

www.GoogleLitTrips.org

Getting Started with Google Lit Trips

An Authorized Step-Guide for Use on Full-Featured laptops and computers

Introduction

The Google Lit Trips files are open-ended resources designed to be used in a wide variety of ways so as to better suit the grade level and teaching style and to be easily modified to individualize the student learning experience.

Install Google Earth or Google Earth Pro

Google Lit Trips are not self-contained Apps or Programs. They are files that must be run in *Google Earth*.

- Install [Google Earth](#). Both versions are free. Google Earth Pro only has a few high end features not in the standard version of Google Earth. The standard version of Google Earth may be better for less powerful computers and/or networks.

Reminder: This step-guide is for full-featured computers.

Getting Started

1. In your browser, open the GoogleLitTrips.org website.
2. If you haven't yet, be sure to become a registered member.

Statistical data collected in this short form, such as location, grade level etc, are used only to facilitate grant writing, scholarships, and fundraising efforts. The information used for these purposes will always remain anonymous.

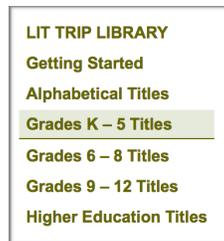


Downloading Google Lit Trips

1. Either click any grade level links in Lit Trip Library to explore available Lit Trips. and then go to the GLT Store to request the file(s) you want. Click any title to show a brief blurb about the story, a short bio of the Lit Trip Developer. Clicking the title again collapses the description window.

or

if you already know what Lit Trip(s) you want, go directly to the GLT Store.



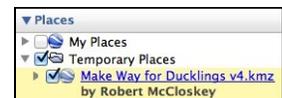
(By the way, although we call it the GLT Store, we do not require a payment.

However as a 100% volunteer organization, we do appreciate any tax deductible donation you may feel the urge to make in order to help defray the costs of our endeavors.

2. After submitting your request, You will immediately be sent an email with a download link for your file. Depending upon how your computer is configured, clicking the link will either download the file or a zipped file that will automatically unzip when you click it. The zipped files will have a name similar to this: j115c039cC-2.zip. When unzipped it will display the name of the Lit Trip title you requested.

Opening A Google Lit Trip File

1. You'll find the file where you normally find downloads. Double click the blue globe icon to open Google Earth and bring the Lit Trip into the **Temporary Places** section at the bottom of Google Earth's Side Bar.



- When you quit Google Earth you will be given an opportunity to save the trip to My Places so that it will “be there” the next time you open Google Lit Trips. You can also Save the Lit Trip to your hard drive if you like.

A Few Words About File Structure

Google Earth uses a typical folder filing structure. On Macintoshes, a triangle pointing to the right indicates a closed folder. Click the triangle to reveal its content. Contents will be indented. **Note:** Open folders” are indicated by a triangle pointing down.

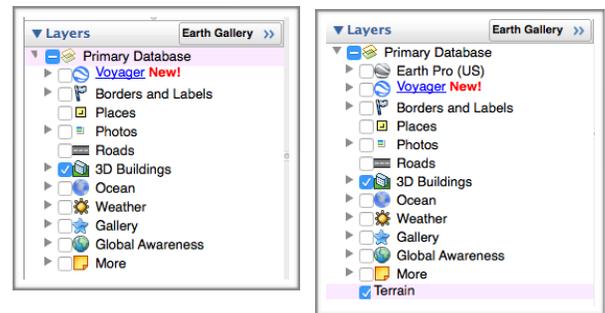
Windows machines use a “+” to indicate folders with content and a “-“ to indicate no further content. Click the “+” to reveal the contents of folders.

In longer chapter books there may be folders within folders; often representing chapters.

Setting up a Lit Trip

The Layers section at the bottom of Google Earth’s left column provides many built-in resources that can dramatically enhance the Google Lit Trip viewing experience. However, Lit Trip developers can not pre-select or de-select these resources. To ensure that you won’t have extraneous data appearing as you view a Google Lit Trip, every Lit Trip includes “Basic Navigation Tips.” with a suggested basic setup specific to the particular title. As of this writing Google Earth and Google Earth Pro have slight differences in the way you might want to set up the Google Earth view.

The primary setup consideration is whether or not to check the 3D Buildings box. For the standard version of Google Earth, we generally suggest that you only check the 3D Buildings box if the story is set in relatively modern times and uncheck the 3D box if the story is set in earlier times.



