

Idea Three - Measure-It

Aim

To reinforce numeracy and promote global citizenship using Google Earth.

Objectives

- To learn how to use the Google Earth 'Ruler Tool'
- To learn about different units of measurement
- To encourage pupils (and teachers) to think about where things come from

Consider

In line with Curriculum for Excellence you decide that your lessons should have a more cross-curricular approach.

This quick lesson idea introduces place, direction, scale, citizenship, units of measurement and anything else on the way.



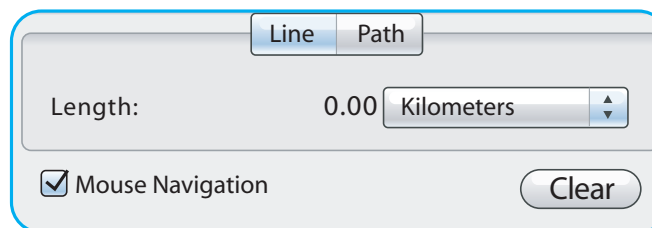
what you will need



- Step 1** - Open Google Earth.
 - Step 2** - Type your school name into the search bar, click 'Enter' and then 'Zoom In'.
 - Step 3** - Get your pupils to find something they own that has come from somewhere else in the world. This could be clothing, stationary, technology etc.
- Let's imagine that one of the items is made in China.
- Step 4** - Open the Google Earth 'Ruler Tool' by clicking on the 'Ruler' icon on the toolbar near the top of the screen.



The following box will appear:





Idea Three - Continued

- **Step 5** - With the ruler box open click on your school.

As you move the mouse around the screen a line will stretch out from your school.

The distance that this line represents will change in the ruler box.

- **Step 6** - Type your new destination into the search box (China) then click 'Enter'.

The ruler line will now follow you from your school to your new destination.

- **Step 7** - When you arrive at your location drop the ruler by clicking the mouse once more.

- **Step 8** - The distance you have travelled will be shown in the ruler box. Change the units of measurement to miles, metres or even centimetres.

You can change the unit of measurement by clicking on the options arrows on the side of 'Unit of Measurement' box.

- **Step 9** - Get your pupils to measure the distance across the world's oceans in miles and nautical miles. Research the difference between them.

Note: You may notice that '**Smoots**' are available as a unit of measurement...



for more information on Smoots visit:
www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Smoot

- **Step 10** - Record your findings. Students will be able to calculate approximately how many miles their chosen item has travelled to get to school.

What Now ?

- Re-cap the above steps
- Consider other ways in which this Google Earth idea could be applied e.g. holiday destinations, food origins, etc.
- Link this lesson idea with a different topic of work i.e air miles, carbon footprints, fuel cost etc.
- Try something new... What about [Our World Idea Four?](#)