Curious World Maps

Key Features

- Fast, easy-to-use software solution
- Create all the still and animated maps you need in your own style
- Complete control over land and sea colors and textures, street and road styles, labels, fonts, place markers and so on
- Individual texture mapping region-by-region
- Accurate relief texturing and lighting
- Natural Earth Coloring option
- Add detailed satellite imagery for richer, more realistic and informative maps
- Includes highly detailed vector data for countries, regions, states, counties, towns, lakes, rivers, rail, major roads and ocean contours
- Over 500,000 built-in place names
- Integrate local street data
- Import detailed local terrain data
- Import overlay data from ESRI Shapefiles
- Unlimited overlaying of animated text, shapes, images and video
- Full support of international character sets
- 3D Export option: export genuine 3D maps models to Maya™, 3D Studio Max® and other 3D modeling packages
- 3D Map Animator option: produce spectacular 3D animated fly-throughs in near real-time, without recourse to a third-party 3D modeling package
- Broadcast quality – for television, HDTV, presentation or Web
- Runs on Windows NT®, 2000® or XP® or Mac OS®

The World in your Hands

Whether you use maps for story telling, information, training, presenting strategy or for visualization, Curious World Maps is the ideal solution for you. No other system combines the data handling and exploration tools of a truly professional geographic information system with the total creative control of broadcast-quality graphics production. No other system gives you the ability to animate so easily from the whole world down to a single street, combining gigabytes of built-in data with additional data and imagery of your choice. No other system lets you move so fluidly from a 2D map of anywhere in the world to a 3D fly-through, visualizing any terrain as if you were there, and presenting the results to a captivated audience.

Curious World Maps is the undisputed industry standard for broadcast. Turn on your TV anywhere in the world and you’ll see it in daily-use by the very best in the business: illustrating a breaking news story or weather forecast, integrated into a documentary, or accompanying web-based reporting. But it doesn’t stop there. Curious World Maps also has a fast-growing presence among the large corporates and government agencies where it has come into its own as a powerful presentation and visualization tool.

For map graphics that engage and inform your audience Curious World Maps is, quite simply, the best.

Where in the World?

You can create maps of absolutely anywhere, as often as you need.

Curious World Maps includes built-in vector databases of the whole world, comprising detailed outline data for countries, states and counties, over 500,000 place names, including towns, mountains and other physical features, rivers, lakes, major roads and rail networks. Genuine worldwide relief data from the US Geological Survey, natural earth color data and accurate ocean contour data are also integrated into the software.

You can enrich your maps still further with local data to produce highly detailed animated street maps. High-resolution local terrain data and aerial and satellite imagery can also be added, allowing you to really pinpoint the location of your story. It takes only minutes to create an animation from a spinning globe, zooming right down to a single building!

Setting the Style

The styles of the maps and animations are entirely customizable to fit your house look. Curious World Maps gives you complete control over land and sea colors and textures, highlighted regions, street and road style, use of terrain data, drop shadows, lighting, label styles, font place markers and so on.

You can create your own unique color schemes, or you can use Natural Earth Coloring and satellite imagery to create highly realistic ‘real world’ looks. All of these settings can be saved in a style template. When you want to create a map or animation, you simply select the style that you want to use, choose which details you wish to highlight on the map and go. There is no repeated design work, and consistency of look is achieved effortlessly.

You can even create different styles for different uses and switch from one to another at the touch of a button, without having to replicate any work. The software also includes a large number of preset styles, so that even the novice user can get going straight away.

“Buying Curious World Maps is the best decision MSNBC has made this year … On average, it can do the job of two people in about half the time – and the results are of much higher quality.”

Lori Neuhardt, Head of Graphics
MSNBC, New York
Multi-layered Animation

Curious World Maps is a sophisticated multi-layered animation environment. Everything is animatable using a full key frame system. Maps can be zoomed in or out, panned or rotated, place names can fade in and out, text can be written on, highlighted country or region colors faded and so on.

You can add any number of different layers, including images or movies (with or without alpha channel), video clips and text. Use the fully customizable and animatable shape overlays to further enhance your map, and better tell your story.

Animations can be output straight to video, or as movie files or sequences of images. Maps and animations can also be output in multiple formats without any repeated work – so a story produced for a TV news programme, for instance, can be reused instantly on a news Web site.

Editions and Options

To ensure a perfect match to your budget and map-making needs, Curious World Maps is available in various editions:

- **Local / Regional Edition**: Harnessing all of the creative power of Curious World Maps, Local Edition allows you to tell your stories with still and animated maps of extraordinary detail, with the simple constraint that maps are focused purely on your part of the world

- **Stills Edition**: Utilize the full creative power of Curious World Maps to make only still maps of anywhere in the world

- **Web Edition**: If your broadcast medium is confined to the Web, then Curious World Maps Web Edition with its limit on output resolution is ideal for display on the Web

- **World Maps Network**: Delivers the map-creating power of Curious World Maps Stills Edition across an entire network, giving everyone on a network the ability to make the best broadcast quality maps via a standard web browser.

Several options can be added to expand your map-making range:

- **Natural Earth Coloring**: Based on NASA’s 1km satellite mosaic of the whole world, the Natural Earth Coloring option adds a striking and beautiful level of realism to your maps

- **3D Export**: At the touch of a button, you can create and export fully textured genuine 3D relief models. The .obj files produced can be used in your favorite 3D modeling package

- **3D Map Animation**: Produce spectacular animated 3D fly-throughs in near real-time, without recourse to an external 3D modeling package

- **gFx**: Sophisticated and fully-featured, professional quality paint, roto and effects functionality for moving images in a very easy-to-use package.

### Recommended Technical Specification

**PC**
- OS: Windows NT 4.0, 2000 or XP
- Processor: Pentium IV 700Mhz+ (1Ghz+ recommended)
- Memory: 512Mb+
- Disk: At least 1.3Gb free (more space is required for rendered output)
- Graphics Card: 1280 x 1024 screen size
- Video Card: dpsReality™ or Matrox Digisuite™

**Mac**
- OS: Mac OS 9.1 or later, or Mac OS X
- Processor: G4 400Mhz+
- Memory: 512Mb+
- Disk: At least 1.3Gb free (more space is required for rendered output)
- Graphics Card: 1280 x 1024 screen size
- Video Card: Digital Voodoo

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**Curious Software**

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