Google Earth: Inspiration and Instrument for the Study of Ancient Civilizations

Jaroslav Klokočník, Jan Kostelecký, Karel Pavelka

Abstract
Satellite imaging is well known as a useful tool in many scientific disciplines and various applications. Google Earth, with its free access, is now - thanks to increasing resolution and precision - such a tool. It can be very inspiring. It improves the visualization and dissemination of scientific data, and opens doors to new discoveries. For example, many Nasca geoglyphs are now visible to Google Earth and so are the orientations of Chinese pyramids, which appear to be laid out with the aid of a magnetic compass. Google Earth also informed us about the "new" archaeological locality Atzompa close to the well-known "Monte Alban" near Oaxaca (Mexico), which we then visited (in March 2010). Google Earth can also "see" prehistoric causeways in Mesoamerica, "sacbeob" and in the Chaco valley (New Mexico). We find that Google Earth can save time and resources to researchers significantly: before, during and after field works and measurements; we present examples.

Keywords
Google Earth, Nasca geoglyphs and petroglyphs (Peru), Chinese "pyramids" (Xi'an and Luoyang, central China), Monte Alban - Atzompa (Mexico), ancient roads (Yucatán, Mexico, Chaco valley, New Mexico).

Full Text: PDF
DOI: https://doi.org/10.14311/gi.6.25

References
J. Klokočník and K. Pavelka, "Nasca, Peru: El Astronauta is a Fisherman", American Research, Bd. 52, pp. 165-168. ISSN 1982-3887, Dr. M. Koch Verlag, Regensburg, Germany (in German).
J. Klokočník, J. Kostelecký, F. Vítek, "Pyramids and Ceremonial Centers in Mesoamerica: were they Oriented a Magnetic Compass?", Studio G. et G., vol. 51, 2007, pp. 515-533.

Refbacks
There are currently no refbacks.
The earliest known civilizations that flourished in the ancient Near East, America, Africa (the time of their existence, the place of their location, main occupations of the inhabitants). Proof (evidence) of the existence of ancient civilizations (archaeological finds, historical records, inscriptions, epic poems, etc.). The system of government and religious beliefs. The burial rituals. Advanced level of development of ancient civilizations. Have a round-table discussion on the following problems: Archaeology is the scientific study of the material remains of past human life and activities. These materials include relics, artifacts, monuments, etc. But how do archaeologists manage to find out something about the earliest inhabitants who lived before a word of their history was written?