Using Google Earth Pro

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GOOGLE EARTH PRO

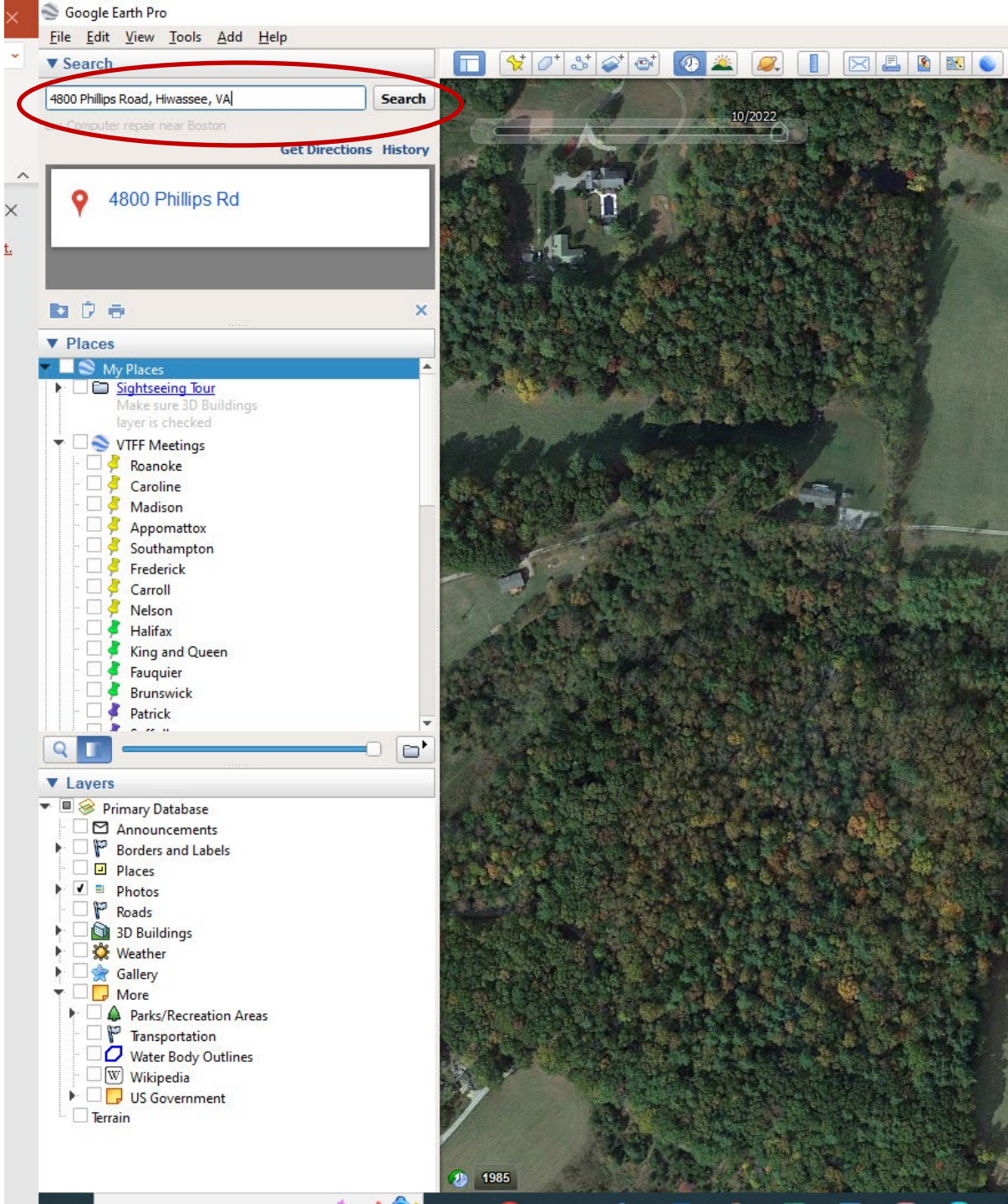
- GE Pro is a free software package which makes viewing aerial photos of your property a snap
- Allows you to calculate distance and area
- Historical photos are available for most locations
- USGS 7.5 Topographic maps are available on GE Pro

GOOGLE EARTH PRO

- Download the free software: http://earth.google.com
- Select Google Earth Pro
- Agree to terms and click download
- Run/run setup
- Google should create a shortcut on your desktop

