

Okay, so you're starting to think about what you'd like to do for your individual project. Listed below are three examples of GIS in action (both from the public and the private sector). Take a look at each of them, and think about what data the GIS technicians had to have to generate these sites, and what queries (questions) you could pose for each of the sites. Print requested maps and responses to my questions on a separate piece of paper (there are **FOUR** sites).

SITE #1:

<http://solarmap.lacounty.gov/>

According to the site,

“The LA County Solar map is based upon the most accurate large-scale solar model in the world, with solar radiation calculated every 5 feet. [250] million individual measurements include:

- Shading from trees
- Roof features (chimneys, other stories, etc.)
- Roof Pitch
- Nearby buildings
- Mountains”

Assignment: Conduct a query for LA Valley College (*what is our address?*). Print the result of that query (save some paper and make it small).

Where are the campus' existing solar (photovoltaic or “PV”) panels (likely, you will have to look for this information elsewhere)? Print the map you used to determine this information (again, make it small).

After looking at the solar map for the campus, are the PVs positioned so as to best capture the solar energy that strikes our campus? *Explain.*

If you could propose three sites on campus (currently without PV) that would be better, what would they be? *Indicate those sites on a map.*

SITE #2:

<http://www.weather.gov/>

From the National Weather Service, the layers of data are practically limitless. What kind of queries could you make of their “maps” (data)?

Assignment: Spend some time exploring the site, and choose a particular map of the United States. Print it. Tell me what information is provided. How does the Weather Service collect this information (what is the source for their information)? Is there anything in particular that stands out to you in your exploration of their website (something that surprised you, concerned you, made it difficult or easy to find information, for example)?

SITE #3:

This one might be familiar to you...

www.redfin.com/

Among the data provided:

Number of bedrooms/baths, square footage (of house and lot), how many days on the market, year built, status, who has the listing (realty company or “for sale by owner”), last sale price, and MLS number.

Assignment: Conduct a query. Indicate the parameters you provided to Redfin. Print the results. What **patterns** do you see in the results?

***If you're able to complete this by Wed 9/10/14, I can give you feedback before you submit it for a grade.**

SITE #4:

(One of *your* choosing)

Assignment: Find a website that utilizes GIS. Provide its address. How do you know the site utilizes GIS? What queries can you conduct? Please conduct one query and print the resulting map. What did you find out from this site, from your query?