Chapter 8: Google Earth Exercise

Exercise 1
Landscapes of Diversity

Ethnic neighbourhoods and "gay villages" are integral components of many contemporary urban landscapes. Though often formed in response to marginalization and exclusion, many are now cultural centres within cities. In this exercise, your task is to locate and describe three neighbourhoods that typify a diverse city.

The task: Using Google Earth Street View, visit Toronto, Ontario and search three areas in the city for the diverse neighbourhoods listed below.

Step 1: Open the Chapter 8.kmz file. There are three zones defined here, search each one for:

➢ **Question 1:** Where is the "gay village"?
➢ **Question 2:** What is an example of an ethnic neighbourhood that may experience exclusion from the surrounding city?
➢ **Question 3:** What is an example of a neighbourhood that has been gentrified?

Refer to your textbook for the characteristics that defines these types of neighbourhoods.

Identify each neighbourhood by its location as defined by street names or its main street and two delineating cross streets.

Exercise 2
Geographies of Difference and Well-being

As noted in your textbook, the term *well-being* refers to the overall circumstances of particular groups in relation to their security and comfort. Income is a major factor in well-being and landscapes at various spatial scales are often divided based on income. Income often intersects with ethnicity or "race," and when it does, can further impact a group's well being, contributing to landscapes of exclusion and privilege.

The Task: Using Google Earth, visit the state of California in the US to examine geographies of difference and well being at various scales using data from the 2010 US Census

Step 1: Open the Chapter 8.2.kmz file. Ensure only the "Borders and Labels" layer is enabled in the *Layers* sidebar. A choropleth map of the state illustrates median household income at the county and census tract levels. The darker the colour, the lower the income. Clicking on each boundary (county or census tract) activates a window that shows the average income level, as well as a breakdown of the population based on race. Start the exercise by zooming in or out to ensure entire state of California is visible in your view.

➢ **Question 1**: What patterns of income level are visible across the state?

➢ **Question 2:** Zoom into northern California and click on the lowest income counties. Is there a pattern in the dominant racial composition of these lower income counties?

➢ **Question 3:** Zoom into the San Francisco and Oakland areas, in central California. How do income levels differ between the two cities? How does racial composition differ?

➢ **Question 4:** Pan south to Los Angeles. How does income distribution differ from San Francisco?

Answers

Exercise 1

➤ **Question 1:** The gay village in Toronto is centred at Church Street and Wellesley Street West. The area maintains its character and identity but it is much better integrated into the city than it was 30 years ago. It enjoys status as a recognized neighbourhood. This area caters to a large residential population and attracts many LGBT tourists.

➤ **Question 2:** Many neighbourhoods throughout Toronto fit this description. The newer ethnic communities in the inner suburbs are the best example of recent immigrant communities that exist in parallel with the city but apart from its mainstream. These are characterized by signage predominantly in the language of the local ethnic groups and relatively homogenous product and service offerings.

➤ **Question 3:** Some older neighbourhoods in the city, many that have an older ethnic population, have been gentrified. Examples include Little Italy on College Street and Grace, the Polish area on Roncesvalles beginning at Queen, Little Portugal along Dundas Street West near Ossington and Greektown on the Danforth Avenue beginning at Broadview. Much of the housing stock has been renovated and the retail areas attract visitors from across the city.

Exercise 2

➤ **Question 1:** Wealthier areas are located closest to the Pacific Ocean, while lower-income areas are concentrated in the interior. The data also show a higher concentration of lower income counties in the northern half of the state.

➤ **Question 2:** Most counties have a high composition of American Indian, non-white, or white.

➤ **Question 3:** San Francisco has a much greater concentration of higher-income census tracts, compared to Oakland. There are also some very stark income divisions in San Francisco where census tracts with incomes of $126,000 sit adjacent to those with $16,000. The highest income tracts are predominantly composed of whites in San Francisco (most over 80 per cent), while Asians live in most of the lower-income areas. In Oakland, whites also dominate higher income tracts, while the lower-income areas are made up of census tracts with Asian, Black, and Hispanic majorities.

➤ **Question 4:** In San Francisco, higher-income census tracts dominate the urban landscape, while in Los Angeles, the vast majority of census tracts are comprised of lower-income households.