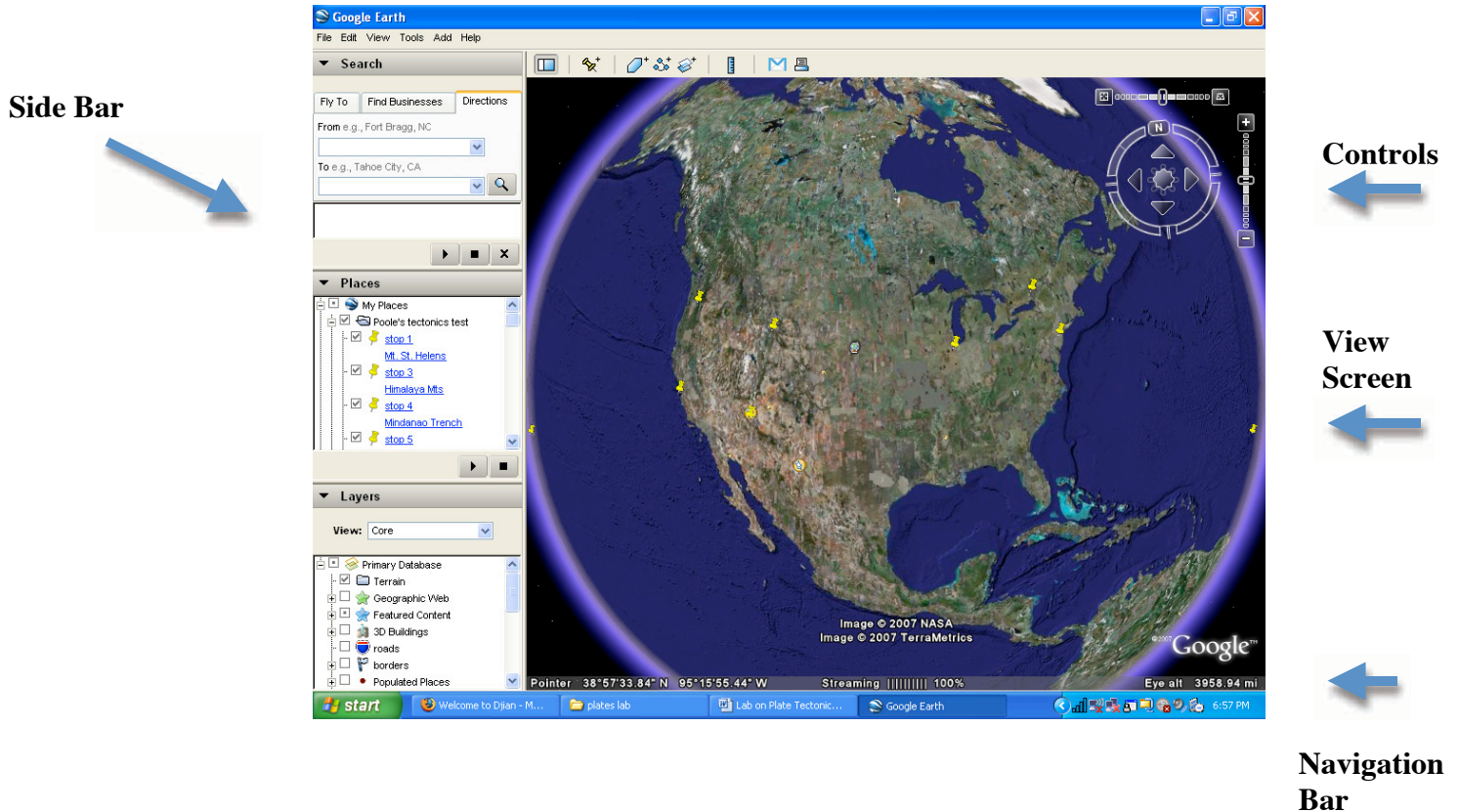


# GOOGLE EARTH QUICK GUIDE

## (1) Google Earth Features

The Google Earth Desktop has four main features: 1. View Screen, 2. Navigation Bar, 3. Controls, and 4. Side Bar (includes the Search Panel, Places Panel, and Layers Panel).



**View screen.** This feature takes up most of the Google Earth window. Often when opening up the Google Earth program, the view screen will be a view of the entire Earth from space.

