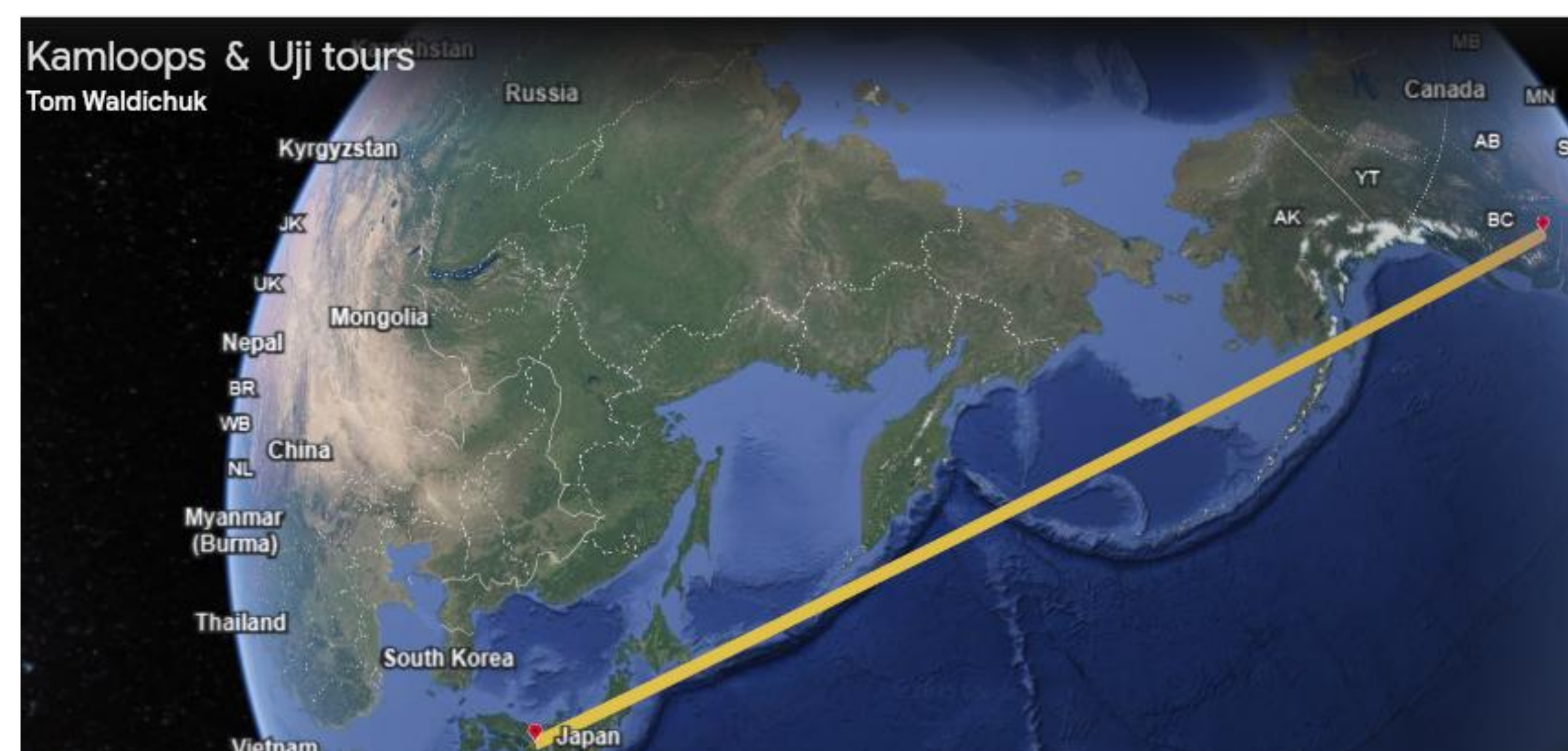


Using Google Earth to Engage Students with Global Geographic Knowledge

1. Introduction

- Google Earth Projects (tours) can increase student engagement with geographic knowledge at a global scale, e.g., McDaniel (2022)
- Examples from a Geography of Japan course & a directed studies course on South Sudan



