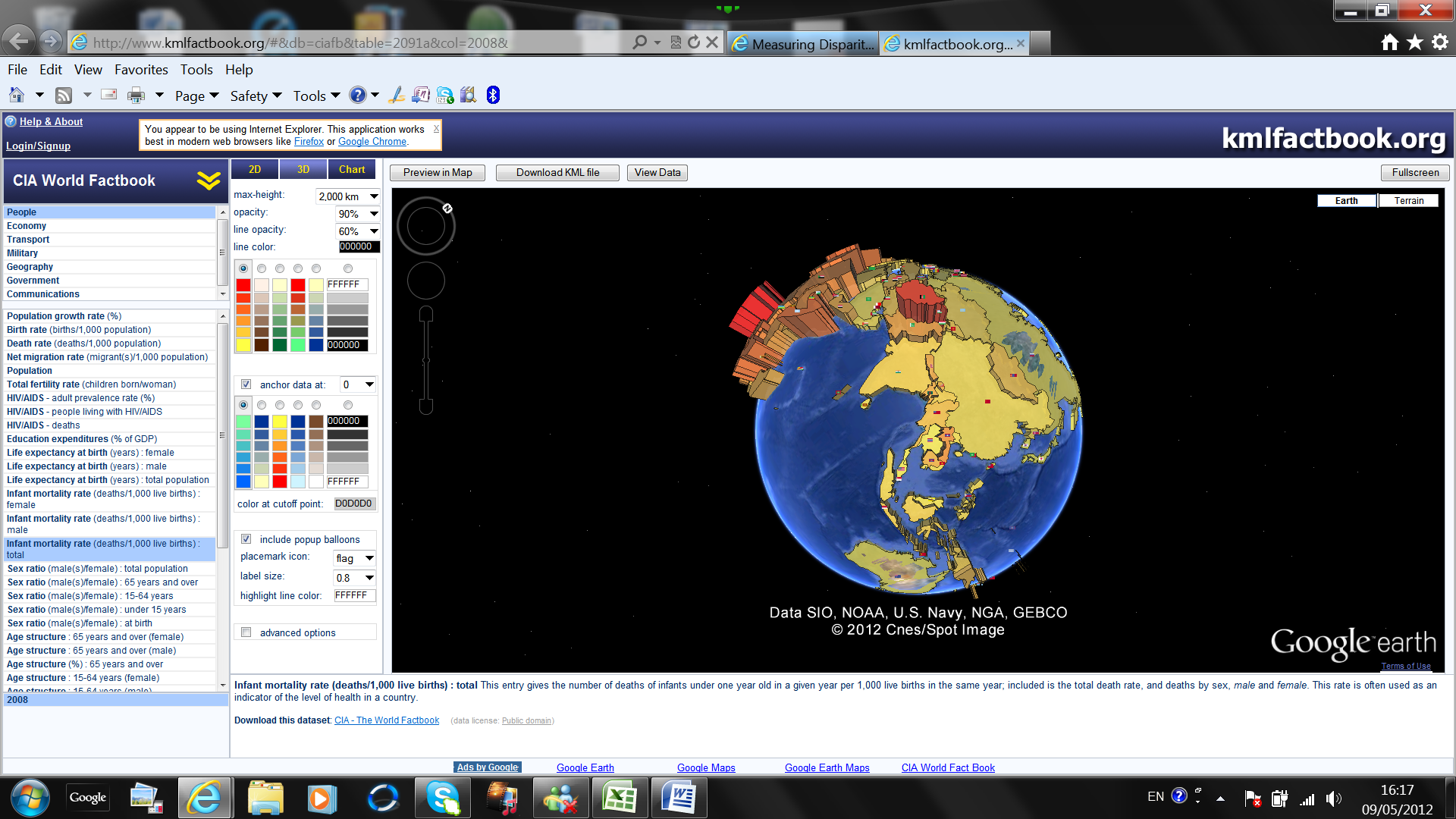
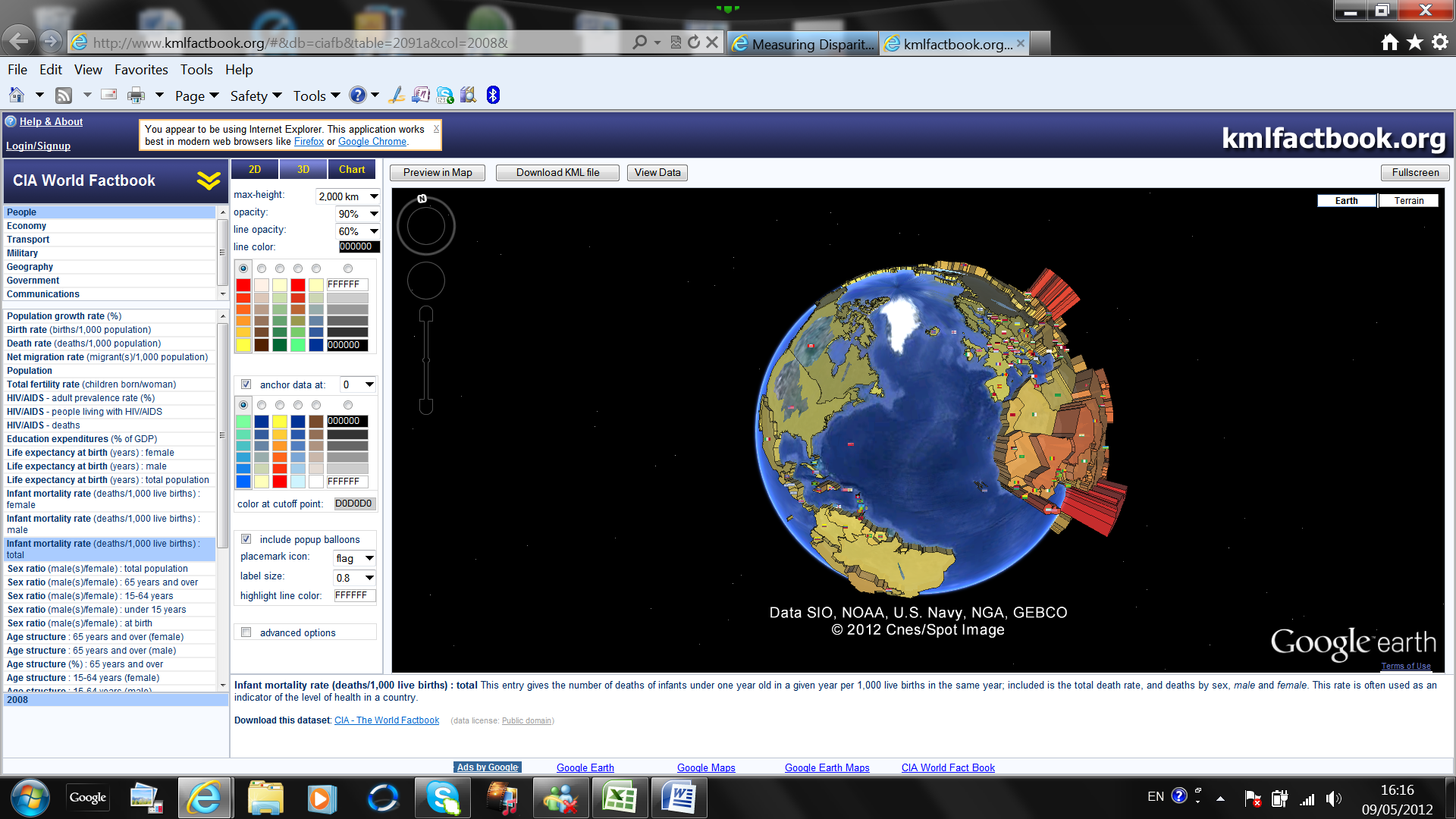
