

PowerSearchingWithGoogle.com

Lesson 4.1: Search by image

[Access Lesson 4.1 slides here](#)

Contents:

Search by image: drag and drop, upload or enter URL

Welcome to class 4! In class 4 we have a series of lessons that will show you some more advanced methods. If you've made it this far in the class, congratulations, you're already in the top two or three percent of all searchers worldwide. In particular, we're going to start off with search by image. Now you know how to search for images; you type in some keywords, you find some images, great, but what if you have the opposite problem? I have a picture, now how do I search for that? You could guess all the words and try to get it that way, but this is a much better way. I'll show you, so here for example I have this picture of a lobster and the question is where does this come from? What is it? Why do I have it? How would you do that?

4.1: Search-by-image



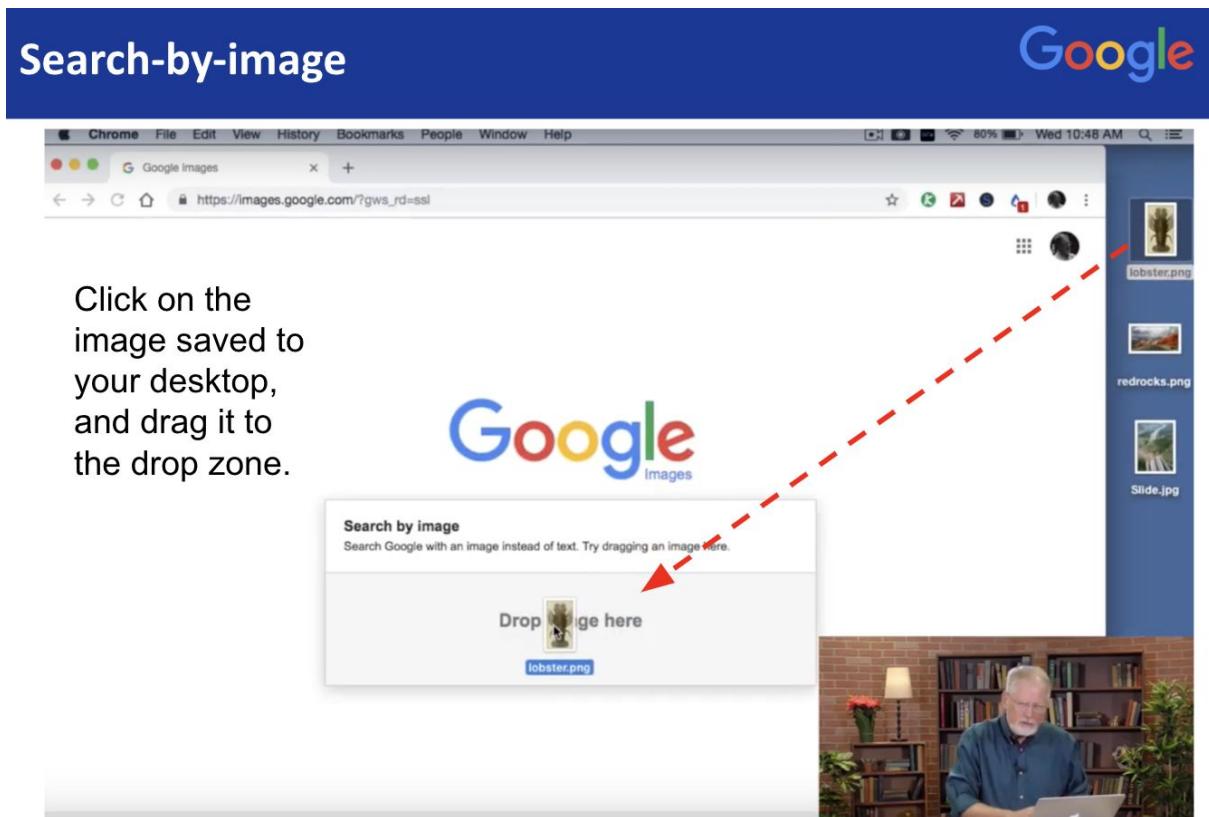
- Suppose you have an image...

... how can you figure out what it is?



