Google SketchUp: Getting Started

Google SketchUp is a fun, easy-to-learn software program for exploring and communicating ideas in 3D. It allows students and educators to build 3D models which can be used to visualize and understand three-dimensional concepts pertaining to math, science, history, art, industrial technology, geography, geology, language arts and many others. A simplified set of modeling tools and an intuitive user interface allow most students to learn SketchUp in a couple of hours.

Learning Google SketchUp

Many learning resources exist for SketchUp, and all are free and available online.

**Video Tutorials**

Access the video tutorials online by choosing View Tutorials... in the SketchUp Help menu. We recommend that you start with the video called Quick Start: Video 1 and proceed from there. You can also access the Google SketchUp video tutorials on the web at: [http://sketchup.google.com/tutorials.html](http://sketchup.google.com/tutorials.html)

**Self-Paced Tutorials**

Self-paced tutorials are Google SketchUp files that offer a step-by-step, interactive approach to learning the software. These can be accessed by choosing Self-Paced Tutorials... in the SketchUp Help Menu.

**Help Center**

The Google SketchUp Help Center is an extensive website dedicated to answering questions about SketchUp in a user-friendly question and answer format. Access the Help Center online by choosing Help Center... in the SketchUp Help menu.

**User's Guide**

The SketchUp Online User's Guide is a very comprehensive, book-style learning resource. It can be accessed online by choosing Google SketchUp Help... in the SketchUp Help Menu.

**Quick Reference Card**

The SketchUp Quick Reference Card is a single-page, printable guide to SketchUp’s tool icons, modifier keys and mouse buttons. It’s a very handy way to quickly figure out “what everything does”. Access the Quick Reference Card by choosing Quick Reference... in the SketchUp Help menu.

**Google SketchUp Groups**

Google SketchUp Groups are online discussions about SketchUp, using SketchUp with Google Earth, and many other helpful topics. To reach the Google SketchUp Groups online, choose Google SketchUp Community... in the SketchUp Help menu.

**SketchUp Education Forum**

The SketchUp Education Forum is an online discussion similar to Google SketchUp Groups (above), but tailored specifically to the education community. The Education Forum is a great place to share lesson ideas and make contact with other members of the SketchUp educational community. Visit all of the SketchUp Forums, including the Education Forum, by visiting: [http://forum.sketchup.com](http://forum.sketchup.com)