

THE IMPACT OF EMPLOYING GOOGLE EARTH IN CITIZENSHIP AND SOCIAL STUDIES CLASSES ON THE ABILITY TO READ AND ANALYZE MAPS, AND ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF REFLECTIVE THINKING ABILITIES FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

IBRAHIM ABDULLAH ALHUMAIDAN
Associate Professor of Curriculum & Instruction
King Saud University

***ABSTRACT_** This study aimed to identify the impact of employing Google Earth program in citizenship and social studies classes on the ability to read and analyze maps, as well as on the development of reflective thinking abilities for first grade high school students in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. The first and the second research question focused on the impact of the employment of Google Earth program in citizenship and social studies classes on the ability to read and analyze maps. The third research question aimed to measure the impact of the employment of Google Earth program in citizenship and social studies classes on the development of reflective thinking abilities for first grade high school students. To achieve the objectives of the current study The researcher used the experimental design (quasi-experimental). In the end, the study revealed that there were statistically significant differences between the experimental group that studied using Google Earth, and the control group that studied in the traditional way in favor of the experimental group in both the skills to read and analyze maps, and the reflective thinking abilities. The study also revealed that there were statistically significant differences between the level of achievement between the experimental group students in pre and posttests in favor of the posttest in both the skills to read and analyze maps, and the reflective thinking abilities.*

***KEY WORDS:** Google Earth, reflective thinking, reading maps skill, analyzing map skill, teaching, social studies, high school.*