GOOGLE EARTH PRO

- The program should open automatically; if not, double click the short cut icon on your desktop
- On the left side of your screen, you will see a search tool. Type the physical address of your property into the search field and click Search
- Hold on tight… and you're off!
- If your property doesn't have a physical address, use the name of a nearby road to get close

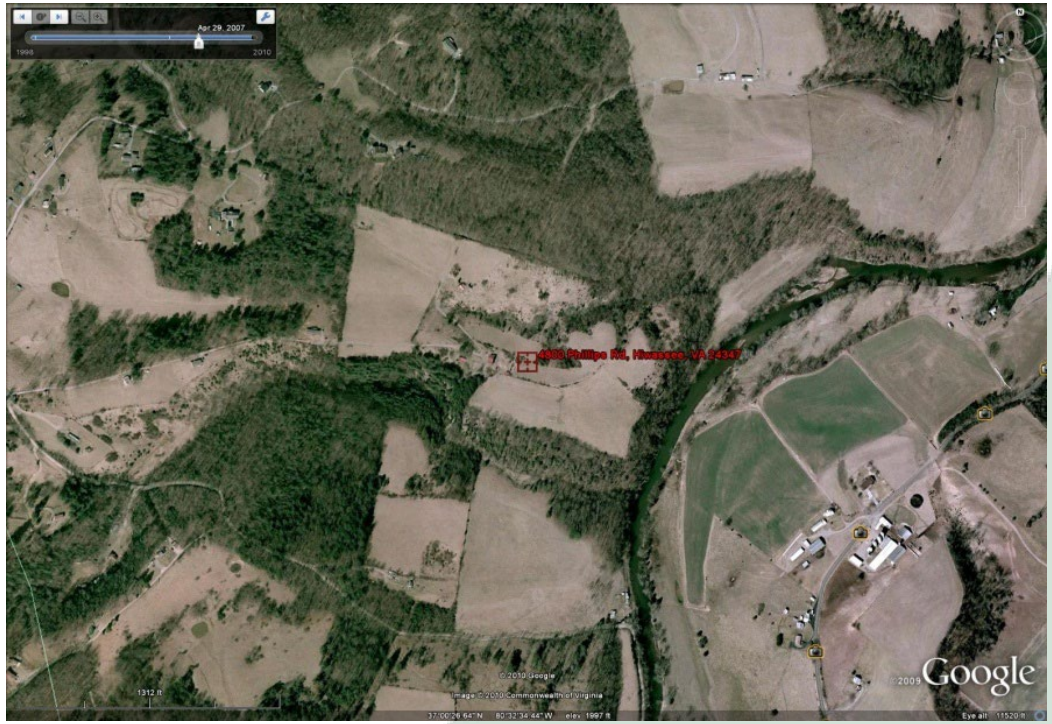


GOOGLE EARTH PRO

You should now be looking at an aerial photo of your property

- If your mouse has a scroll wheel, you can use that to zoom in and out
- If your mouse does not have a scroll wheel:
  - Zoom in by double clicking left
  - Zoom out by double clicking right
  - Or use the navigation tool bars on the top right side of the photo