The answer is you would use search by image and this is the way you do it. Here we are on images.Google.com and what I can do now is to search for that image. So as you can see in the upper right corner I actually have that picture of the

lobster on my desktop so what I can do here if I'm in images.Google.com is drag, click and drag that picture into the drop zone.



There, see that and let go of it, release. It uploads the file and then tells Google, start searching for images like this. Now what you see here is it's guessing the best possible interpretation of that and it says New York Public Library. Why would that be? It's obviously not a library, but if you scroll down you'll see that in fact it's probably held in the public library of New York because it says the New York Public Library plates free public domain images.

Pages that include matching images

[The New York Public Library Plates Free Public Domain Vintage ...](#)

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400 × 541 - Download premium images of a selection of thousands of public domain images from the new york public library. find rare items that you've never seen before.

[The New York Public Library Plates Free Public Domain Vintage ...](#)

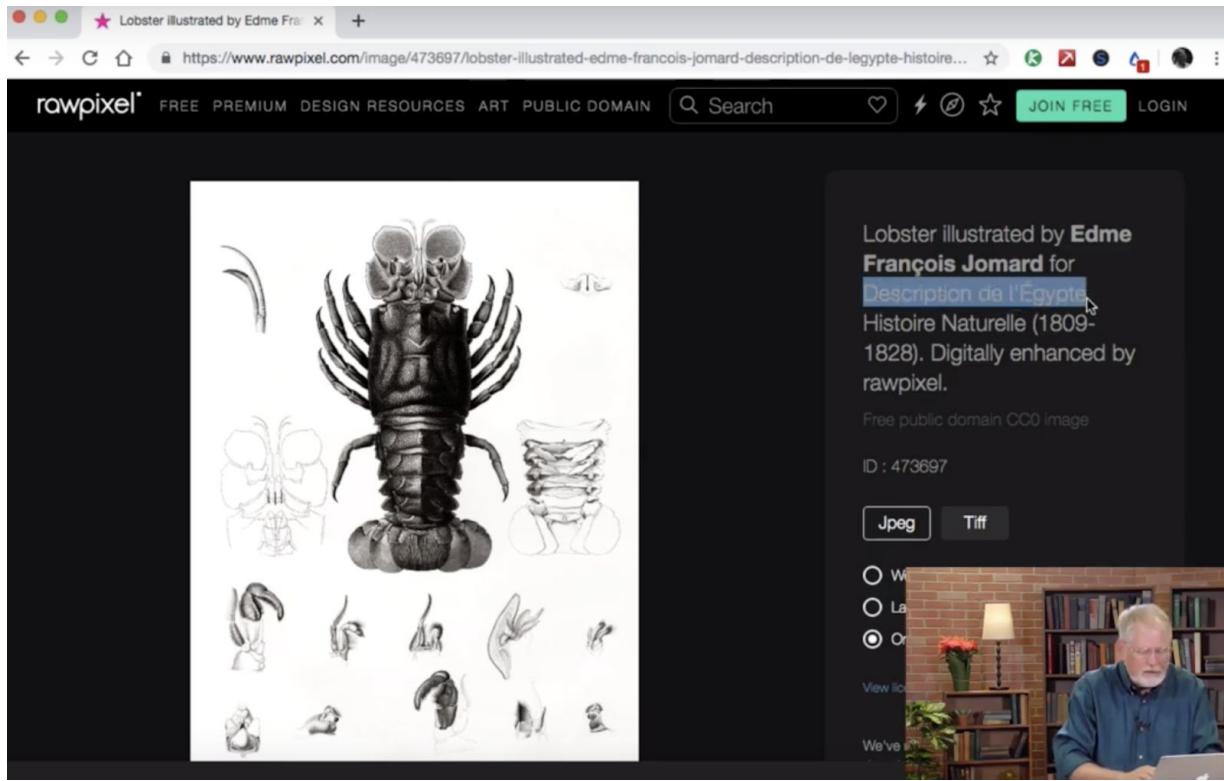
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Click on that and it takes us to this site rawpixel.com which has collected many of the public domain works that the New York Public Library's put out. So let's scroll to the bottom of this page because I know it's down there, and you see this page which is in fact exactly what we're looking for. Notice that although we searched just for the lobster, it actually is returning us the whole page which has other images around it. So let's click on that and now you can see on the upper right corner of this page a little bit of metadata about this.



