

# What On (Google) Earth?

## Italian City-States in the Renaissance

Have you ever dreamed of traveling to a far away country? How about back in time? This activity gives you both through step by step instructions to set up a virtual tour of one of the city states of Renaissance Italy using Google Earth. You will be able to choose between Florence, Genoa, and Venice. You will record the specific features of your city-state, the geography which aided it, its trading partners, and the trade routes. You will be assessed according to the rubric which follows it. Enjoy your trip!

1. Open Google Earth.
2. Create a folder in “My Places” by right-clicking on the “My Places” folder and choose “Add” then “Folder” in the drop-down menu. Name your folder “\_\_\_\_\_ City-State”. (Add your specific city-state in the line)
3. Locate the city.
  - a. Type the city-state name into the “Fly to” field in search panel.
  - b. In the “Layers” menu, uncheck all of the layers except the “Terrain” layer, and in the “Geographic Features”, maintain the “Mountains” and “Water Bodies” features
  - c. Zoom out using the minus sign in the top right hand corner to get an idea of the physical environment of the area. This will help you determine the physical geographic reasons why this city-state was successful.
4. Add Placemarks.
  - a. Click the “Add placemark” button in the toolbar above the viewfinder. It looks like a pushpin. This will bring up a dialogue box and a pushpin will appear in the centre of your screen. If you need to relocate this marker, just click on the marker and drag it to the new location **while the dialogue box is open**.
  - b. In the “New Dialogue” box, type in
    - i. the name of the city-state in the “Name” line.
    - ii. In the “description” box, add a description of the city-state (e.g., political structure, special features, etc.) and how and why the city-state came to be influential in the Renaissance period.
  - c. Add a second placemark to indicate what role the climate played in making this city-state successful using the same procedure. Think about temperature, rainfall, seasonal weather, etc.

- d. Add a third placemark to indicate the role that geographic features like rivers/mountains had in making this city-state successful.
- e. Add a fourth placemark to indicate the role that the city-state's location in relation to other areas had in the successfulness of the city-state and the trading partners it maintained.
- f. Add a fifth placemark to indicate the role that the social/political structures had in making this a successful city-state.

To edit your placemarks, you can right-click and choose "Properties". You can edit the icon to a more appropriate symbol by clicking on the pushpin at the top right corner of the dialog box. Once your changes are made, click on OK.

#### 5. Trade Routes

- a. Indicate the trading partners of your city-state by adding a placemark for each location.
- b. Choose "Add Path" from the toolbar at the top of the page. This allows you to add the same amount of information as the placemarks do. Include a description of how long during the year the trade route would have been open, and through what means that trade route was used (river, foot, sea, etc.).
- c. To draw the route, right click on the pathway in the "My Places" menu. You can choose the color of your route line as well as the thickness of the line. Click on the first place marker, hold down the mouse button and follow the path to the next place marker.

#### 6. Play your file

Once you have followed all of the above steps, you are ready to view your creation. Just highlight the folder in the "Places" menu and click on the play arrow underneath.

## Assessment Rubric

	<b>Exemplary</b>	<b>Proficient</b>	<b>Adequate</b>	<b>Insufficient</b>	<b>Score</b>
<b>Content – City-state relevancy of info</b>	All information is pertinent and comprehensive	All information is relevant and generally comprehensive	Information is general and somewhat comprehensive	Information is trivial and incomplete	
<b>Content – climate</b>	All information on climate is significant and complete	All information is relevant and generally complete	Information is quite superficial	Information is generally irrelevant	
<b>Content – geographic features</b>	Geographic information is comprehensive and clearly shows the relationship of geographic features and trade.	Geographic information is thorough and shows the relationship of geographic features and trade.	Geographic information is superficial and shows little relationship of geographic features and trade.	Geographic information shows little to no relationship of geographic features and trade.	
<b>Content – relative location</b>	Relative location precisely shows trade potential.	Relative location shows relevant information for trade potential.	Relative location information is generally accurate.	Relative location information is superficial.	
<b>Content – Trade routes</b>	Trade route lines are extremely precise and follow routes extremely accurately.	Trade route lines are accurate in following routes.	Trade route lines are partially accurate in following routes.	Trade route lines vaguely follow routes.	

**Outcomes:**

8.2.4.3 – How did the physical geography of Renaissance Europe impact trade among,  
and competition between, European countries?

8.2.4.4 – How did increased trade lead to the emergence of powerful city-states.

8.S.3.6 – Access and operate multimedia applications and technologies from stand-alone  
and online sources, e.g., GIS