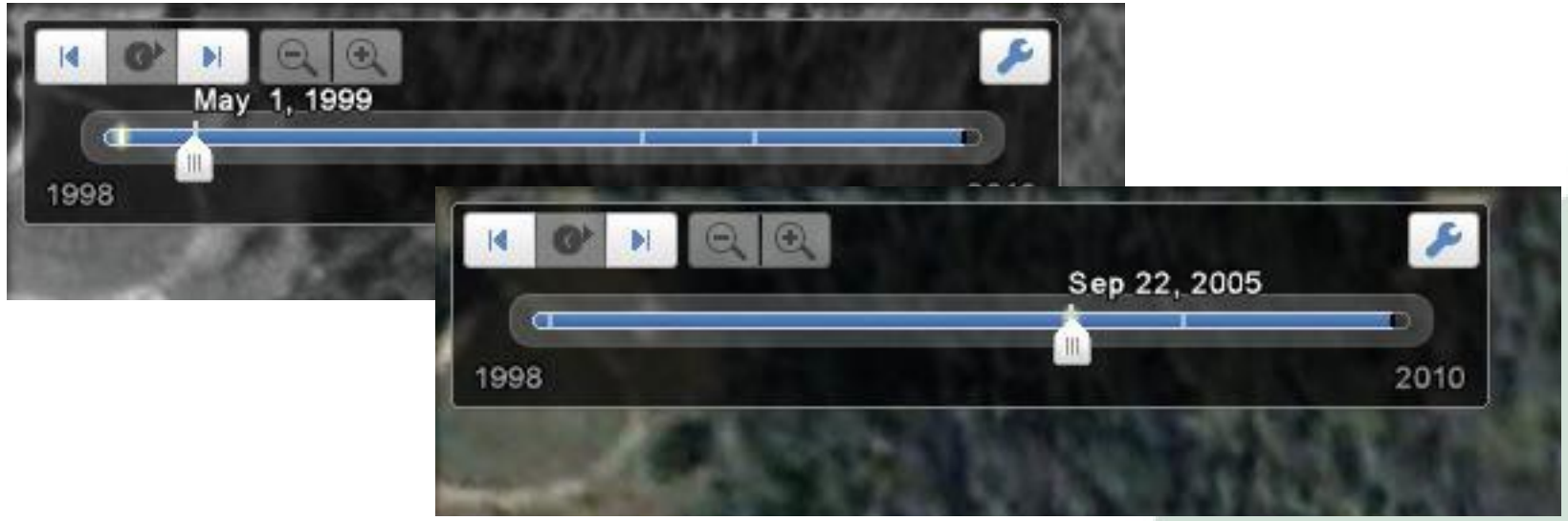
Zoom out for a small-scale map



Zoom in for a large-scale map

GOOGLE EARTH PRO

- To see historical aerial photos of your property, click the clock icon at the top of the screen
- A slider bar will appear at the top of the photo which will allow you to move through all the years of photography which are available
- The photo years will vary by location
- The photo types will vary by year (black and white versus color infrared)



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1999 – Black & White

2005 – Color Infrared

2023 – Color Infrared

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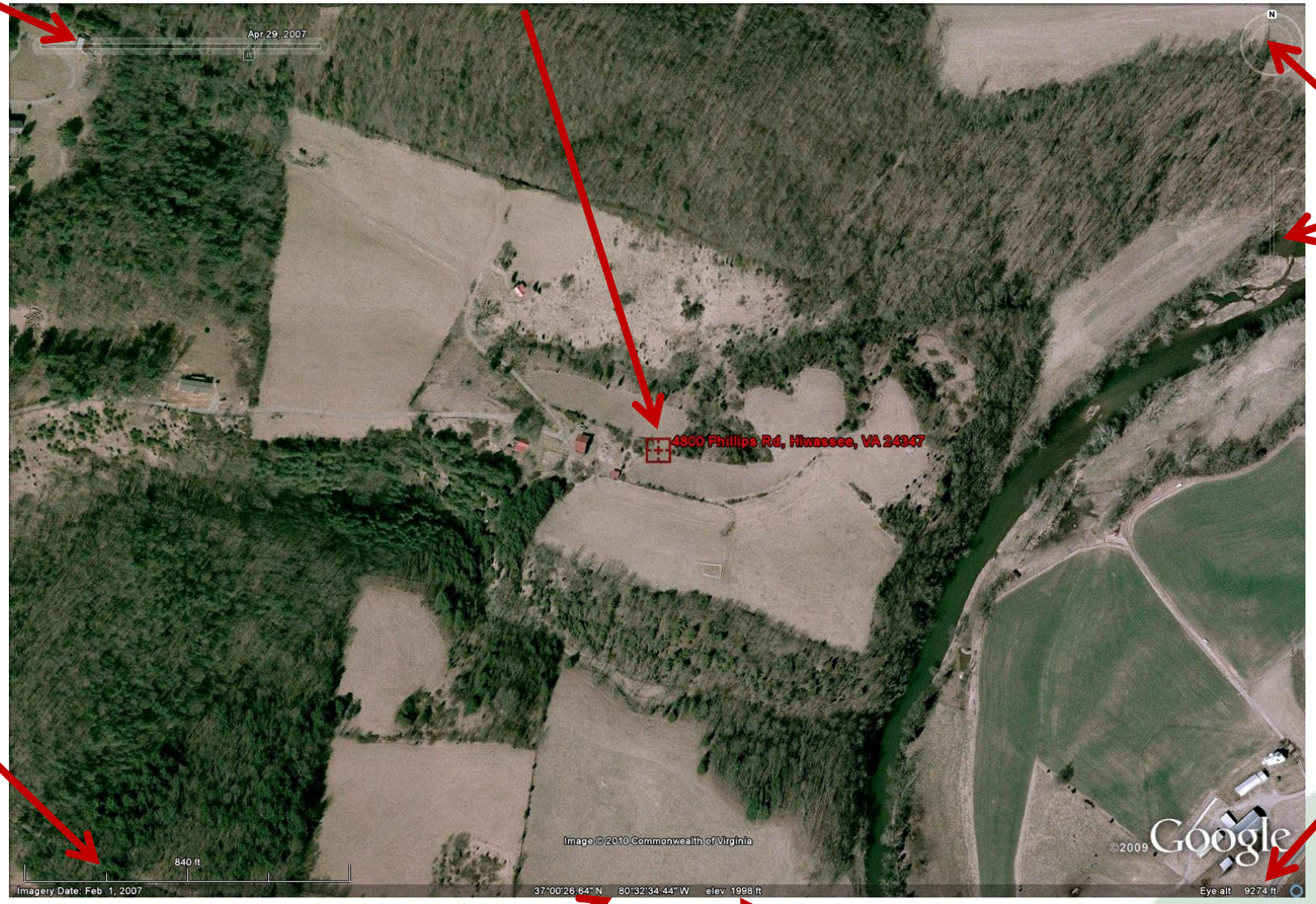
Historical photo slider bar