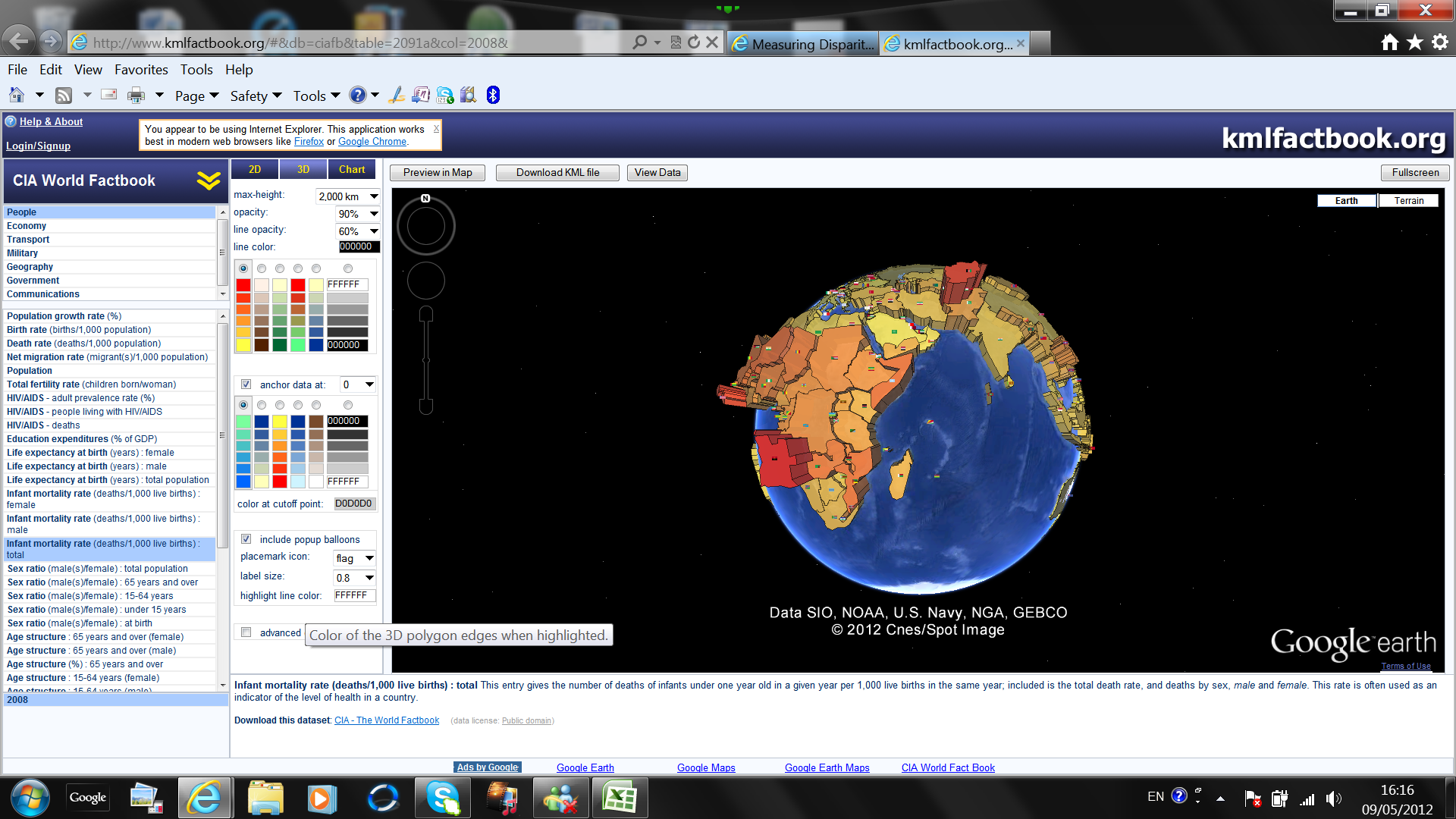
**Infant mortality rate (deaths/1,000 live births): total**