This is a lobster Illustrated by Edme Francois Jomard for Description de l'Egypte and if we look for that now...I'm going to look for just those terms, because I don't know what Description de l'Egypte is...Copy that, open up a new tab and search Google for that and you'll discover quickly that this was a series of books that were published by the Napoleon campaign when it was in Egypt in 1798 and into the nineteenth century, so this is fantastic.

Google

description de l'egypte

All Shopping Images News Books More Settings Tools

About 13,500,000 results (0.74 seconds)

Description de l'Égypte - Wikipedia
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Description_de_l%27Égypte

The Description de l'Égypte (English: Description of Egypt) was a series of publications, appearing first in 1809 and continuing until the final volume appeared in ...

Publication date: 1809–22 Author: Commission des sciences et arts d'Egypte
 Publisher: French government Country: France

Summary · Description · False reports on ... · Editions

(``Description de l'Egypte Digital Collection``)
descegy.bibalex.org/

Description de l'Egypte digital collection. Description de l'Egypte was the outcome of the collaboration of more than 150 prominent scholars and scientists who ...

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Descriptio
n de
l'Égypte

Book by Edward William Lane

97% liked this book

The Description de l'Égypte was a series of publications, appearing first in 1809 and continuing until the final volume appeared in ...

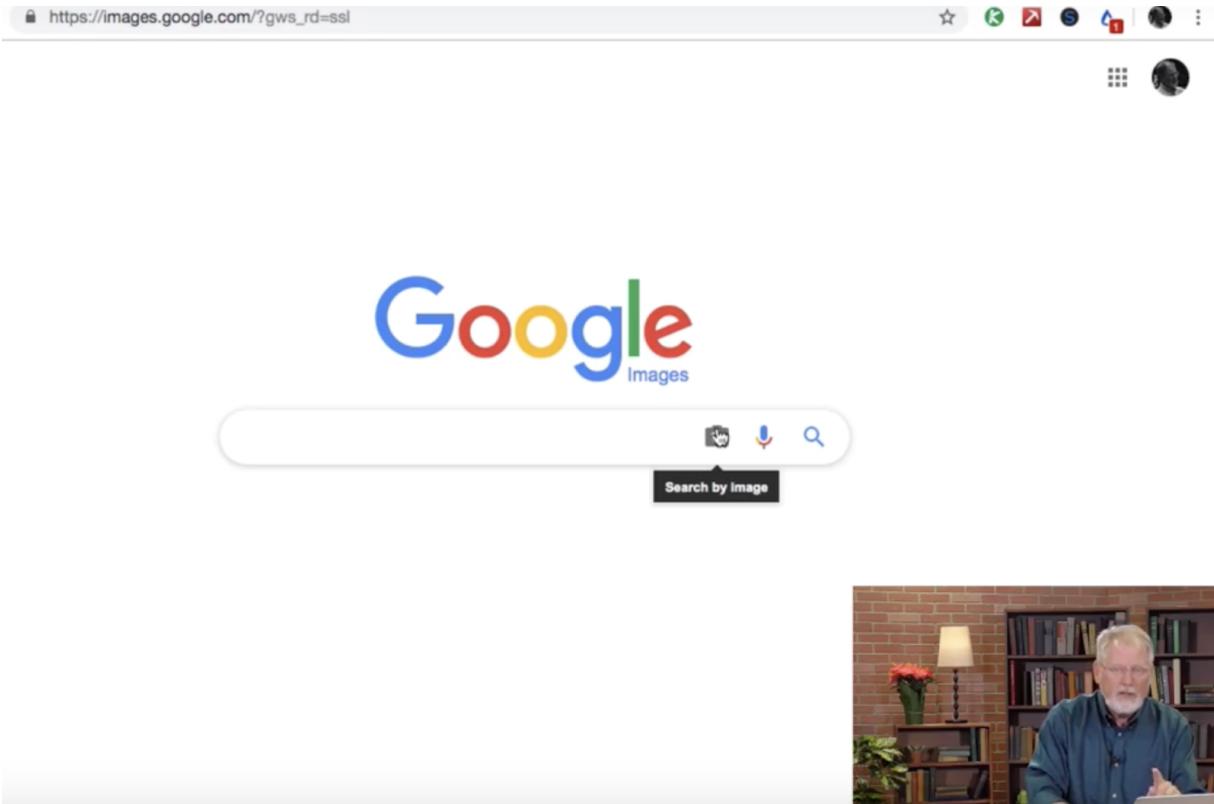
Now we know where it's from and we know what it is. Look at that we can see the context in which that appears and without too much difficulty you could probably go to Google Books and find the book. That's how to search by image for an image say that's on your desktop, now let's try something else.

