

Year 6 Map Work

This week we will be looking at online maps, especially Google Maps. You will be able to complete this work on a smartphone, tablet or laptop.

Activity 1 Comparing maps and satellite pictures

- Go to Google Maps (<http://maps.google.co.uk/>)
- Find your house by typing your address in the top of the screen.
- See what the area looks like from the satellite view. If you are on a laptop, click on the box marked satellite in the bottom left corner. If you are on a phone, click on the diamond symbol on the right of the screen. It looks like this
- What are the advantages of looking at the map? What are the advantages of looking at the satellite picture?



Activity 2 Finding directions using an online map

- Find your house by typing your address in the top of the screen. Use the map not the satellite view.
- Click on the blue button marked *Directions*. Type in *Palfrey Junior School*.
- A route should come up between your house and our school. How is it similar or different to the route that you normally walk to school?
- You can choose to see the route that it gives for walking and driving by clicking on the picture of the car or the person. Are these the same? If they are different, why do you think this is?
- Write down the distance (not time) between your house and our school.

Activity 3 Measuring distances using an online map

If you are on a computer, follow these steps:

- Click on the back button to remove the route from your screen.
- Make sure that you can see both your house and Palfrey Junior School on the screen.
- **Right** click by your house. A list will appear; choose the final option *Measure Distance*.
- **Left** click by our school. A straight black line will appear on your screen. Write down the length of this line. People often call this line *the distance as the crow flies*. Why do think this is?
- Compare the length of this line to the distance that you wrote down when you found the directions. Do a subtraction to find the difference. Why do you think this new line is different?

If you are on a phone/tablet, follow these steps:


- Click on the back button to remove the route from your screen.
- Make sure that you can see both your house and Palfrey Junior School on the screen.
- Press on the screen by your house. A red droplet with a black dot in it should appear.
- At the bottom right of the screen (next to the word *Save*) there will be a blue dot. Click carefully on this and then choose the option *Measure distance*.

- Click on the screen by our school. A dotted blue line should appear. You can change the length of this line using your finger; have it finishing on our school. People often call this line *the distance as the crow flies*. Why do think this is?
- Compare the length of this line to the distance that you wrote down when you found the directions. Do a subtraction to find the difference. Why do you think this new line is different?

Activity 4 Finding your new school

- Press back on the screen to remove any lines or distances.
- Find your new school on Google Maps. Look at it on the satellite view. Make a list of how many different buildings and fields this school has.
- Using the directions tool (like in activity 2) find the route between your house and your new school. How long will it take you to walk or drive there? How many minutes more or less will you spend travelling to school next year? Do a subtraction to find this out.
- Write down the directions for travelling from your home to your new school. E.g. *Walk down Dale Street, turn left onto Milton Street.*
- Measure the straight line distance between your home and your new school (like in activity 3). How much nearer or further away is you new school compared to Palfrey Junior School? Do a subtraction to find this out.

Activity 5 Travelling to Birmingham Bull Ring

- Find directions from your house to Birmingham Bull Ring shopping centre.
- Click on the public transport/transit picture that will tell you how to travel there by train or bus. The picture looks like this: 
- Does Google Maps think it will be quickest to drive, take the bus or take the train to Birmingham?
- To find out how much it would cost to take the train, go to nationalrail.co.uk and type in Walsall and Birmingham New Street.
- How much does it cost for a child to travel? How much is it for an adult? How much would it be for your whole family to travel there?

EXTENSION

When the coronavirus lockdown is over, we will be able to travel freely again. Choose somewhere that you would like to visit and work out how far away it is and how you would travel there.