

# Explore the world without leaving your classroom

*Eleni Kyrtisis*



**C**lassrooms in the 21st Century should not be confined by its four walls. Technology allows teachers to create learning experiences for their students that enable them to be immersed in locations all over the world, all without leaving their school. These experiences bring learning to life, engaging and motivating our students to inquire and wonder about the world in which we live.

We live in a world that is continuing to be flattened by the accessibility the internet and technology brings. As teachers, we converse with our students about locations and landmarks from all around the world. New technologies now enable teachers to further explore these destinations allowing students to gain a first hand perspective, deepening their

***We live in a world that is continuing to be flattened by the accessibility the internet and technology brings***

understanding and learning.

Google has created a variety of technologies that enhance teaching and learning by allowing students to explore and have experiences all around the world.

My favourite tools include;

- Google Hangouts
- Google Maps (Google Views)
- Google MyMaps
- Google Art Project
- Google Expeditions

## **Google Hangouts**

Google Hangouts are fantastic. They are a free video call that allow students to connect with the community, classes around the world, and experts in any particular field.

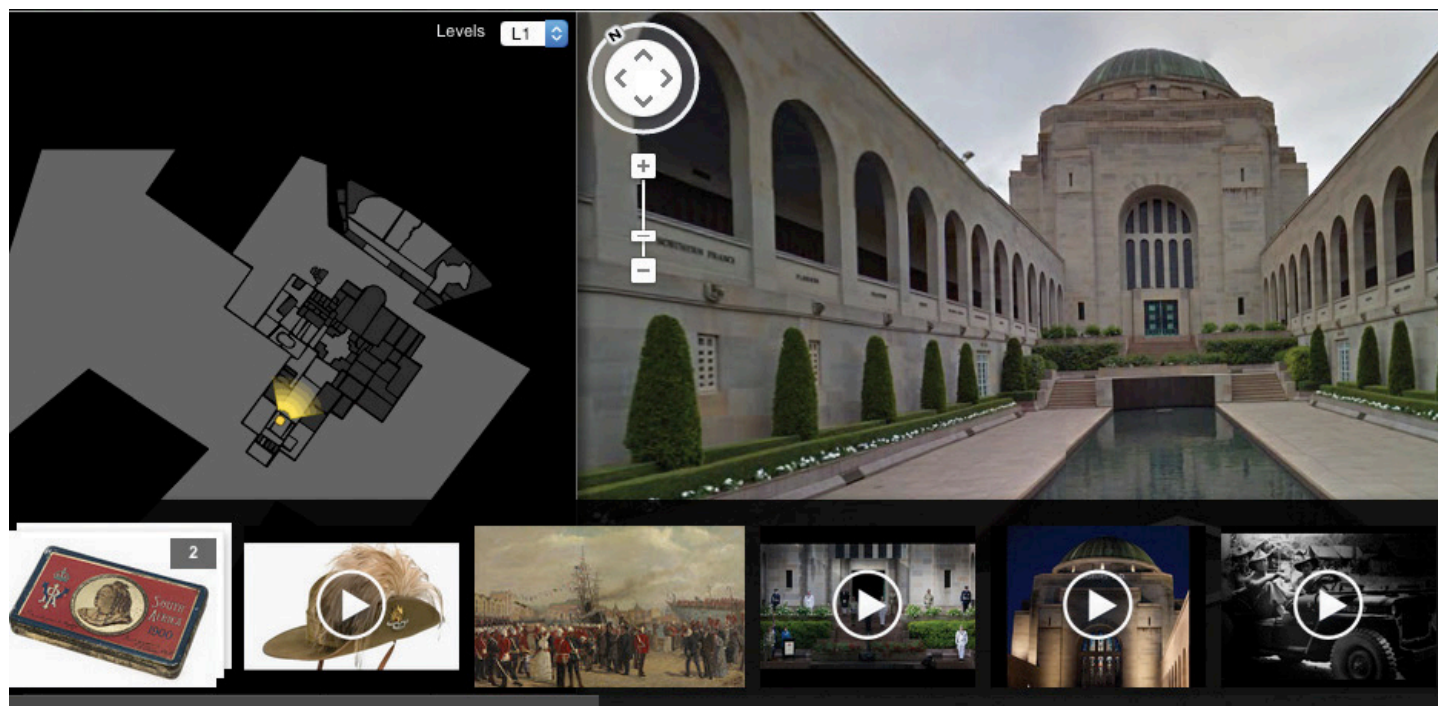
Google Hangouts on Air record your Google Hangout. These can be published to your YouTube channel as private, public or unlisted, the same settings as any uploaded video.