*This entry gives the number of deaths of infants under one year old in a given year per 1,000 live births in the same year; included is the total death rate, and deaths by sex, male and female. This rate is often used as an indicator of the level of health in a country.*



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| **Infant mortality rate (deaths/1,000 live births) : total** | | |
| 1 | Angola | 182.31 |
| 2 | Sierra Leone | 156.48 |
| 3 | Afghanistan | 154.67 |
| 200 | Singapore | 2.3 |

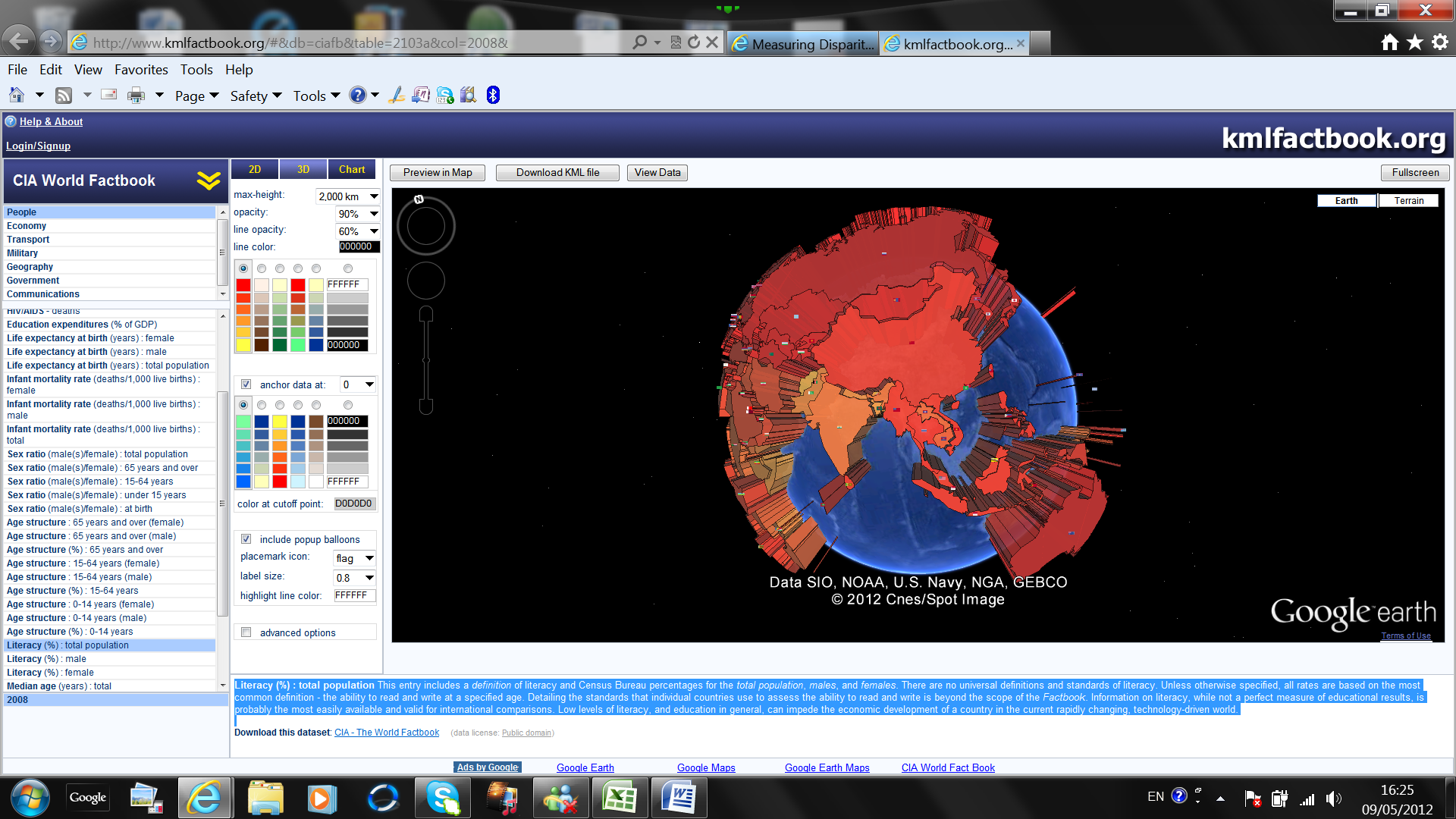
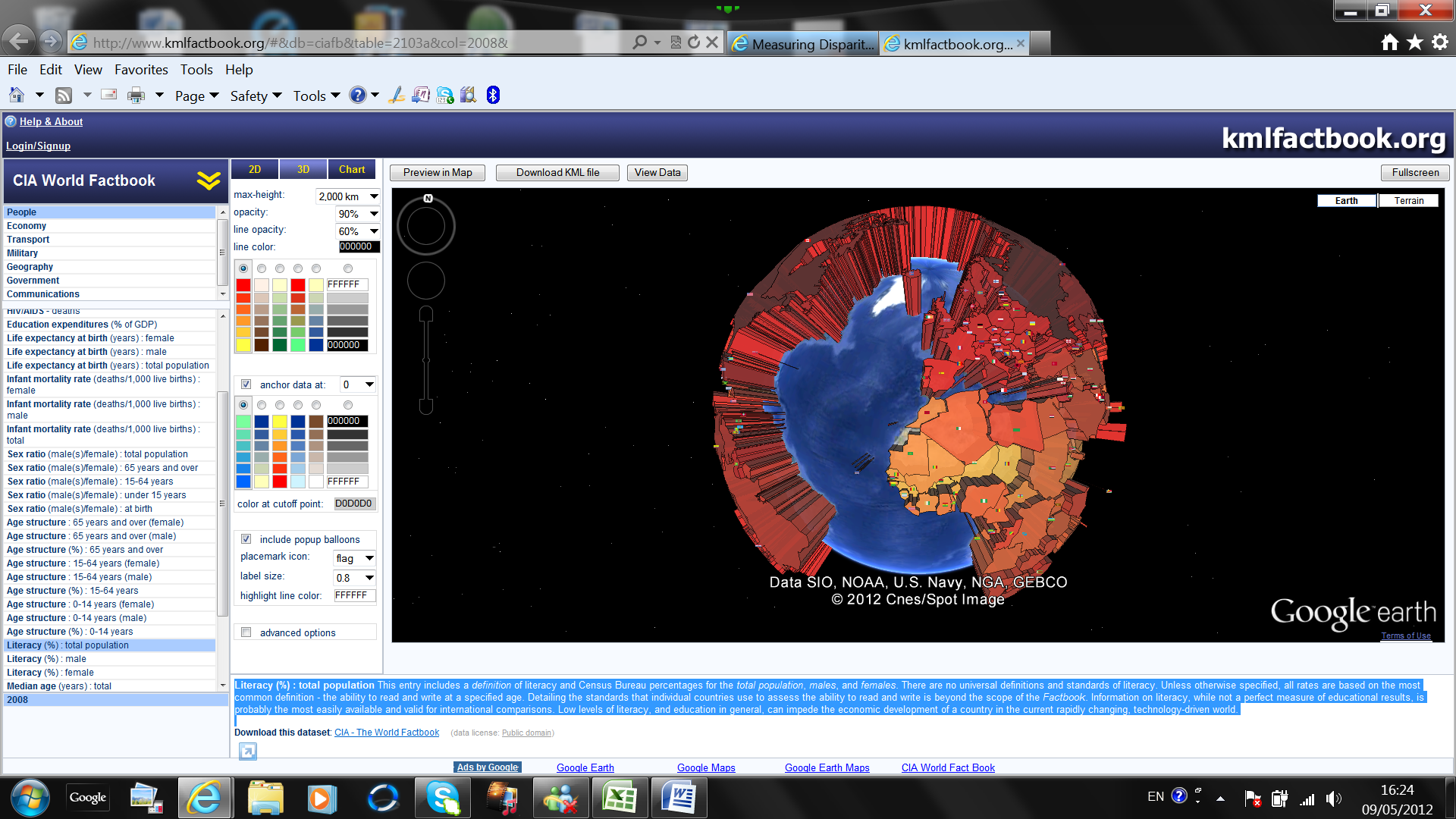
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| **IB Core Countries**  **India :** 46.07 deaths/1,000 live births  **China:** 15.62 deaths/1,000 live births  **Brazil:** 20.5 deaths/1,000 live births  **USA:** 5.98 deaths/1,000 live births  **France:** 3.37 deaths/1,000 live births  **Niger:** 109.98 deaths/1,000 live births  **Greece:** 4.92 deaths/1,000 live births |

