

Google Maps now lets you find fresh air

13th June, 2022



Google Maps already boasts a wealth of useful features for users.

Besides showing people where they are, it plans routes, provides real-time spoken directions, street views, traffic and footfall information, restaurant reviews and a

whole lot more. Google has just unveiled its latest tool. Users can now click on its Air Quality Index (AQI) before heading out for a bike ride, picnic, camping trip or hike. Google's products blog stated: "When you're visiting a new place or planning outdoor activities, it can be helpful to know the air quality conditions - like whether it's unusually smoggy." It added that its new AQI is, "a measure of how healthy (or unhealthy) the air is, along with guidance for outdoor activities."

The new feature is a "layer" on Google Maps. To view it, users tap on the "Layers" icon in the top right corner of the screen. This is the same button for selecting the satellite or street view modes. Users will see the new option to see air quality information on their map. Google said: "We collaborate closely with partners in the weather and air quality space to surface helpful and authoritative information when you need it most....We hope these tools help you feel safe and informed so you can enjoy the summer." The AQI will also provide updated information on the health impact of the air quality. In addition, there is a "wildfires near me" feature to alert, update and advise people on the status of fires.

Sources: blog.google / 9to5google.com / popsci.com

Writing

It is essential we know about air quality wherever we go. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

Google Maps / wealth / features / routes / directions / traffic / camping / smoggy / layer / satellite / air quality / collaborate / partners / weather / tools / wildfires

True / False

- 1) The article says Google Maps makes people wealthy. T / F
- 2) Google Maps contains restaurant reviews. T / F
- 3) The new Air Quality Index (AQI) will tell us if it is smoggy outside. T / F
- 4) The AQI will give us information on outdoor activities. T / F
- 5) The AQI has its own icon on smartphones. T / F
- 6) Google developed the AQI without any help from third parties. T / F
- 7) Google hopes the AQI will help people to enjoy summer. T / F
- 8) The AQI app also has information about bushfires. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| 1. boasts | a. work together |
| 2. reviews | b. beneficial |
| 3. helpful | c. advice |
| 4. healthy | d. picking |
| 5. guidance | e. inform |
| 6. tap | f. possesses |
| 7. selecting | g. reliable |
| 8. collaborate | h. critiques |
| 9. authoritative | i. touch |
| 10. advise | j. of benefit |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think of Google Maps?
- b) Are you good at reading maps?
- c) What features of Google Maps do you like?
- d) Are you good with directions?
- e) How important is knowing about air quality at your location?
- f) How do you plan a route?
- g) How much do you worry about air quality?
- h) What outdoor activities do you like?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| 1. Google Maps already boasts a wealth | a. on the "Layers" icon |
| 2. restaurant reviews and a whole | b. closely with partners |
| 3. Google has just unveiled | c. outdoor activities |
| 4. whether it's unusually | d. status of fires |
| 5. guidance for | e. its latest tool |
| 6. users tap | f. of useful features |
| 7. the satellite or street view | g. information |
| 8. We collaborate | h. modes |
| 9. helpful and authoritative | i. lot more |
| 10. advise people on the | j. smoggy |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- What do you think of maps?
- Do you prefer online maps or paper maps?
- How does Google Maps work?
- What other Google products do you like?
- How often do you look at your town on Google Maps?
- How useful is a wildfires feature?
- What questions would you like to ask Google?

Spelling

- otsabs a wealth of useful features
- traffic and lfaolto information
- just nedvelui its latest tool
- know the air quality ntncidsoi
- whether it's unusually ggsoym
- along with eucginda for outdoor activities
- itlstleae or street view modes
- We crooabatlle closely with partners
- ietaotvairuht information
- help you feel safe and niomrefd
- a "sildfeirw near me" feature
- advise people on the usttsa

Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. h	3. b	4. j	5. c
6. i	7. d	8. a	9. g	10. e

Role Play

Role A – Maps

You think Google Maps is Google's best product. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their products aren't as good. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): Gmail, Search or YouTube .

Role B – Gmail

You think Gmail is Google's best product. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their products aren't as good. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): Google Maps, Search or YouTube .

Role C – Search

You think Search is Google's best product. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their products aren't as good. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): Gmail, Google Maps or YouTube .

Role D – YouTube

You think YouTube is Google's best product. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their products aren't as good. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): Gmail, Search or Google Maps.

Speaking – Google products

Rank these with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|-----------|----------|
| • Search | • Chrome |
| • Maps | • Cloud |
| • Mail | • Docs |
| • Android | • Play |

Answers – True False

1	F	2	T	3	T	4	T	5	F	6	F	7	T	8	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.