Section 3

Chapter 14 - From Videogames to Work: Interactive Languages and Three-Dimensional Environments as Reference Models in Tomorrow's Professions.

Exemplary case 2

Title: **Navigators and territorial simulators: Google Earth and Google expedition**

Description:

Navigation systems and simulation of the landscape such as *Google Maps* and *Google Earth* have determined a real revolution in our perception of the world, previously dominated by paper cartography. These digital maps are probably the most striking representation of the affirmation of virtual reality in our daily lives, as they represent a true "*digital twin*" of the world itself. They are therefore potentially useful in all professional activities and must be taught how to use them effectively at school.

Various ways of *gamification* of digital maps are possible. For example, use *Google street view* for a treasure hunt or to locate buildings in various cities. Students must follow certain clues and find hidden treasures on the planet. It is an excellent way to strengthen knowledge of physical and political geography. Very interesting is the mapping of UNESCO sites, which allows you to make trips to World Heritage sites. Since its launch in 2015, the *Google Expeditions* Virtual Reality education project has shown how extensive the potential of virtual reality is in the field of education. It's a technology designed to allow teachers to accompany students from a whole class to hundreds of places around the world, belonging to every age, with Virtual Reality, simply by wearing a viewer.

Google makes the system accessible to everyone, even outside of school, and free of charge. Thanks to the "Explorations" App, on the *Play Store* platform for Android, you simply need to insert your smartphone into the Cardboard or the Daydream View viewer for compatible *devices* to start one of the more than 600 *tours* available immediately. The *desktop* version of *Google Earth* also allows you to superimpose images on a map. It can be an excellent way to compare historical maps and current landscapes, or to compare the present condition with the future one, inserting the map of an urban intervention. You can also create a virtual trip and share it: the new version 2017 allows you to create virtual trips called "Voyages".