**Analysis**

* The fact that Niger has the highest infant mortality rate out of the IB core countries is very predictable. Niger is an LEDC and exhibits one of the lowest global HDI ratings. Public Health in Niger suffers from a chronic lack of resources and a small number of health providers relative to population. Some medicines are in short supply or unavailable and because of this, many children die of young age. This level of healthcare also affects the general population too as the average male and female life expectancy is only 44.28 years. As a result of this high infant mortality rate, women give birth to many children. Niger has the highest birth rate in the world with 49.62 births/1000 people and the second higher total fertility rate of 7.29 births/women.
* On the other hand, France has the lowest infant mortality rate out of the IB core countries. This is because France has a very good health care system. In its 2000 assessment of world health care systems, the World Health Organization found that France provided the "best overall health care" in the world. In 2005, France spent 11.2% of GDP on health care, or US$3,926 per capita, a figure much higher than the average spent by countries in Europe. As a result, France has a fertility rate below the replacement rate: 1.98 births/women, and a birth rate of 12.73 births/1000 people. The average male and female life expectancy is 80.87.

**Literacy (%): total population**

*This entry includes a definition of literacy and Census Bureau percentages for the total population, males, and females. There are no universal definitions and standards of literacy. Unless otherwise specified, all rates are based on the most common definition - the ability to read and write at a specified age. Detailing the standards that individual countries use to assess the ability to read and write is beyond the scope of the Factbook. Information on literacy, while not a perfect measure of educational results, is probably the most easily available and valid for international comparisons. Low levels of literacy, and education in general, can impede the economic development of a country in the current rapidly changing, technology-driven world.*



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| **IB Core Countries**  **India : 61%**  **China:** 92.2%  **Brazil**: 88.6%  **USA:** 99%  **France:** 99%  **Niger:** 28.7%  **Greece:** 96% |

