

Applied geography, geomatics, and geo-enthusiasm

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Why the geo-enthusiasm? The geomatics sector is in the middle of an accelerated renaissance of new technologies. Using computer gaming technologies, photo 3D rendering, and laser scanning, (and GIS and RTN) the real world can rapidly be digitized and analyzed. We get to fly drones/ UAVs; we use laser beams and satellites; we use 3D goggles to walk and fly through the digital worlds; we use our smartphones to capture data and augment our reality; and we help create systems to assist the immerging autonomous vehicles, navigate safely. In addition, telling middle schoolers that they can have a job that uses computer gaming, UAVs, smartphones, and cars that drive themselves, gets their attention. Absolutely, geomatics is cool!

There are many geomatics tools and resources that can be integrated into the classroom. Story maps are becoming a very approachable way to introduce interactive mapping to students. A lesson plan worksheet created by ESRI Canada will be presented - *See Your World, Measure and Mark Your World, Explore Your World, Expand Your World, App the World and Create the World*.