



Digital Commons@

Loyola Marymount University
LMU Loyola Law School

Module 02: Land Use

Urban EcoLab

April 2021

Student Pages - Answer Key

Center for Urban Resilience

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.lmu.edu/urbanecolab-module02>



Part of the [Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Commons](#), [Environmental Education Commons](#), [Sustainability Commons](#), and the [Urban Studies and Planning Commons](#)

Repository Citation

Center for Urban Resilience, "Student Pages - Answer Key" (2021). *Module 02: Land Use*. 7.
<https://digitalcommons.lmu.edu/urbanecolab-module02/7>

This Lesson 5: Land Use in My Field Site is brought to you for free and open access by the Urban EcoLab at Digital Commons @ Loyola Marymount University and Loyola Law School. It has been accepted for inclusion in Module 02: Land Use by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons@Loyola Marymount University and Loyola Law School. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@lmu.edu.

Name: Teacher Date: _____ Class/Period: _____

Activity 5.4: Google Earth

You can use *Google Earth* on a computer to locate your field study site on an aerial photomap (taken by satellites for *Google Earth* recently). Using *Google Earth* you can compare the land use of your field site to the land use in the surrounding area. You will also be able to find the distances between your field site and nearby parks and open spaces where similar tree communities may be found.

Procedures:

1. Open Google Earth
2. Under the “Fly To” tab enter the address of your field site.
3. Once you are zoomed in on your site compare the image to the map you made. How are they similar? How are they different?

The Google Earth image may have been taken at a different time of the year, therefore resulting in possible differences. The image may also be a few years old so there may be some differences in trees/vegetation and structures. This question is just to help the students realize that land use could have changed from when the image was taken to when they are conducting their study.

4. Go to the tool bar at the top of the page and select “View”. Under view click on “Scale Legend”. A scale bar, in ft, should appear at the bottom left corner of the image. Slowly zoom out until you double the number in ft.
5. How do the trees in the surrounding area compare to your field site? Are there more trees? Fewer trees?
6. Slowly zoom in until you again double your number in ft. How does the amount of open space in the surrounding area compare to your field site. Are the spaces larger or smaller? How many open spaces do you see?
7. Go to the tool bar at the top of the page and select “Tools”. Under tools click on “Ruler”. Click on your field site and draw a line to the nearest open green space. How far away is it?

8. Describe how land is used in the area surrounding your field site. Is there development (houses, buildings, roads)? Are there any bodies of water?

Critical Thinking Questions

1. How is land used in the area surrounding your field site? Is this similar or different to the way land is used in your field site?

Answers will vary depending on the site and surrounding area.

2. What are some advantages to having trees and open spaces? What are some disadvantages?

Answers will vary. Some possible advantages of having trees and open spaces may be a larger amount of animals, and the ability of the animals to travel between open spaces. Another advantage is having more recreational opportunities. Some disadvantages of having trees and open spaces is that it prevents development or might make it more costly to expand development.

3. What are some limitations to the way land is used? What should people consider before making land use decisions?

Answers will vary. There are many limitations to the way land is used. First it might depend on the natural land itself: materials, water bodies, elevation. Cost is another important limitation to the way land is used. There are many considerations to take in mind before making land use decisions. You need to

understand the limitations of the land. It is also important to know the purpose of using land in a certain way (like having open spaces for recreation).