



# Using Google Maps

Creating a map is easy. Here are the basic steps:

Look over this site first:

<http://www.googleguide.com/maps.html>

Now you should be ready to try it on your own.

Go to Google Maps

<http://maps.google.com/>

1. Click **My Maps**
2. Click **Create new map**.
3. Add a title and description for your map.
4. Decide whether the map should be **public** or **unlisted**. Public maps are automatically included in Google Maps search.
5. Use the icons in the top left corner of the map. These include:



Selection tool. Use this to drag the map and select placemarks, lines and shapes.



Placemark tool. Use this to add placemarks.



Line tool. Use this to draw lines.



Shape tool. Use this to draw shapes.

When working in MY MAPS, be sure to click the "Browse the Directory" link! You'll find dozens of useful tools to add to Google Maps including a Distance Measurement Tool, current weather reports, current Day/Night indicators, Virtual Tourism Videos, local hike search tool, earthquake data search, and a whole lot more!

When you find your places from the book, you can add geographic perspective and visual literacy by adding your own pictures. You will "Placemark" the place of interest with a current photo on your map or a collaborative Google Map, adding a geographic point of view. The recordings and photos can also be combined in a slide show or Podcast.