Property address



Navigation tools

Scale bar

Latitude and longitude

Elevation of a feature on photo

Elevation at which you are viewing the photo (changes as you zoom in/out)

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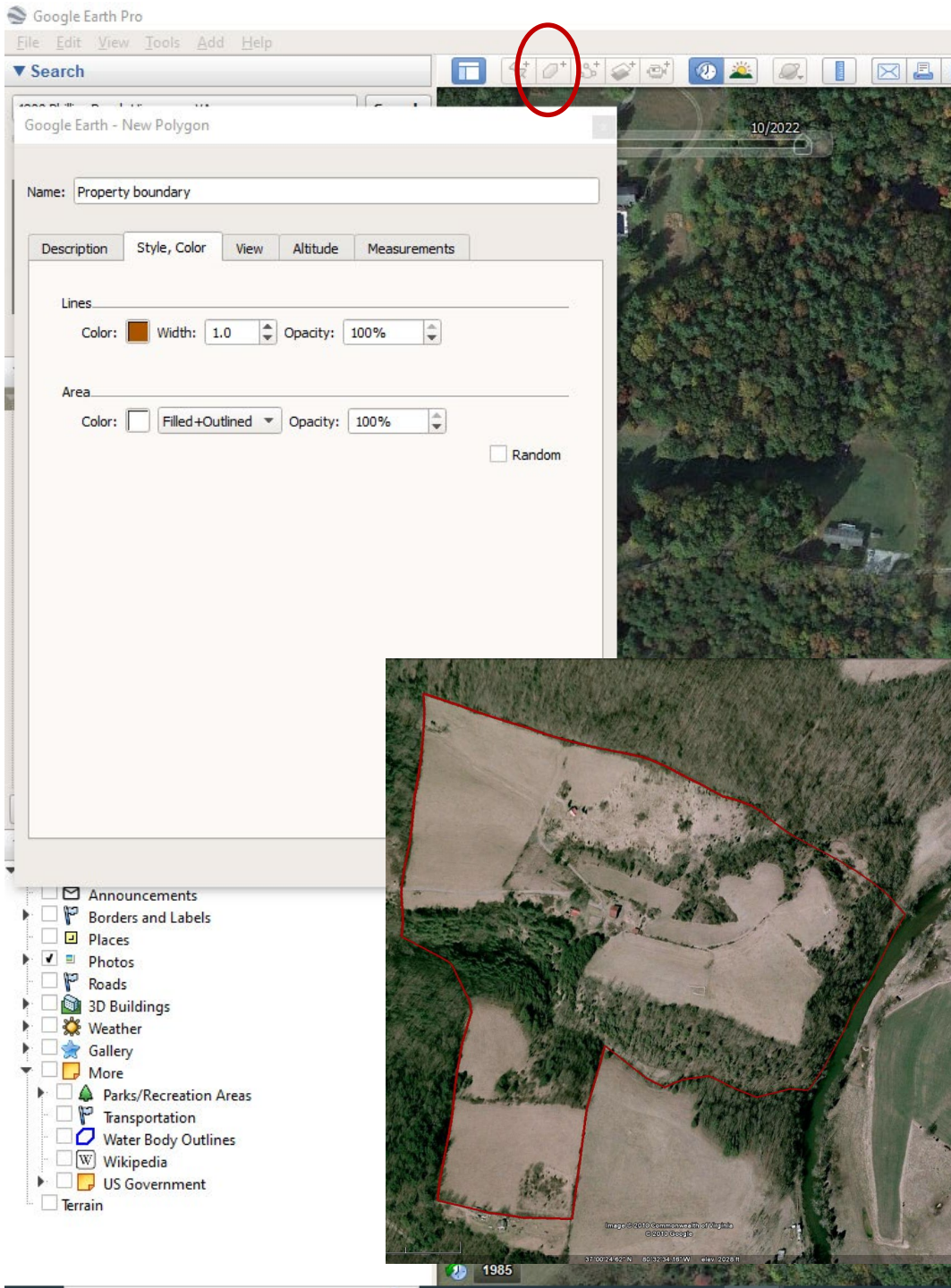
- In the Advanced Exercise for Module 4 you will be asked to delineate your property boundaries on a map
- You can print your GE Pro map (file-save-save image) and draw your boundaries
- Or, you can use the add polygon tool in GE Pro to draw your boundaries electronically
  - From the toolbar, click add, then polygon
  - In the menu box that opens you can customize the look of your polygon
  - While the menu box is open, use the cursor to draw your boundaries