We found out how to discover the image and the source of that image but now this is a photograph of some beautiful red rock country somewhere in the world.

Search-by-image: Where is this picture from?



Where exactly is this? So what we can do with search by image is to do kind of the same thing, we can search for this image and hopefully we'll get some surrounding data that says exactly where it is, so let me show you that. So here we go, Google Images and I can now click on the camera icon.



Notice I'm showing you a slightly different technique, because if you just drag this picture into the frame and don't drop it on the drop zone down there, if you in fact drop it up here, it just uploads the image, and that's not what we want.

A screenshot of a web browser showing the Google Images search interface. The URL in the address bar is https://images.google.com/?gws_rd=ssl. The page features the classic Google logo and the word "Images". Above the search bar, there is a small thumbnail image of a landscape with red rocks. Below the thumbnail, the file name "redrocks.png" is displayed. A large, semi-transparent modal dialog box is overlaid on the page. The dialog has a white background and a thin black border. At the top left of the dialog, the text "Search by image" is followed by the instruction "Search Google with an image instead of text. Try dragging an image here." In the center of the dialog is a large, empty rectangular area with the text "Drop image here" centered within it. To the right of the dialog, there is another thumbnail image of a man with a beard sitting at a desk in front of a bookshelf.

What you want is to search for that image, so let's go back one step. Now back on the images.google.com I'm going to drag it into the drop zone like that and now we're uploading that file. We're going to search for those images again. This time we get a lot of other data that's associated with that image, so this image appears on a web page in some context and the most common context is Red Rock Canyon.

The screenshot shows a Google Images search results page. At the top, there is a search bar with the query "redrocks.png" and a camera icon. Below the search bar, the "Images" tab is selected, along with other tabs for "All", "Maps", "Shopping", and "More". To the right of the tabs are "Settings" and "Tools" buttons. The search results show approximately 25,270,000,000 results found in 0.69 seconds. The first result is a thumbnail of a red rock formation with a road leading towards it. Below the thumbnail, the image size is listed as 594 x 318 pixels. There is also a link to "Find other sizes of this image" and options for "All sizes", "Small", "Medium", and "Large". A "Possible related search" link points to "red rock canyon". The second result is a link to "Red Rock Canyon | Las Vegas, Nevada" with the URL "https://www.redrockcanyonlv.org/". The description below the link states: "Red Rock Canyon features a one-way 13-mile scenic drive, a Visitor Center offering information and interpretation about recreation opportunities, hiking and ...". The third result is a link to "Plan A Visit | Red Rock Canyon Las Vegas" with the URL "https://www.redrockcanyonlv.org/lasvegas/redrockcanyon/". The description below the link states: "Camping At Red Rock Canyon · Read More · Recreation At Red Rock · Visitor Information · Read More · Red Rock Canyon Geology · Geology Highlights.". Below these results, there is a section titled "Visually similar images" followed by five small thumbnail images of red rock formations.

Red Rock Canyon
National
Conservation Area

National park in the Clark County, Nevada

Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area lies in Nevada's Mojave Desert. It's known for geological features such as towering red sandstone peaks and the Keystone Thrust Fault, as well as Native American petroglyphs. Panoramic viewing spots include the 10-mile Scenic Drive, The sheep, water, Ram, building, Estat...
Many, Many, Numerous

A video thumbnail featuring a man with glasses and a beard, wearing a blue shirt, sitting at a desk and speaking. Behind him is a brick wall and a bookshelf filled with books and decorative items.

So as you see here we've discovered that it's for the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation area, very near Las Vegas, Nevada. This is not your typical Las Vegas photograph but now we know we've learned the location.

So now I want to show you another important use for search by image and that's to find images whose provenance, whose origin may not be exactly what you think.

Is this a picture of a mud slide in Los Angeles?