\*Google Hangouts and Google Hangouts on Air have an age restriction of 13+. Younger students can still be involved, but need to be led by a teacher.

## **Lesson ideas**

- Share student learning to a live audience
- Connect classes to collaborate on topics together





- Invite experts in your area of study to share their knowledge
- Book Study with other classes
- Mystery Hangouts with other classes.

### Google Maps

Google Maps has many features that can transform the learning occurring within the classroom. Students can explore satellite imagery, street maps and 360° panoramic views. By dragging and dropping the pegman onto the map it brings up the Street View function to be fully immersed in that location.

#### Lesson ideas

- Investigate landmarks
- Locate different states and territories
- Town planning
- Directions.

### Google Street View Collections

Google has collated the images from Street View into collections allowing students to explore photos and 360° panoramic view images from around the world. These can be linked to a range of topics and curriculum areas. Here are some of my favourite collections:

- Oceans
- Gallipoli
- Northern Lights, Finland
- Pyramids of Giza
- Amazon
- Taj Mahal.

### Google MyMaps

Google MyMaps is now integrated in Google Drive. MyMaps allows students to create and share their maps with others. They can plot locations, add content, and measure distances anywhere in the world.



#### Lesson ideas

- Mapping
- Book Study
- Holiday Recounts
- Information Reports
- Planning school trips
- Area and distance
- Linking Literature to world locations
- Analysing Data
- Homework tasks.

### Google Art Project

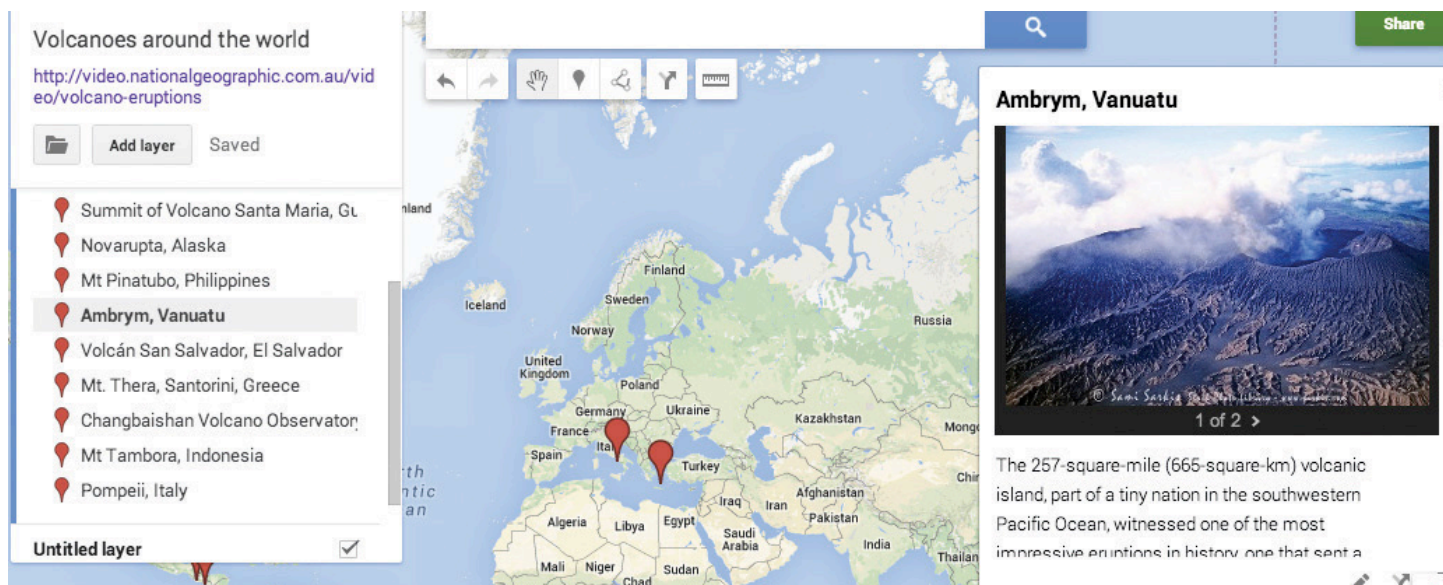
The Google Art Project allows students to explore museums and galleries around the world. Students can make their way through galleries

to look at specific art pieces in great detail. The Google Art Project is fantastic for topics linked to Geography, Art, History, or even for student creativity and imagination for writing stimulus.

Teachers and students can create their own galleries and share these with others.