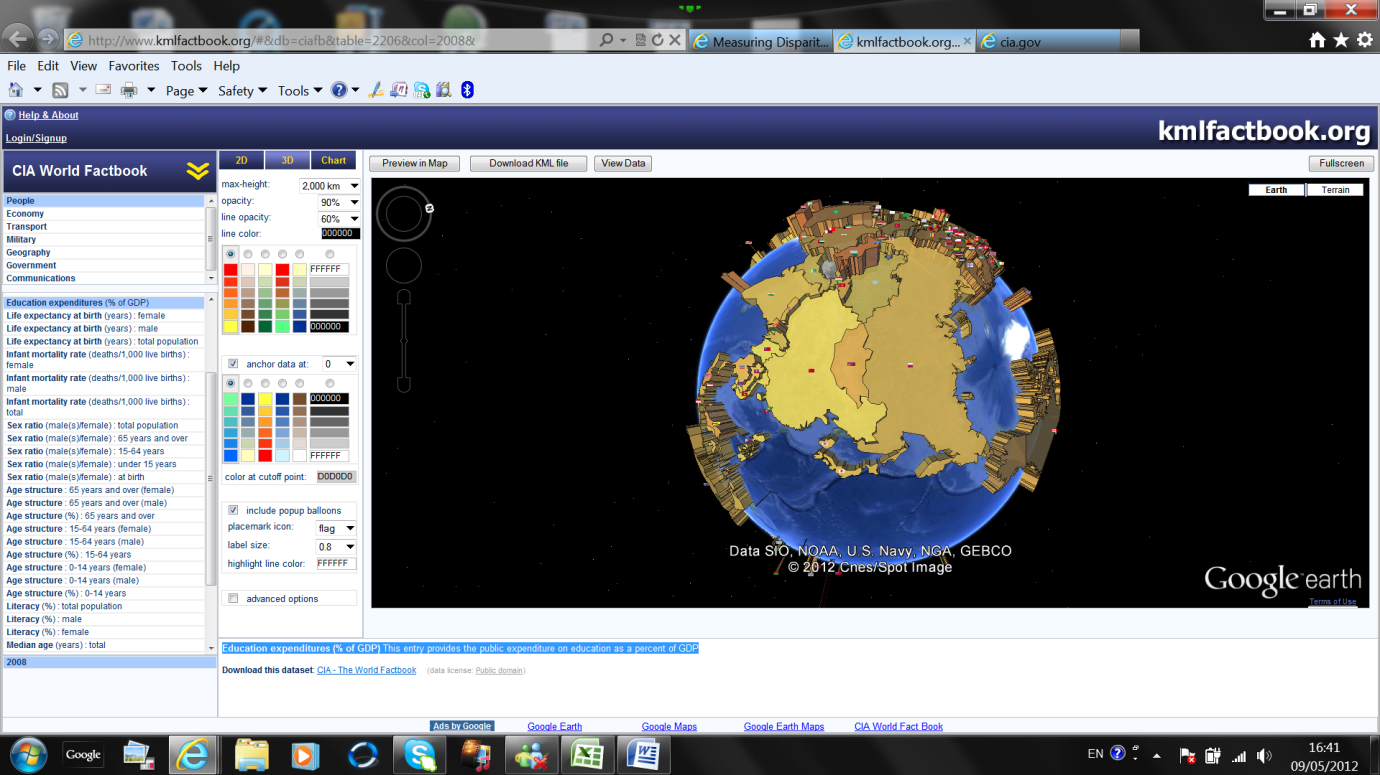
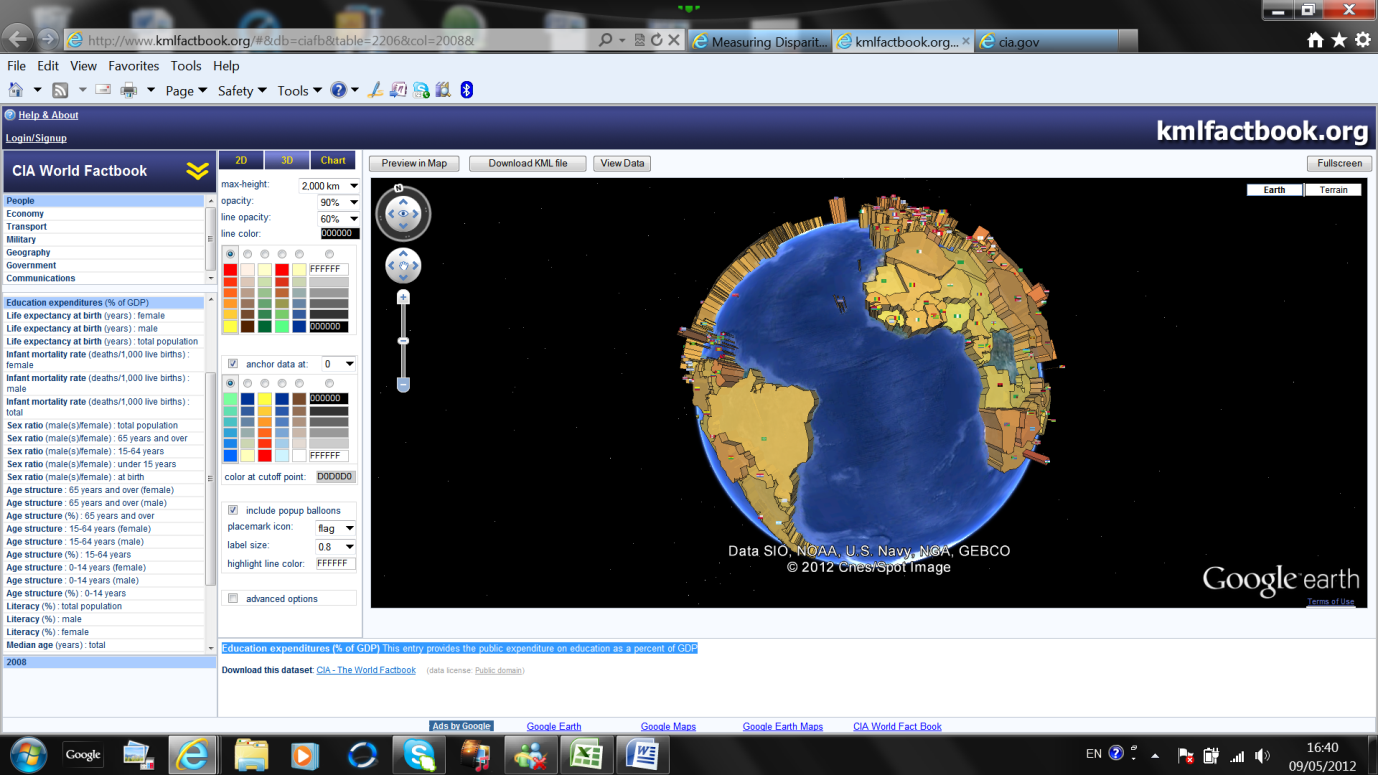
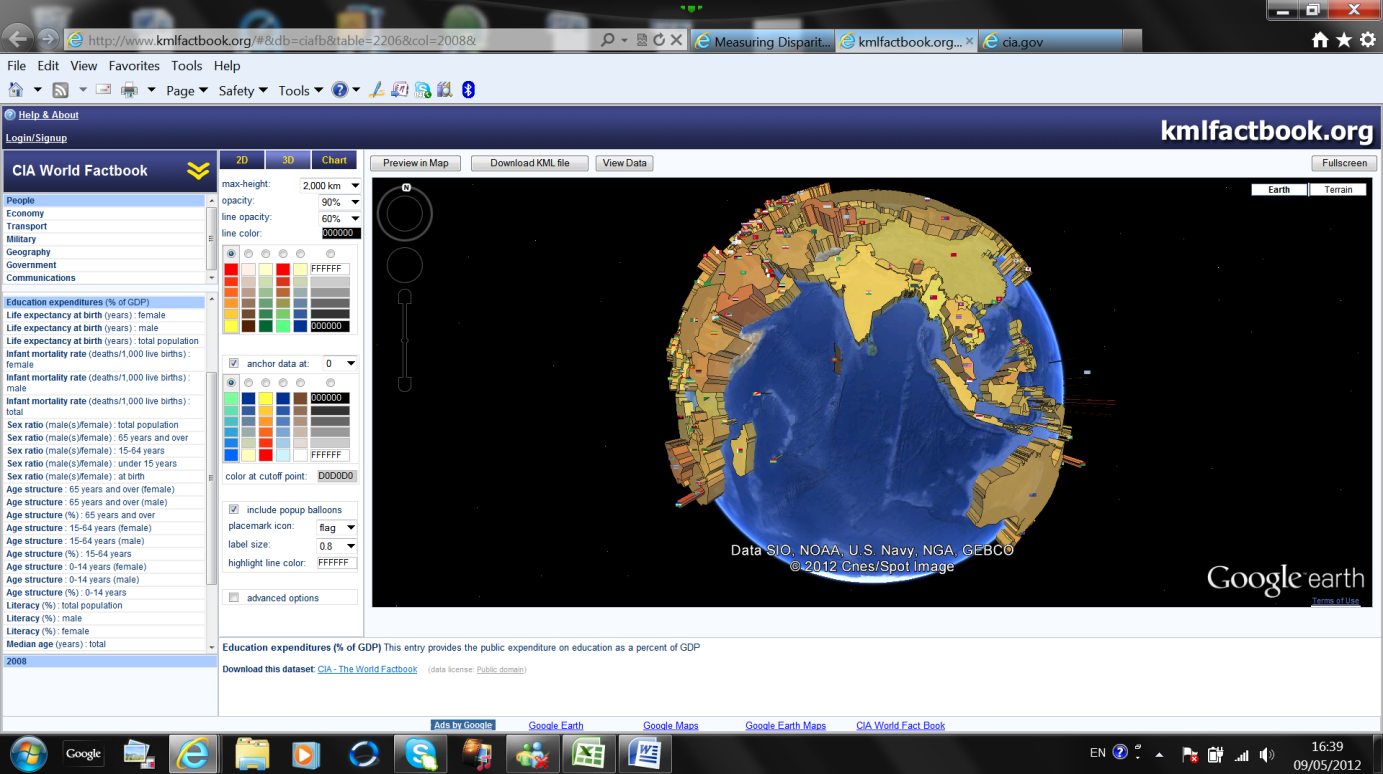
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| **Literacy (%) : total population** | |
| 1 | Andorra | 100 |
| 1 | Finland | 100 |
| 1 | Georgia | 100 |
| 1 | Greenland | 100 |
| 1 | Holy See (Vatican City) | 100 |
| 1 | Liechtenstein | 100 |
| 1 | Luxembourg | 100 |
| 1 | Norway | 100 |
| 196 | Burkina Faso | 21.8 |

