



Investigating Our World Through Remote Sensing

You're on a QUEST!

Think about what it's like to see from a "birds' eye view." Imagine looking at your yard, neighborhood, and town from up above. How different do you think things would look if you could see them from the clouds? Remote sensing involves collecting and processing information from a distance, like from satellites or airplanes. This activity will give you an idea of what life is like with – and without – remote sensing technology!

Investigate with your family!

Discuss these questions with family members:

- How do we use maps?
- How would we be able to drive to an unfamiliar location without using a map?
- What geographic features or other information do you look for on maps when you're going to an unfamiliar location?

Materials needed

- Computer with Internet access
- Pen and paper for notes
- Map of your town or city

Make a map with your family!

Imagine having an aerial view of your neighborhood. Keeping this "bird's-eye view" in your mind, **create an aerial map of the neighborhood** with family members. Remember that many individuals reading your map may not be familiar with your area. What will you be sure to include on your map so that it will be as clear and complete as possible? Be sure to add a legend or key that can guide people who are reading your map.

Here are two helpful Web sites that will give you an idea of the different types of maps that exist today. You'll find political maps, street maps, historic maps, satellite maps, and more!

National Geographic Society Map Machine <http://plasma.nationalgeographic.com/mapmachine/>

U.S. Department of the Interior, U.S. Geological Survey <http://mapping.usgs.gov/>

Compare your results!

Visit your city hall to find out whether there is a map of your neighborhood on record. How is this map different from the map you and your family have created? What elements are used on the official maps that are different the ones you created?

Electronic Quest!

Visit one or more of the following Web sites to discover a wide variety of information that comes from maps and other models of the world!

NH GRANIT

<http://www.granit.sr.unh.edu/>

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)

http://www.gsfc.nasa.gov/NASA_homepage.html

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

<http://www.noaa.gov>

University of Vermont

Bailey/Howe Library <http://bailey.uvm.edu/govdocs/map.html>

Maps.com

<http://www.maps.com>

The University of Texas at Austin (This site features maps of the United States national parks and monuments.)

http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/national_parks.html



QUEST lessons are developed in partnership with Maine Mathematics and Science Alliance



Major funding for Quest is provided by the National Science Foundation. Additional funding is provided by the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, Maine Forest Products Council, and Irving Woodlands LLC.