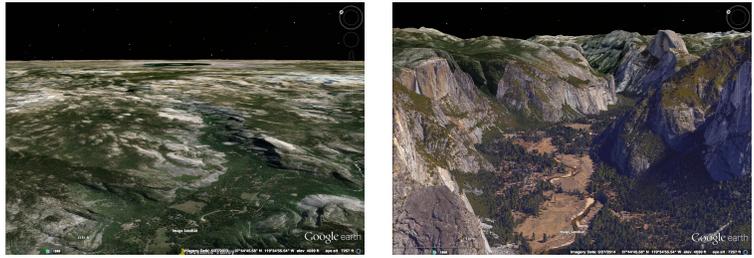
(Left) Google Earth; (Right) Google Earth Pro

You generally do not want to see 3D Skyscrapers while viewing a story set in the old west while you might want to see 3D buildings while viewing a story set in a big city. Yet there are exceptions. For example, while reading a story about the American Revolutionary War where many of the historical buildings have been preserved, you may wish to purposely turn on 3D Buildings in order to create a then and now experience.



(Left) 3D buildings off; (Right) 3D buildings on in both Google Earth and Google Earth Pro

The other 3D consideration is with whether or not to show 3D Terrain. Compare the 2D Terrain view of the Yosemite Valley (left) with the same view in 3D (right).



The good news is that showing the terrain in the standard Google Earth version is automatic.

For Google Earth Pro users only. You must click Terrain button for 3D Terrain to appear

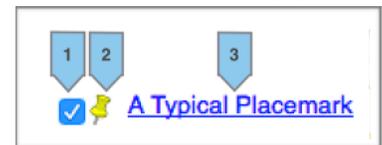
However, as of this writing, the Google Earth Pro Layers area requires that the

Terrain box in the Layers list must be checked to show 3D Terrain. Therefore, we suggest that Google Earth Pro users always remember to check the Terrain box.

Basic Tips for Navigating a Google Lit Trip

Once viewers have set up a Lit Trip, it's time to travel.

1. Make sure the boxes (1) are checked. Checked boxes show on Google Earth; Unchecked boxes do not.
2. *Always FLY First:* Double clicking the icon (2) "flies" viewers to the next location to a view determined by the developer.
3. *Then show POP-UP WINDOWS:* If the Placemark Name is blue (meaning there is content to show) double-click on the Placemark Names to show the Pop-up Windows.
4. Don't forget to close the pop-up window before flying to next location so that the window does not block the view of the flight.



"Special" Place Marks

Not all place marks indicate locations in Google Earth. The Hyde Park (1833) icon (see Fig 6) looks like one sheet of paper floating above another indicates the presence of an image overlay.



Working with Overlays: (Left) Opaque overlay slider position; (Center) Semi-transparent overlay slider position; (Right) Invisible overlay slider position

1. To control the transparency of the overlay, Click the overlay icon (📄) to activate the Search / Transparency control slider.
2. Moving the slider to the right decreases the transparency level of the overlay. Moving the slider to the left increases the transparency level.

This allows viewers to see overlays as opaque giving the best detail of the overlay or in various degrees of transparency allowing both the overlay and the underlying Google Earth surface for "then and now" comparisons, or to make overlays invisible for the best detail of the Google Earth surface.

“Special” Folders

In most cases viewers will find a folder at the end of a Google Lit Trip with a name like “Path Lines” or “Route Lines.” The most common items found in these folders are the lines marking the journey of the book. They need to show while taking a Google Lit Trip, but they don’t need to clutter up the list of place marks, overlays, and other folders. Since their appearance would serve no purpose and merely clutter the screen these folders are configured to not open when clicked.

Ending a Google Lit Trip session

The first time downloaded Google Lit Trip files are opened, they appear in Temporary Places at the very end of the Places area in the left column.

When ready to quit Google Earth, you will be asked whether you want to save the items in Temporary Places to your My Places. If you say yes, that Google Lit Trip will be stored in Google Earth and be there when Google Earth is reopened. If you do not save it to My Places, the file can be saved outside of Google Earth as would typically be done with files open in other applications. To continue using this file at a later date, it can be opened either by double-clicking the file saved outside of Google Earth or by opening Google Earth and then under Google Earth’s FILE Menu selecting the Open... command to access the file on the hard drive.