

MY CITY: MEETING PLACES AND NON-PLACES

Course: GEOGRAPHY AND HISTORY

Teacher: Javier García Francisco

DESCRIPTION*	<p>Our city is a mosaic of lived places with different meaning for each one of us. Some urban spaces are common meeting places, crossing-points for social relationships with friends, family and the rest of the community. Classical examples of this type of places are the Greek <i>agoras</i> and the Roman forums. Today, this function is offered by squares, parks or pedestrian streets.</p> <p>On the other hand, other urban landscapes are spaces of anonymity, of transit and barely accommodate the crossing of social relations. These non-places function like the labyrinth of Crete that isolates the Minotaur and does not allow relationships with others. Current examples of non-places could be motorways, hotel rooms, airports or industrial estates.</p> <p>With this activity, the students will reflect on their meeting places of social relationships and their antagonistic non-places. Each student must select their 10 "meeting places" and "non-places" of their city and locate these 20 places on <i>Google Earth</i>. Then, the classroom group will collaborate in order to identify characteristics of these places and select the most frequent meeting places and non-places of the group of students.</p>
OBJECTIVES	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Know the urban landscape of your own city.• Use the tool of <i>Google Earth</i> to get and produce geographical information and to study urban areas.• Value the places that are relevant for developing our social relationships.
DEVELOPMENT	<p>First, students must understand the meaning of meeting places and non-places and get used to the tool of <i>Google Earth</i>. This tool can be very useful to study urban landscapes; you can observe places with different scales, change the point of view, have a street view, etc. And it allows creating your own geographical information and sharing it with other people.</p> <p>Then, each student will select a personal list of their favorite 10 "meeting places" and "non-places" of our city.</p> <p>These locations will be marked on Google Earth by creating a placemark for each of them. The title of each placemark must refer to the location and include a brief description and a photograph of that place selected from Google Earth.</p> <p>Finally, the students will explain their choices to the rest of the class and collaborate to choose their most relevant "meeting places" and "non-places".</p>
TIMELINE	<p>This project will be developed during March and April 2018.</p>

* Nuestra ciudad es un mosaico de lugares vividos con diverso significado para cada uno de nosotros. Algunos espacios urbanos son lugares habituales de encuentro, de cruce de relaciones sociales con amigos, familiares y el resto de la comunidad. Son ejemplos clásicos de este tipo de lugares las ágoras griegas y los foros romanos. Cumplen hoy esta función plazas, parques o calles peatonales. Otros lugares, en cambio, son espacios del anonimato, del tránsito y apenas acogen el cruce de relaciones sociales. Estos no-lugares funcionan como el laberinto de Creta que aísla al Minotauro y no permite las relaciones con los demás. Ejemplos actuales de no-lugares pueden ser las autopistas, las habitaciones de hotel, los aeropuertos o los polígonos industriales.

Esta actividad pretende que los estudiantes reflexionen sobre cuáles son sus lugares de encuentro de relaciones sociales y sus antagónicos no-lugares. Cada alumno debe seleccionar sus 10 "lugares de encuentro" y "no-lugares" de su ciudad y localizar estos 20 lugares en *Google Earth*. A continuación, el grupo aula realiza una puesta en común y selecciona los lugares de encuentro y no-lugares más frecuentes del grupo de estudiantes.