Abstract: Students in my Spring 2010 upper division history class The Silk Road developed extensive KMLs based on travel narratives. I will explain how I taught Google Earth and other tools to history students and used Google Earth to improve spatial literacy. I will also introduce survey data about student response to the course, showcase student work, and reflect upon the challenges of using Google Earth in a history classroom. Finally, I will discuss the experience of evaluating digital and spatial student work: the class included detailed and transparent evaluation standards with potentially broad applicability in both pedagogical and research domains.

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