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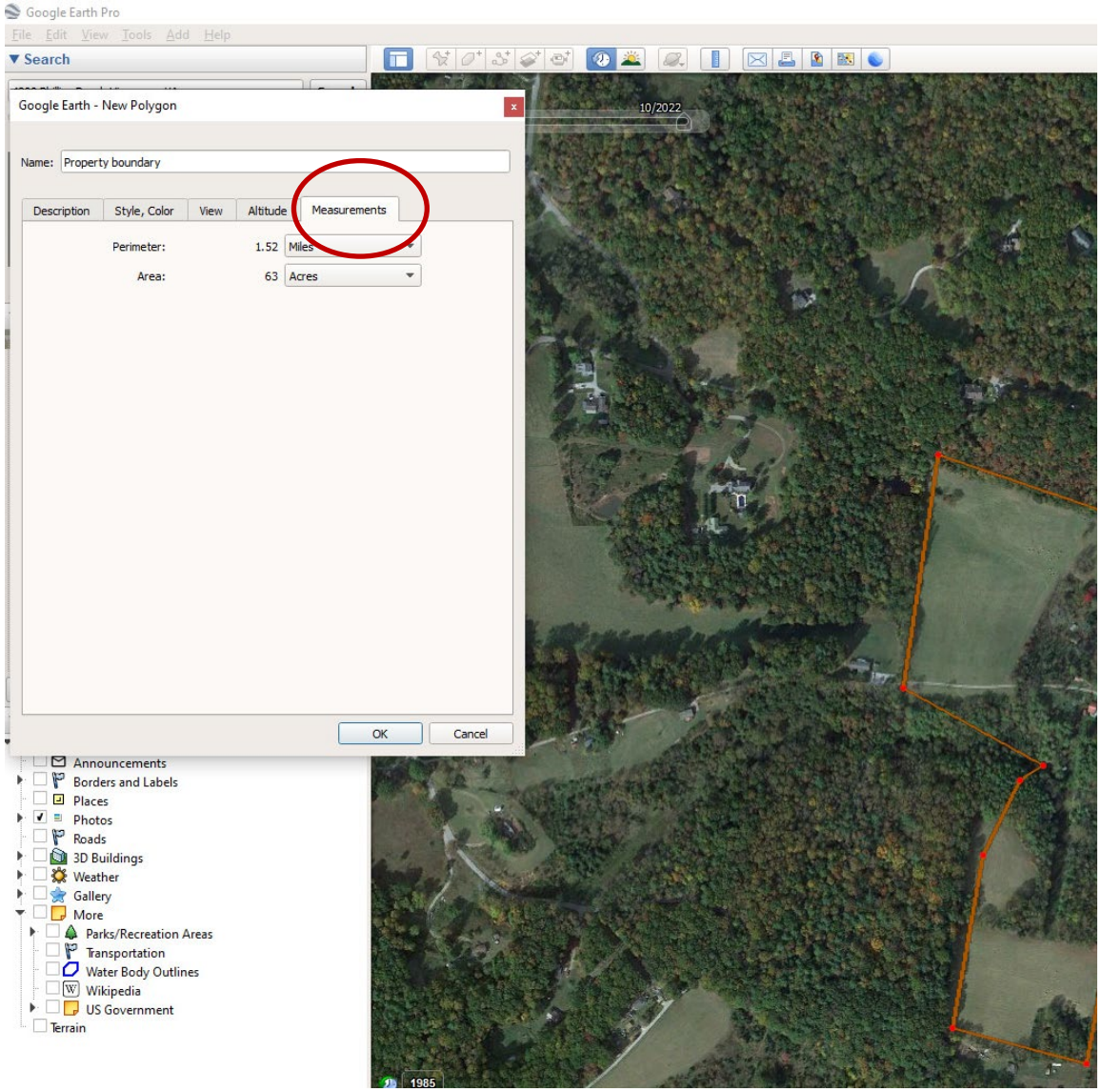
- One exciting feature of GE Pro is that you can calculate the area of your polygon
- In the add polygon tool, click the “Measurements” tab; select your measurement units of choice
- GE Pro will give you both perimeter distance and area.



