HANDOUT – GETTING STARTED WITH QGIS

INTRODUCTION

This handout details the steps necessary to open QGIS, save a new project, and install the MapTiler plugin.

OUTLINE

To jump to a page, click the section.

1.	Opening QGIS and Saving a New Project	2
2.	Installing the MapTiler Plugin	5



1. OPENING QGIS AND SAVING A NEW PROJECT

1.1. Launch QGIS

- Search for "QGIS" in your applications and select "QGIS Desktop 3.16.14"
 - This interface varies slightly depending on your operating system
 - If you are using Windows: utilize the search bar on the left side of your taskbar; if you do not see this, press the Windows key on your keyboard and begin typing "QGIS"
 - If you are using macOS: open the finder, select applications, and locate QGIS; alternatively, press **Command** and **Space** on your keyboard and being typing "QGIS"
- You will arrive at the QGIS landing page (*Figure 1*)
 - Landing page contents may vary (e.g., you may not see News or the Processing Toolbox)

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1.2. Open a New Project

- There are several different options for how you can open/start a new project (*Figure 2*):
 - Option 1: Double click on New Empty Project in the Project Templates window
 - Option 2: Select New Project from the Project Toolbar
 - Option 3: Select **Project > New**
 - Option 4: Press Control and N on the keyboard

Figure 2: Opening a New Project Q Untitled Project — QGIS 👻 🤄 👻 🗖 🗸 📕 MapTiler Geoco. D 🚺 6 X cessing Toolbox News . 18 ≪s ▼ % + 18 18 12 ° 🔺 🍝 🕓 🖹 I 🤛 🔦 0
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1.3. Save a Project

- There are several different options for saving a project (Figure 3):
 - Option 1: Select Save Project
 - Option 2: Select **Project > Save As**
 - Option 3: Press Control and S on the keyboard
- In the dialog box, navigate to your desired destination and select Save
 - Static filepaths (i.e., unchanging file locations) are critical
 - GIS do not contain data in the manner you may be used to; for example, while you can copy and paste a picture into powerpoint without worrying if that picture is event stored on your computer, in GIS you are showing the program where that data lives and it references it every time you open the project file or manipulate that data
 - When you start a new project, you should create a singular location to store both the project file and all of its associated data
 - Course materials are packaged in a manner that will facilitate this; we recommend saving your work related to each exercise within that module's folder







2. INSTALLING THE MAPTILER PLUGIN

2.1. Open the Plugin Manager

• Click on Plugins > Manage and Install Plugins (Figure 4)

Figure 4: Opening the Plugin Manager



2.2. Install MapTiler

- Search for "MapTiler", select the plugin, and select Install Plugin (Figure 5)
 - After it finishes, close the Plugin Manager
- You will now see the plugin in your Browser Panel (*Figure 6*)
 - You may need to scroll down or enlarge the Browser Panel in order to see it at the bottom of the list.



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Figure 6: MapTiler Plugin Highlighted in the Browser Panel





2.3. Add an Access Key

- Right click on the MapTiler plugin in the Browser Panel and select Account
- Follow the link in the dialog (<u>https://maptiler.link/qgiskeys</u>) and create an account
- Obtain your Access Key:
 - 1. Select Account
 - 2. Select API Keys
 - 3. Copy the Access Key (Figure 7)
- **Paste** the Access Key into the QGIS dialog (*Figure 8*)
 - Select OK

Figure 7: Obtaining an Access Key

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Figure 8: Adding an Access Key

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Access key for MapTiler Cloud is required. Get a FREE key at <u>https://maptiler.link/ggiskeys</u>			
✓ Use vector tiles by default (requires QGIS 3.14+)			
Read more about this plugin.			
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