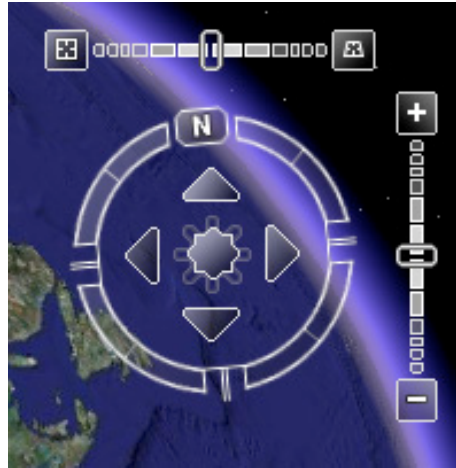
**Navigation bar.** This feature is located at the bottom of the screen, a colored a gray transparent color with white text. This lets you know where you are viewing Earth from at any time.

- **On the left** are numbers that show the position of the mouse at any time. The position is given in latitude and longitude.
- **In the middle** is a streaming scale that shows you whether the image has finished loading. The image is not completely loaded until the scale reads '100%'.
- **On the right** is the apparent elevation of your point of view at any given time. Latitude and longitude, as well as elevation, can be set to different units using the **Options** menu, available in the **Tools** menu on a PC. On a Mac, you can change these units under the **Preferences** menu.

**Controls.** The following picture shows the controls for the current version of Google Earth. Just like a video game, each portion of the control panel moves you in a different

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way. Note that you can also use the wheel and buttons on your mouse to navigate to different locations.

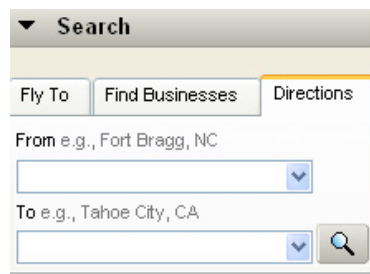


- **The Knob in the middle and the four arrows around it** will slide you along the Earth's surface in the direction you point. This allows you to move around on the Earth's surface.
- **The Ring** allows you to spin your view. Using the ring, you can view a feature from different directions.
- **The Bar on the right** zooms in (+) and out (-). This brings you closer to the Earth's surface and reveals more detail.
- **The Bar at the top** changes your view from looking straight down (left) to looking along the Earth's surface (right).

**The Sidebar.** This is a series of panels (Search, Places, Layers), located on the left side of your window, which can be used to navigate to points of interest. We will use this extensively in this lab.

**The Search panel.** This control is usually found in the **top** of the **Sidebar**. There are three tabs available in the Search panel:

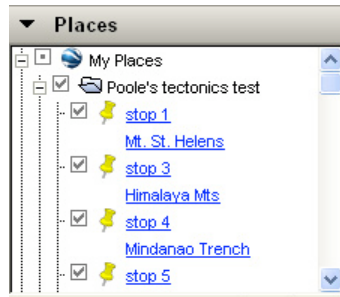
- **Fly To** lets you find locations.
- **Find Businesses** lets you find the closest business you want.
- **Directions** will give you directions to get from one place to another.



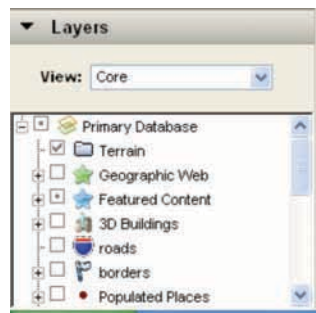
**The Places panel** is below the **Search** panel. This contains two main folders. First is the **Temporary Places** folder. If you open any new Google Earth files,

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this is where the file contents will be stored. The second is the **My Places** folder that can be used to save places you want to go back to.



**The Layers panel** is at the **bottom** of the **Sidebar**. There are literally hundreds of layers that can be added to show different information, including names of roads, points of interest, state and national boundaries, popular places, etc. To turn a layer on, just click on the appropriate box. Once you turn on a layer, it stays on until you turn it off again.



## (3) Google Earth Tools Menu

The **Tools** menu allows you to do several interesting things:

- **The Ruler** allows you to measure distances so that you can see how large different features are.
- **The Options** command lets you change the features inside Google Earth (PCs only). **Macs:** the **“Options”** version on Mac is located in the Google Earth → Preferences menu.

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