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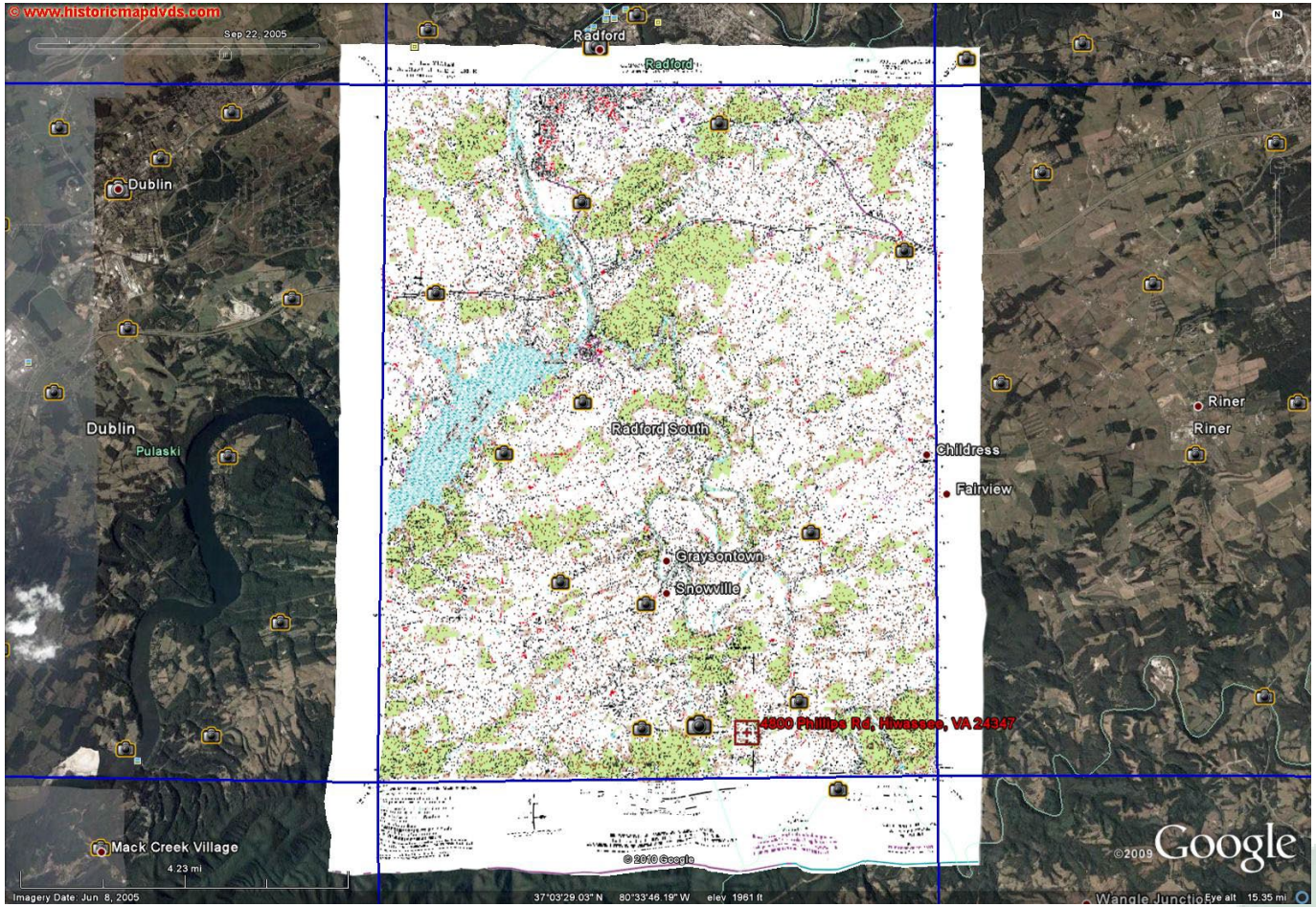
- A few words about scale…
  - One feature GE Pro does not have is the ability to specify a particular scale
  - We will discuss scale in detail in Module 4; and scale will be important for completing the Module 4 Advanced Exercise
  - You will learn how to determine the scale of your aerial photos in Module 4

