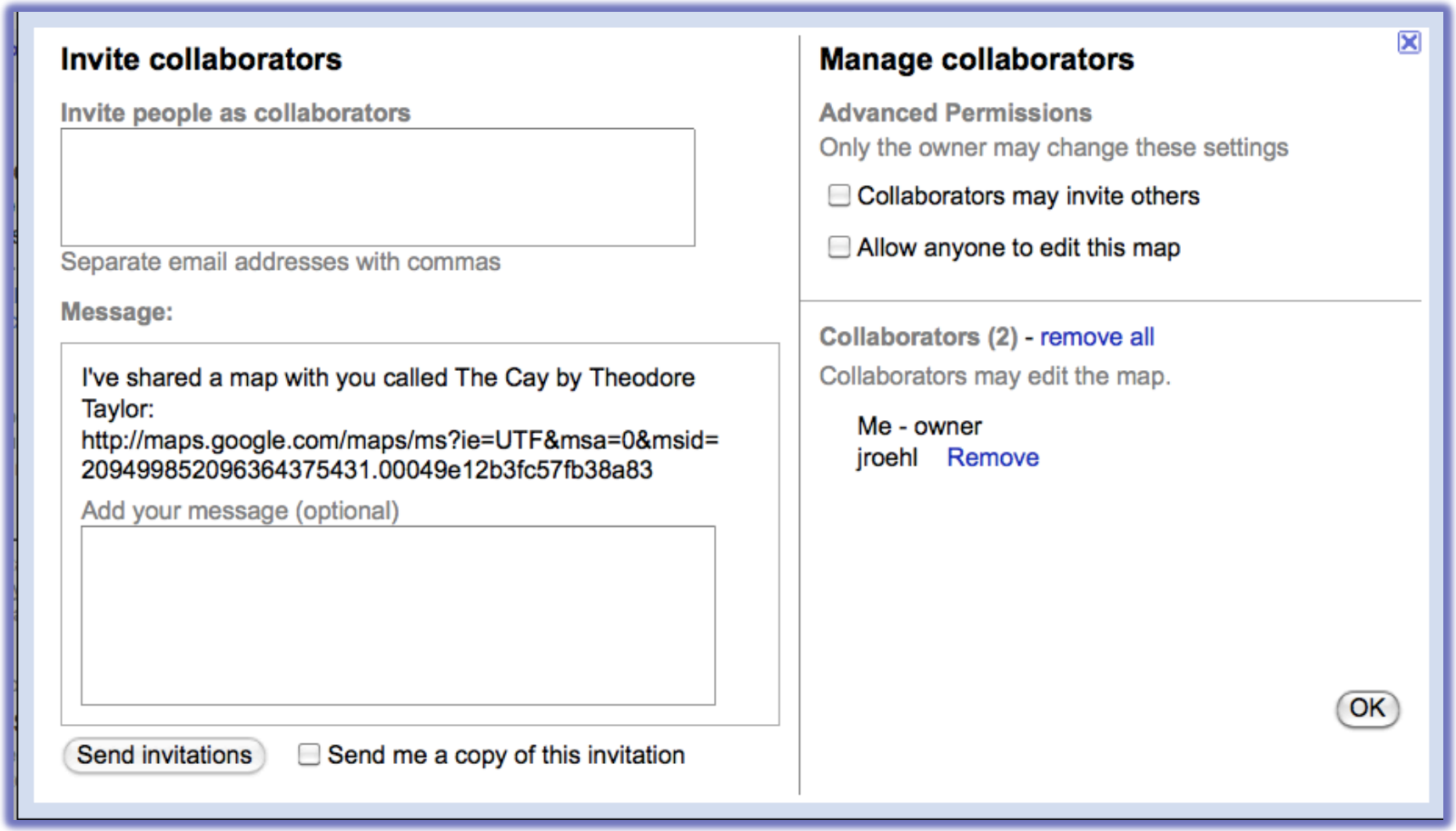
Adding a Link to a Website



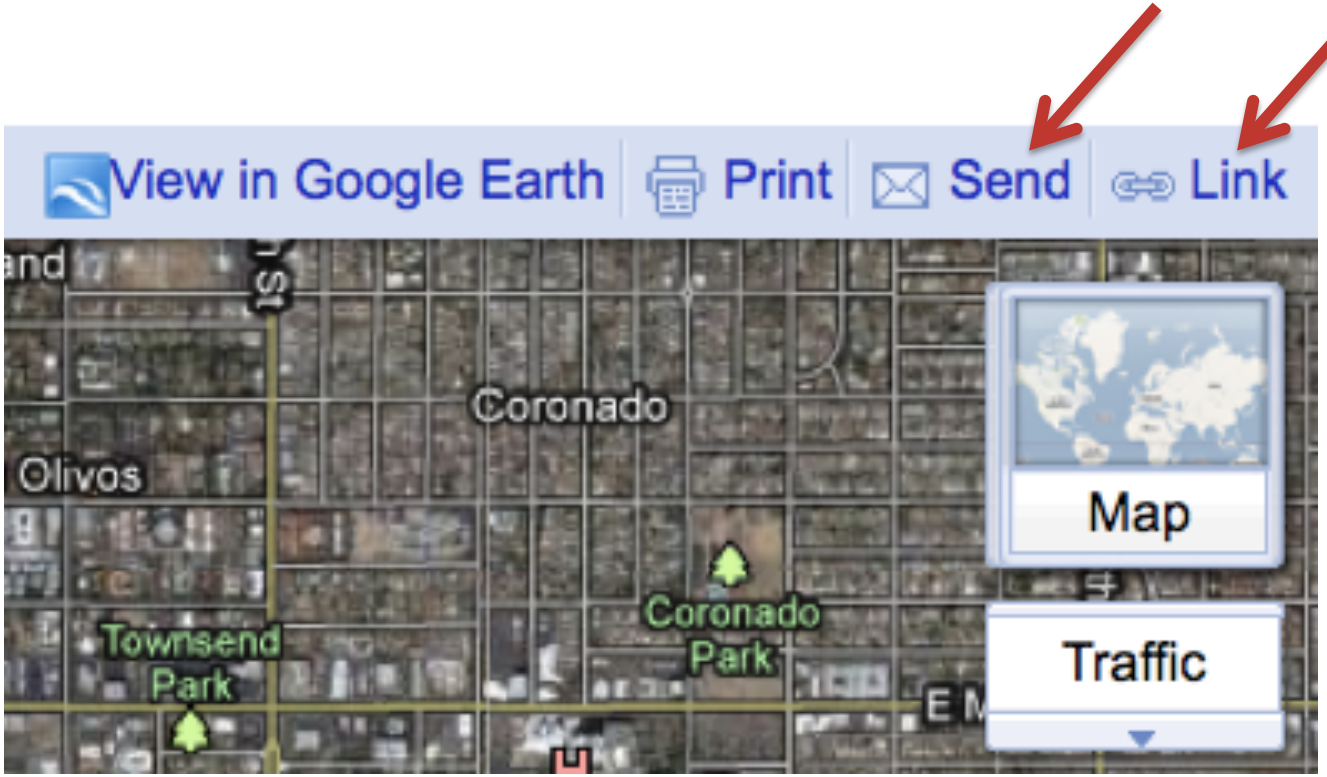
Adding Additional Text



Collaborative Mapping



Sharing Your GoogleTrek



GoogleTreks™ Resources

- Dr. Alice Christie: GoogleTreks™
- Original GoogleTreks™ Contributors
- GoogleTreks™ Rubric
- Posting Your GoogleTreks™
- Student-Created GoogleTreks™

- Google Maps

Contact Information

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