<https://developers.google.com/maps/documentation/embed/get-api-key>

Retrieving an API key ^^^^

The Google Maps Platform is a set of APIs (Application Programming Interfaces) and SDKs (Software Development Kits) that allow developers to embed Google Maps into mobile apps and web pages, or to retrieve data from Google Maps.

We can use the API picker on the website to decide which API is appropriate for what we’re making:

<https://developers.google.com/maps/documentation/api-picker>

Once we have decided which API is suitable, we can look at the associated Overview, Developer and Get Started guides.

**Why is my quota limit set to 1 request per day? How can I raise this limit?**

If you have not created and attached a billing account to your project, your Maps Platform APIs will be limited to 1 request per day. You can get higher quota by creating and attaching a billing account. To do this, see [Get Started with Google Maps Platform](https://developers.google.com/maps/gmp-get-started).

Once you have created and attached a billing account, your daily quota limit will be removed. You can decide to [set a limit to prevent unexpected spend, in the Google Cloud Platform Console](https://developers.google.com/maps/faq#usage_cap).

^^^ Found this in the FAQs, so will probably have to pay a smallish fee to use it.

**Roads** and [**Geolocation**](https://www.ancoris.com/3-reasons-to-add-geomarketing-to-your-mobile-apps) let you more accurately plot where users are or where they've been. The Roads API will snap from tracked GPS coordinates to the nearest road – so you don't tell users they're standing in the middle of a nearby river – while Geolocation uses WiFi, celltower and beacon signals to get a fix on the user's position if they're in a "GPS blackspot", such as the centre of a city with many skyscrapers.

^^^^ Found this paragraph that states a use of Google Maps API which is relevant to our project <https://www.ancoris.com/blog/do-more-with-google-maps-apis>

**Data layers**, incorporated into the core APIs, let you overlay your own data on the map. You can track staff, vehicles or parcels while they're on the move, get heatmaps of everything from insurance claims to property sales, or allow your customers to compare their utility costs to their neighbours'.

^^^^ this paragraph also sounds interesting in case we want to snazz the project up in some way

<https://www.logicdesign.co.uk/blog/google-maps-api-now-paid-service/>

^^^^^ The link to this website explains that Google Maps API switched to a pay-as-you-go service in June 2018

A free alternative we could use instead of Google Maps API is MapBox

Works with JavaScript and seems to do everything that Google Maps does. I can’t find an article that specifically says that you can create a mapping of someone’s route unlike on Google Maps API but it does explicitly say that you can track someone’s location. Could be worth looking into as it’s free.