GOOGLE EARTH PRO

- Another exciting feature in GE Pro is the availability of a USGS 7.5 topographic map layer
- This feature must be added into the software



To add the topo map layer, go to: http://www.earthpoint.us/TopoMap.aspx and click “View on Google Earth”. Note, you can increase the transparency of the topo map in Google Earth following the instructions on the Earth Point page.

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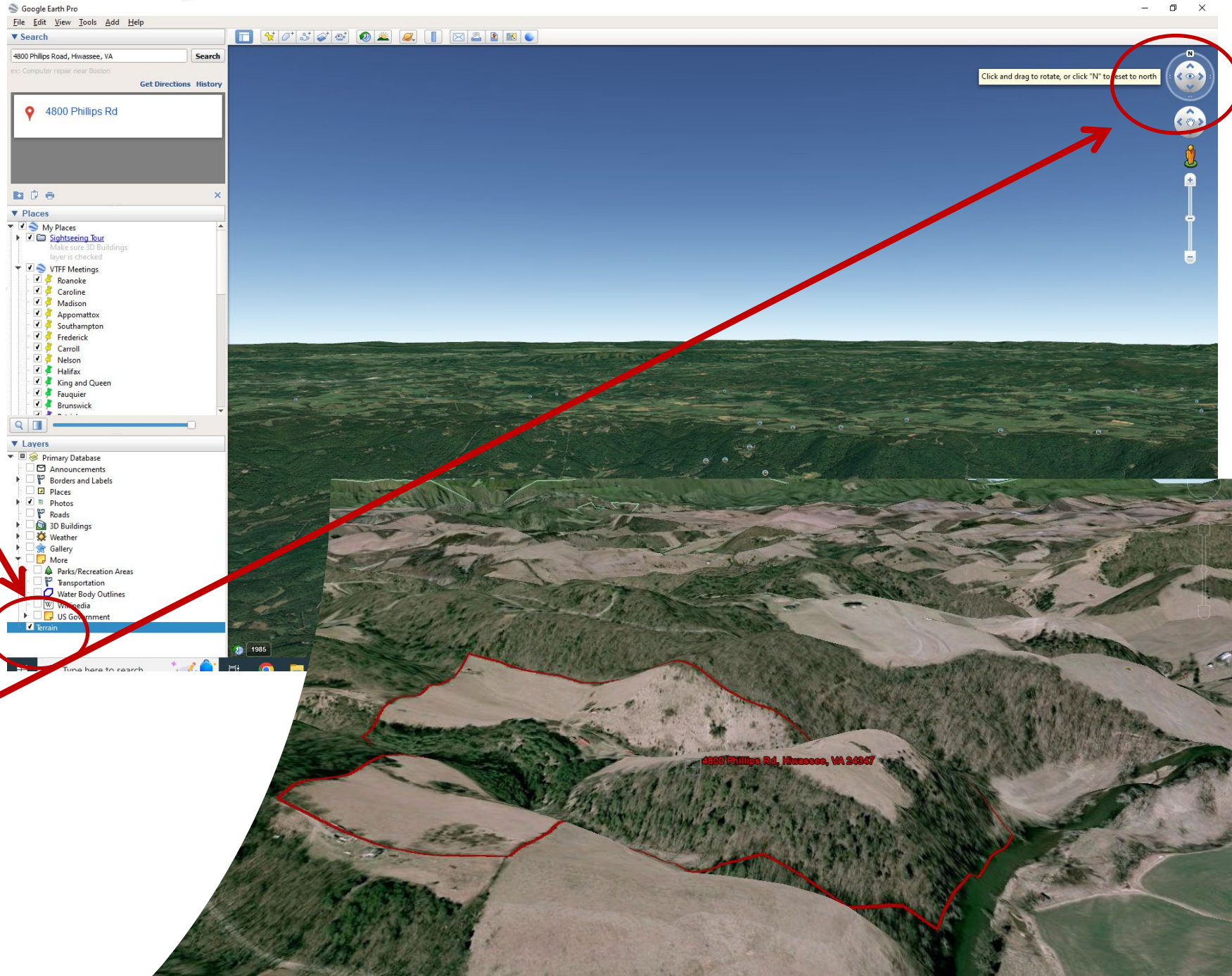
Terrain