**Analysis**

* France and USA have the highest literacy rates out of the IB core countries. 99% of the total population can read and write in both countries. The reason for this is because public education is universally available in these countries and is more advanced than less economically countries. They can afford school curricula, funding, teaching, employment, and other policies which are essential for the population’s education.
* Niger has one of the lowest literacy rates in the world. Only 28.7% of the population can read and write. Education in Niger, like that of other developing nations, faces challenges from poverty and poor access to schools. Some figures suggest that in 1997, the gross primary enrollment rate was 29.3 percent, and in 1996, the net primary enrollment rate was 24.5 percent.These attendance rates are very low. In addition, about 60% of children who finish primary schools are boys, as the majority of girls rarely attend school for more than a few years. Instead of attending school, children are often forced to work, particularly during planting or harvest periods. Traditionally, parents have been reluctant to send their children to school. In the 1960s, the government sent the army to rural villages to compel school attendance and villagers hid their children, fearful of what would happen to them. More recently parents have failed to register their children's births to avoid later school enrollment.

**Education expenditures (% of GDP)**

*This entry provides the public expenditure on education as a percent of GDP*



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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Education expenditures (% of GDP)** | | |
| 1 | Kiribati | 17.8 |
| **2** | **Lesotho** | **13** |
| 3 | Yemen | 9.6 |
| 174 | Equatorial Guinea | 0.6 |