#### Lesson ideas

- Australian War Memorial - looking at history of ANZAC Day
- Exploring who we are and looking at Self Portraits
- Looking at Australian Indigenous Art
- Ned Kelly Exhibition at National Gallery in Canberra.



### Google Cardboard

Google Cardboard and Virtual Reality is transforming classrooms. Google Cardboard enables 360° images from Google Maps and YouTube videos to be viewed in virtual reality, fully immersing students in a location. A device (phone) is placed inside the Google Cardboard that brings to life a variety of Apps (storytelling, games) available in the Google Play and iTunes store.

### Google Expeditions

Google Expeditions will be released in early 2016. Google Expeditions allows teachers to take their students on excursions to over 100 locations around the world. Teachers can guide students to view specific features of the location from their controlling tablet, which has information to further deepen student understanding. My school was fortunate to

*The excitement and joy it brought to the students was amazing*

be one of the first schools in the world to trial this pioneer program. The excitement and joy it brought to the students was amazing. Their questions and wonderings of explored locations enabled great discussions for future learning.

Budgets and excursion expenses don't have to stop us from allowing our students to explore the world in the 21st century. These technologies are opening up a wealth of resources accessible to everyone. Teachers can confidently design their lessons incorporating these tools to give students authentic learning experiences.

### Resources

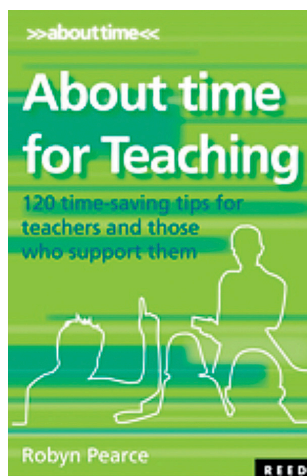
<https://hangouts.google.com/>

<https://www.google.com.au/maps>  
<https://www.google.com/maps/streetview/>  
[https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/?hl=en\\_US&app=mp](https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/?hl=en_US&app=mp)  
<https://www.google.com/culturalinstitute/u/0/project/art-project>  
<https://www.google.com/get/cardboard/>  
<https://www.google.com.au/edu/expeditions/> **ET**



**Eleni Kyrtisis** is the IB PYP teacher at an independent school in Melbourne, Australia. She is a Google Certified Trainer, Google Certified Innovator, Hapara Certified Educator, the host and founder of TeachTechPlay, and the creator of the Genius Hour Fair. She is the 2016 Digital Learning and Teaching Victoria Educator of the Year

## Are Your Staff Time-Poor, Stressed And Feeling Overloaded?



Book Robyn Pearce, international time management specialist and your ET columnist, for your next teachers' conference or Teacher-Only day. She travels regularly to Australia.

To discuss: [admin@gettingagrip.com](mailto:admin@gettingagrip.com) or call Robyn direct on 0011 64 275 846 348

**[www.gettingagrip.com](http://www.gettingagrip.com)**  
**for the full range of products and services**







# NATIONAL Future Schools EXPO + CONFERENCES

- ✦ Technology
- ✦ Environment
- ✦ Pedagogy
- ✦ Curriculum

Conferences 3 - 4 March 2016 ◦ Masterclasses 2 March 2016 ◦ Australian Technology Park, Sydney

## 5 conferences

### Future Leaders CONFERENCE

A leadership angle on evolving pedagogies and learning environments for principals and school executive teams

### ClassTECH CONFERENCE

Harness the potential of existing classroom technologies

### Teaching kids to code Conference

Prepare yourself for the Digital Technologies curriculum, and hands on training to teach kids to code

### Young Learners Conference

How to introduce technology to children in foundation years (K-2)

### SETN SPECIAL EDUCATION TECHNOLOGY NEEDS

Learn about technology supporting children with learning difficulties at mainstream schools

## 1 BIG EXPO

### Makers Playground

Where attendees experience authentic learning in a makers environment. Watch how student teams overcome four tough challenges on the expo

### Free PD Theatre

Series of presentations full of case studies from schools like yours. Attendance at the free PD theatre counts towards professional development

### Robotics Demo/Workspace



Watch robots play soccer, dance and conduct rescue challenges at the RoboCup Junior demo area floor

### TeachMeet[AUS]

Hear from teachers deliver short, sharp talks on a range of teaching and learning ideas. Open, free, by teachers, for teachers

**ALMOST SOLD OUT**  
Over 1000 attendees already registered



**Register Now | [www.futureschools.com.au](http://www.futureschools.com.au)**

Use code  
**'ETD10'** for 10%  
discount before  
26 February 2016