- Check terrain in the layers menu
- Left click and hold on the up-arrow in the navigation tools



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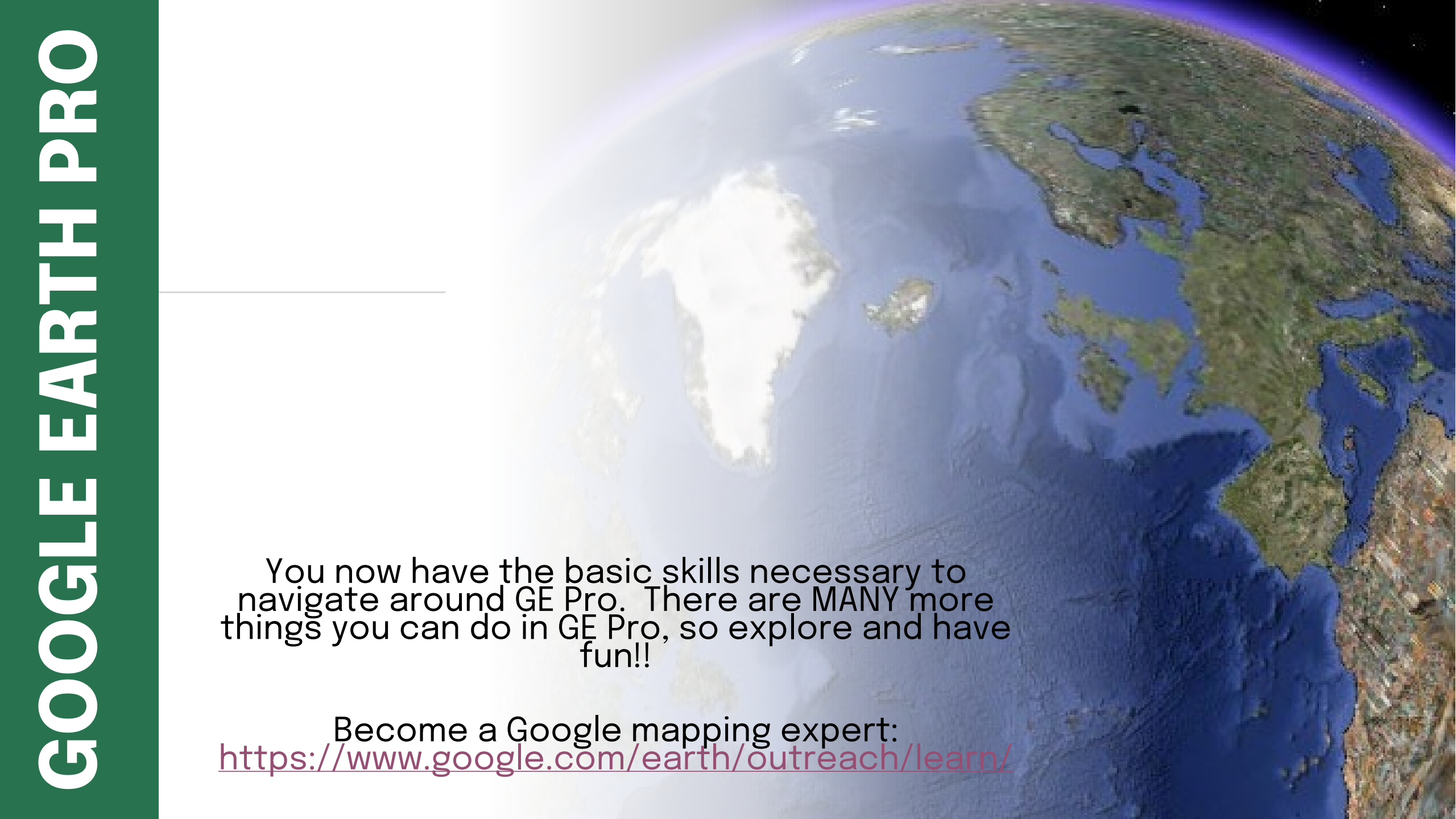

You now have the basic skills necessary to navigate around GE Pro. There are MANY more things you can do in GE Pro, so explore and have fun!!

Become a Google mapping expert:
https://www.google.com/earth/outreach/learn/

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