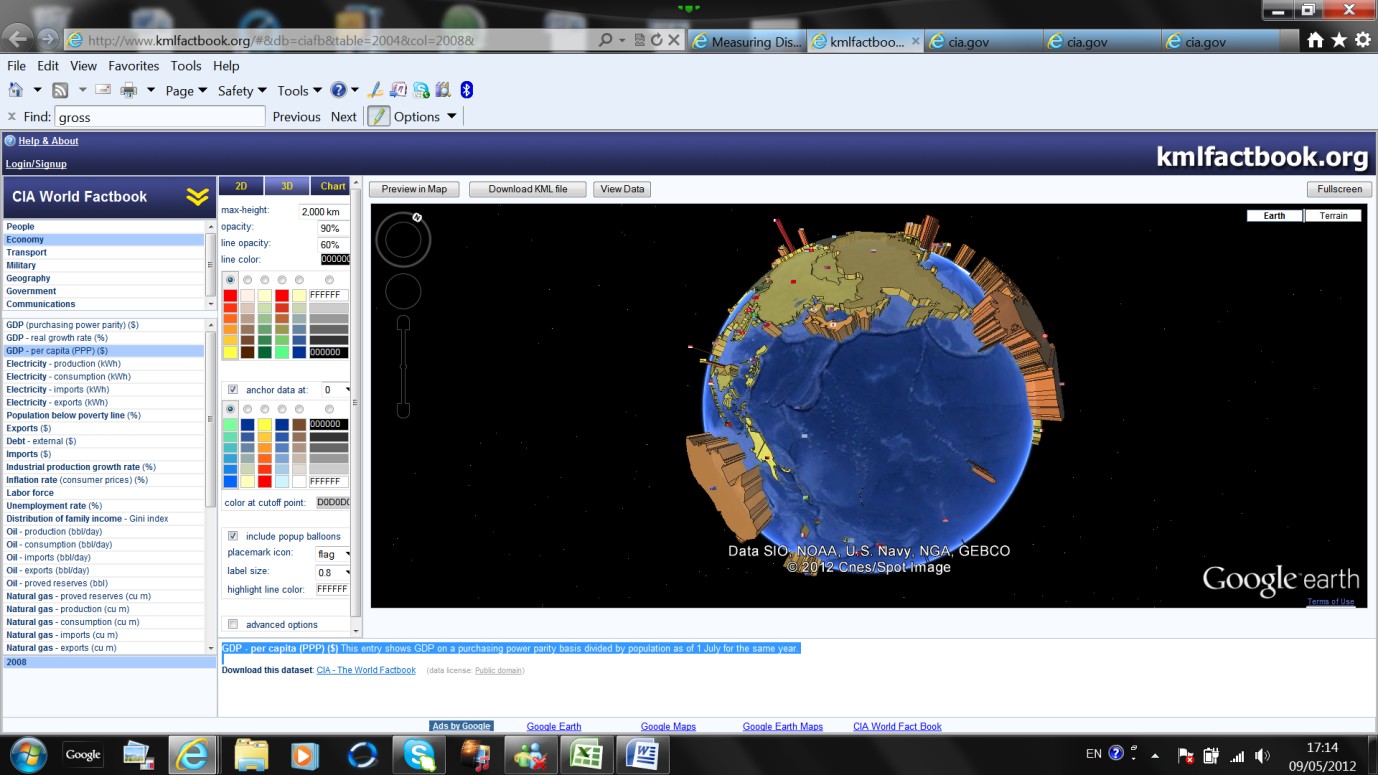
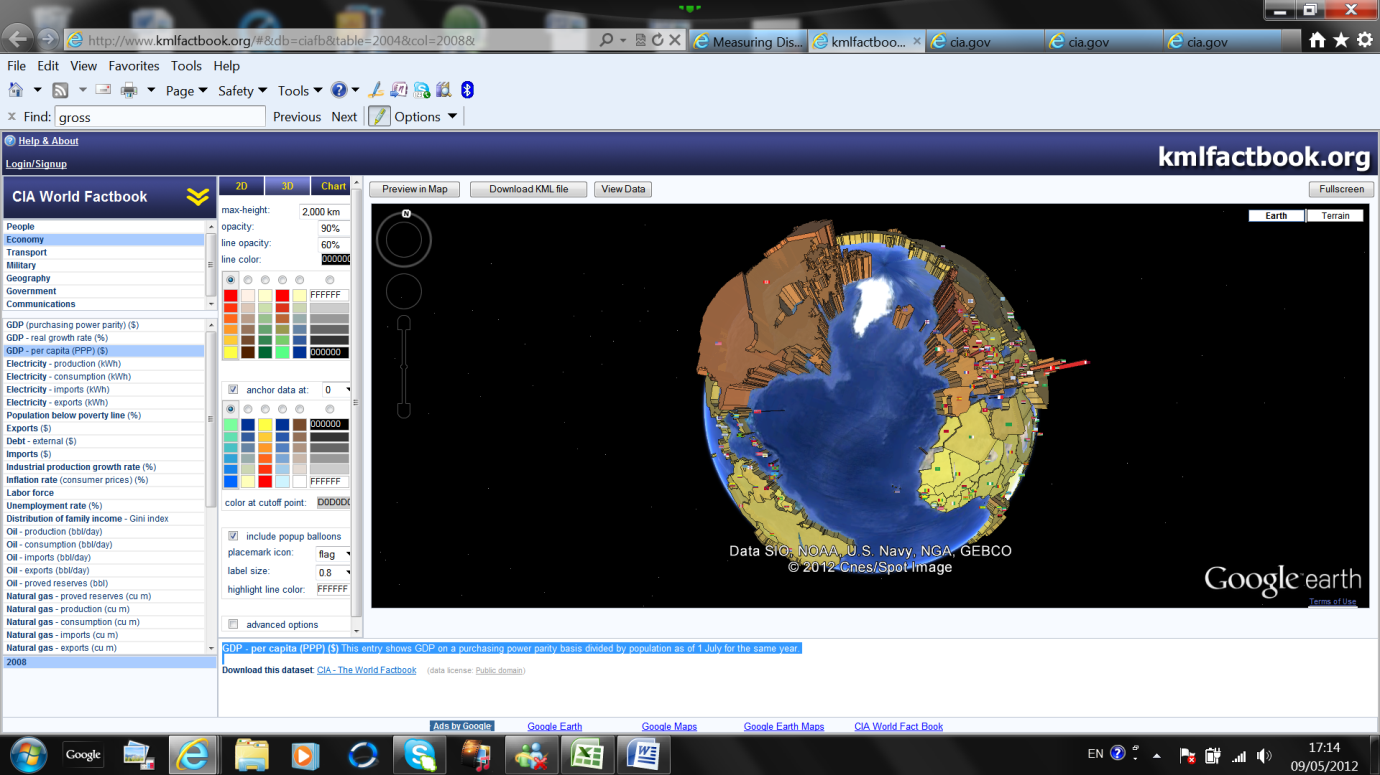
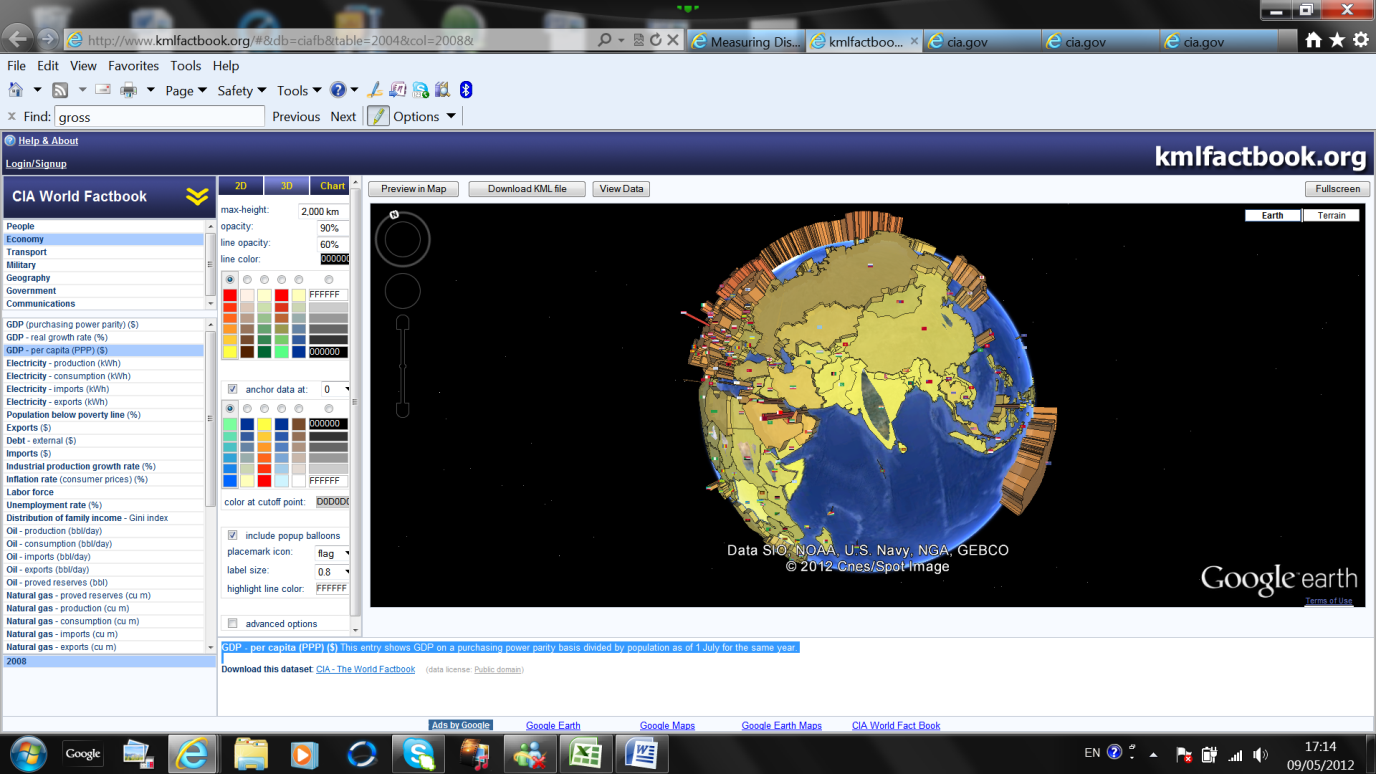
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| **IB Core Countries**  **India: 3.1% of GDP**  **China**: N/A  **Brazil:** 5% of GDP  **USA:** 5.5% of GDP  **France:** 5.6% of GDP  **Niger:** 4.5% of GDP  **Greece:** 4% of GDP |

