Name of website: http://earth.google.com

Page in text: p. 238

Description: Google Earth allows students to view the world from their classroom desktop computers. Students can explore geographical content and even zoom to their location from outer space. Google Earth allows users to search homes and businesses all around the world. The online application even allows students to fly around cities or even the world in three dimensions. New features of Google Earth also allow users to go back in time with historical imagery. (Earth. 2015).

Activity: I plan to create an activity for moderate/severe special education classrooms. I would teach children about certain terrain/locations of different parts of the world. I would categorize certain locations as rain forest, desert, ocean, grasslands, etc. I would then have students pair up and choose a certain geographical location in the world to explore. Students would then describe their location using a word bank and written prompts. I would then allow students to future enhance their learning using Google Earth.

Word Bank: Ocean, water, grass, mountains, buildings, city, trees, etc.

Written prompts:

I can see_____.

Alaska has a lot of ___.

___ live in Alaska.

How website enhances learning: In the past, activities that students needed to research geographically were done from books or encyclopedias. Google Earth and other similar web based simulation tools extends and further enhances a student's ability to learn by giving them real 3D images to view (Roblyer, M., & Doering, A. p. 238. 2013). The website can also be viewed from their home computer, and additional learning can happen with families outside of the classroom. Google Earth enhances learning because it gives students an added dimension to their learning experience. Students are now able to view images of places around the world from various angles and perspectives compared to the previous 2D text books. Lastly, Google Earth is fun and easy to use. The program is inviting and motivates students to explore the world without frustration.

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Earth. (n.d.). Retrieved May 23, 2015, from https://www.google.com/earth/

Robyler, M., & Doering, A. (2013). *Integrating Educational Technology into Teaching* (6th ed., p. 238). Upper Saddle River, New Jersey: Pearson Education.