Kamloops & Uji tours Using Google Earth

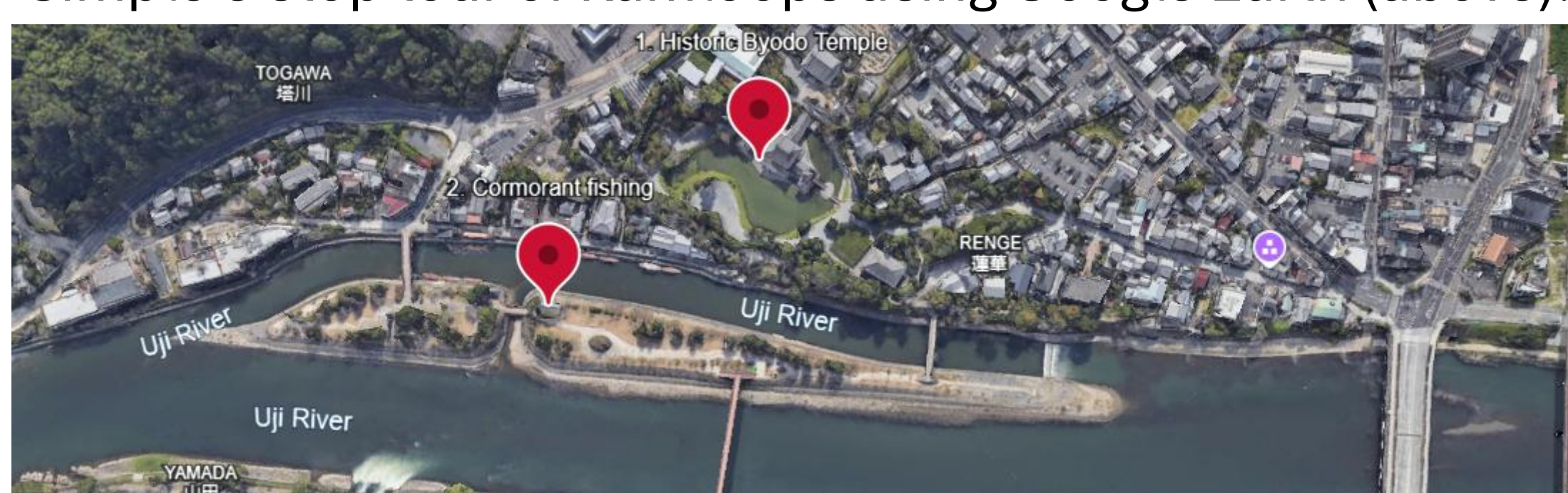
Source:
Google Earth. (2025). Kamloops & Uji tours, <https://earth.google.com/web/>

2. Geography 3900 Japan Fall 2022:

- Students created Google Earth tours about Kamloops
- Tours sent to students at Kyoto Bunkyo University (KBU) in Uji City, Japan
- Students at KBU sent TRU students tours about Uji City
- TRU students took Google Earth tours created by KBU students
- Students at KBU took the Kamloops tours
- Students from KBU met TRU students as a group online
- Some students from the Kamloops and Uji courses met in person when TRU Geog3700 field course was in Japan



Simple 3 stop tour of Kamloops using Google Earth (above).



Example of a 2 stop tour in Uji using Google Earth.

Thomas Waldichuk (Faculty of Arts – Geography & Environmental Studies),
Madelene Kajusa, M.Ed. student, Thompson Rivers University, Kamloops, BC CANADA



Meeting Uji students in a joint field trip in Uji, Japan. May 2023 (T. Waldichuk photo)

Impacts on students of the TRU-KBU Uji, Japan exchange:
- Enhanced students' geographic and inter-cultural learning

3. Geog4480 Directed Studies:

- Created regional geography of South Sudan courses
- Related to sustainable development goals
- Importance of water, education

Impact on Directed Studies student:

- Student was able to decolonize how she viewed places like South Sudan, which is in the Global South
- Realized the need to decolonize Canadian curriculum about South Sudan & Africa
- Student demonstrated that we are more globally connected than we think

4. Relation to TRU's learning outcomes

Geog3900 Japan & Geog4480 Directed Studies:

- Connection, e.g., working in teams
- Engagement, e.g., promoting life-long learning
- Exploration, acquiring knowledge,
- Local-to-global, e.g., intercultural awareness

5. Relation to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):

Geog4480 Directed Studies: Geography of South Sudan:

- Related to goals 1,4,5,6,13,15 & 17
- e.g., #4 Quality Education, comparing post-secondary education between South Sudan & Canada
- & #6, clean drinking water & sanitation for all, focusing on watersheds



Source:
(United Nations (2025))

6. Conclusion

- Google Earth images – foster connections & engagement
- Local to global exploration possible using Google Earth
- Many students do not have financial resources to travel between Canada and Japan, or between Canada and South Sudan
- SDG #4, quality education, is enhanced by Google Earth & promoted in TRU's Strategic International Plan, 2025-2035

List of References

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