**Analysis**

* France spends 5.6% of its GDP on education. This is the highest value out of the 7 IB core countries. Seeing as socialist Francois Hollande defeated the conservative Nicolas Sarkozy to become France's next president recently, this figure is likely to increase. Education will be one of Mr Hollande's top priorities and he says he will create more than 60000 jobs in the French national education system.
* India has the lowest educational expenditure. According to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), India has the lowest public expenditure on higher education per student in the world. In recent times, several major announcements were made for developing the poor state of affairs in education sector in India, the most notable ones being the National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP) of the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government. Two of these announcements are: (a) To progressively increase expenditure on education to around 6 percent of GDP. (b) To support this increase in expenditure on education, and to increase the quality of education, there would be an imposition of an education cess over all central government taxes. However, even after five years of implementation of NCMP, not much progress has been seen on this front and performance has definitely fallen short of expectations. Expenditure on education has steadily risen from 0.64% of GDP in 1951-52 to 2.31% in 1970-71 and thereafter reached the peak of 4.26% in 2000-01. However, it declined to 3.49% in 2004-05. There is a definite need to step up again.

**GDP - per capita (PPP) ($)**

*This entry shows GDP on a purchasing power parity basis divided by population as of 1 July for the same year.*



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| **GDP - per capita (PPP) ($)** | | |
| 1 | Qatar | 87,600 |
| 2 | Luxembourg | 79,400 |
| 3 | Bermuda | 69,900 |
| 202 | Zimbabwe | 200 |

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| **IB Core Countries**  **India: $3,700**  **China:** $8,400  **Brazil:** $11,600  **USA:** $48,100  **France:** $35,000  **Niger:** $800  **Greece:** $27,600 |

**Analysis**

* The United States has the highest GDP per capita in the IB core country list. It has a capitalist mixed economy, which is fueled by abundant natural resources, a well-developed infrastructure, and high productivity. According to the International Monetary Fund, the U.S. GDP of $15.1 trillion in 2011 constitutes 22% of the gross world product at market exchange rates and over 19% of the gross world product at purchasing power parity (PPP). The United States is the largest importer of goods and third largest exporter. The U.S. dollar is the world's primary reserve currency too.
* Niger has the lowest GDP per capita value. Much of this GDP is explained through the export of uranium. Economic activity also centres on subsistence agriculture, animal husbandry, and re-export trade. The government relies on bilateral and multilateral aid for operating expenses and public investment too. Short-term prospects depend on the World Bank and IMF debt relief and extended aid.