

GIS – LAB

This exercise will show you the basics of GIS

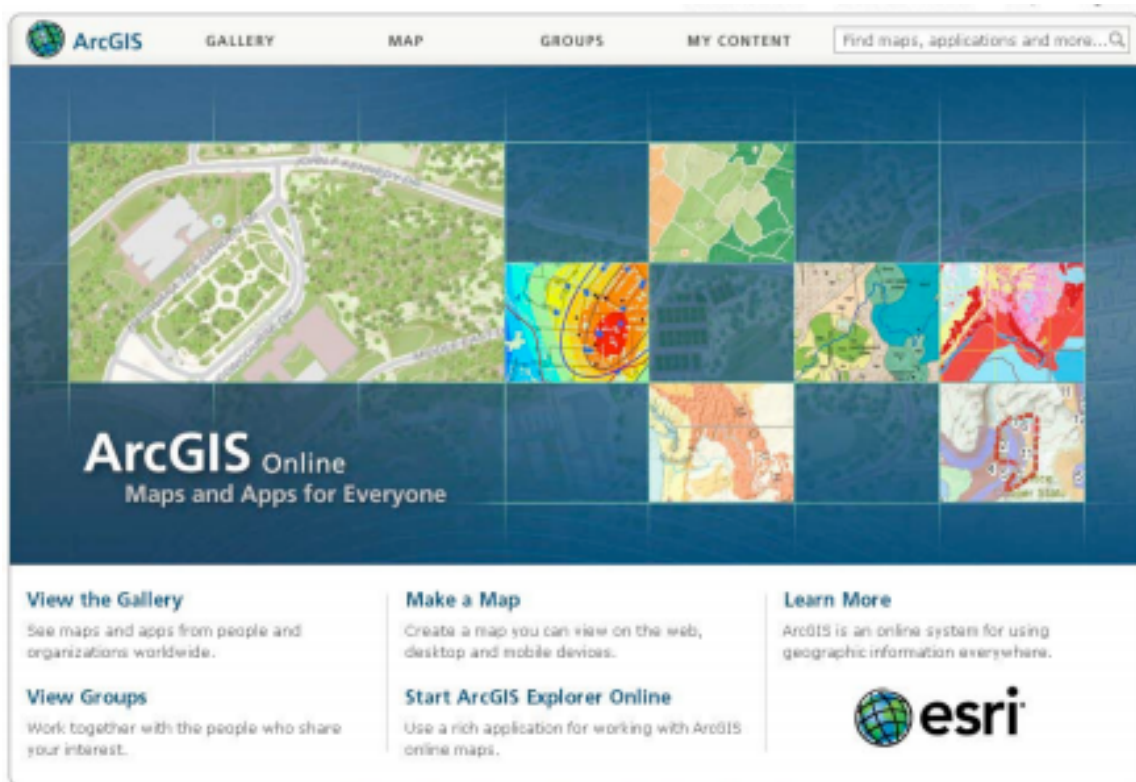
You will learn...

- 1) How to use GIS software
- 2) More about ESRI software
- 3) *How to unleash the power of geographic data!*

(You might have to update Silverlight to use this lab – no worries! It is free and easily installed. Your browser will tell you if it needs to be updated.)

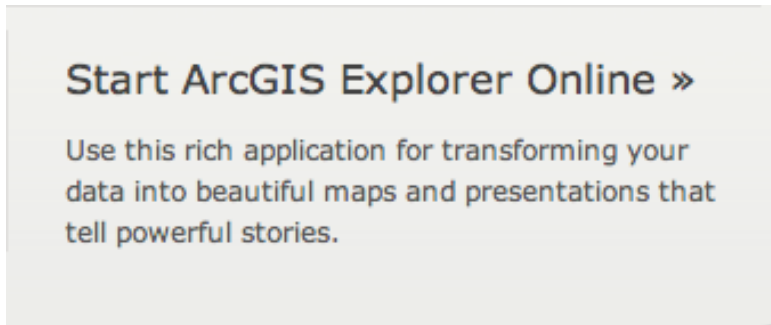
Step One:

Go to www.arcgis.com - this is the website of the major GIS software maker, ESRI.



Step Two:

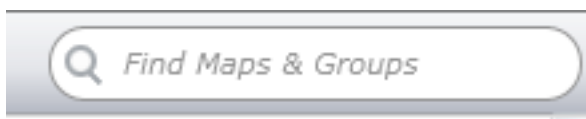
Click on **Start ArcGIS Explorer Online** – you’ll find this at the bottom of the page.

**Step Three**

Click on “Featured” maps at the bottom of the screen.



You’ll see lots of featured maps there. And – you can use the search button to find specific communities –

**Step Four**

Search some interesting base maps – poke around and find a few that interest you.

Step Five

Get comfortable using some of the more advanced tools found here:



Using the ruler tool, you can measure distances between places, for example.

Your Final Task:

Produce a small report on GIS that has the following things:

- 1) A definition, in your own words, of what GIS is and how it can be used.
Three screenshots of three **different** base maps – and provide a 1-2 sentence description of each, and why you chose it.
- 2) One screenshot of a map where you have labeled distance – between two places you know well. (Hint search for a basemap of Toronto) –

(PS – You can take a selective screenshot by hitting command+shift+4 – you can use the crosshairs to select an area – this area will be saved to your desktop as an image file. You can drag that image file onto a Word document)

Type this up and show me before the end of class!