Google



So I discovered this in a news story about mudslides in Los Angeles, oh my gosh, LA, it's always on the edge of disaster: Evidence, here's a mudslide destroying freeways in Los Angeles. I have to admit I'm from Los Angeles and I looked at this and thought I don't recognize this place so I was skeptical. Now what can we do to actually try to verify that? So you saw in the last example that we can actually use that image and sometimes we can get the location information. Let's see if we can't get some additional metadata about this image. So what I'm going to do this time is show you how to upload that image directly by clicking on the camera icon. You see that right there, if you click on that it brings up an option box so I could paste in the URL if I knew the URL or I can upload the image from my laptop.



Search by image

X

Search Google with an image instead of text. Try dragging an image here.

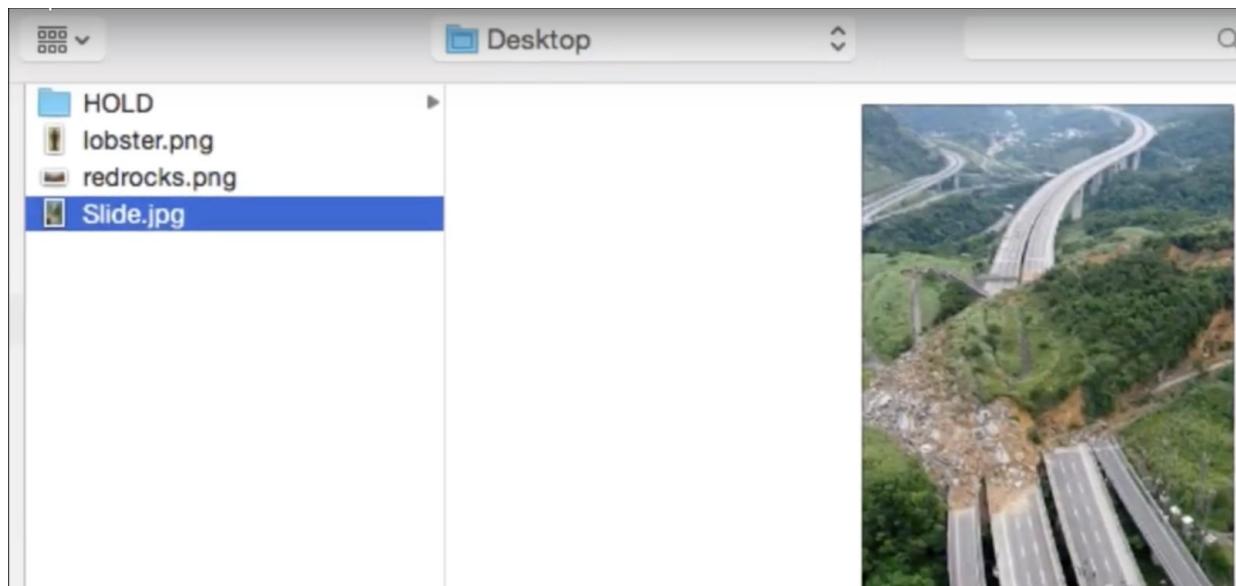
Paste image URL

Upload an image

Choose file No file chosen



In this case I'm going to choose the file, it's called Slide.jpg, you see that's the same image, and now it's uploading.



The screenshot shows a Mac OS X Finder window. The left sidebar lists several files: 'HOLD', 'lobster.png', 'redrocks.png', and 'Slide.jpg'. The 'Slide.jpg' file is currently selected, highlighted with a blue bar. On the right side of the window, there is a preview of the image, which is a photograph of a multi-level highway interchange in a green, hilly area. Below the preview, the file name 'Slide.jpg' is displayed. At the bottom of the window, there is a status bar with the following information: 'JPEG Image - 54 KB', 'Created Today, 10:40 AM', 'Modified Today, 10:40 AM', and 'Last opened Today, 10:40 AM'.

It's going to search for that image and just try to discover other information that's associated with it and if you look here you see "Massive landslide in Taiwan caught on camera". This is not Los Angeles. It's not LA's fault this time but let's check it out.

Google search results for "massive landslide". The first result is a thumbnail of a landslide image with the caption "Slide.jpg" and "massive landslide". Below the thumbnail, it says "302 x 400" and "Find other sizes of this image: All sizes - Medium - Large". Possible related search: **massive landslide**.

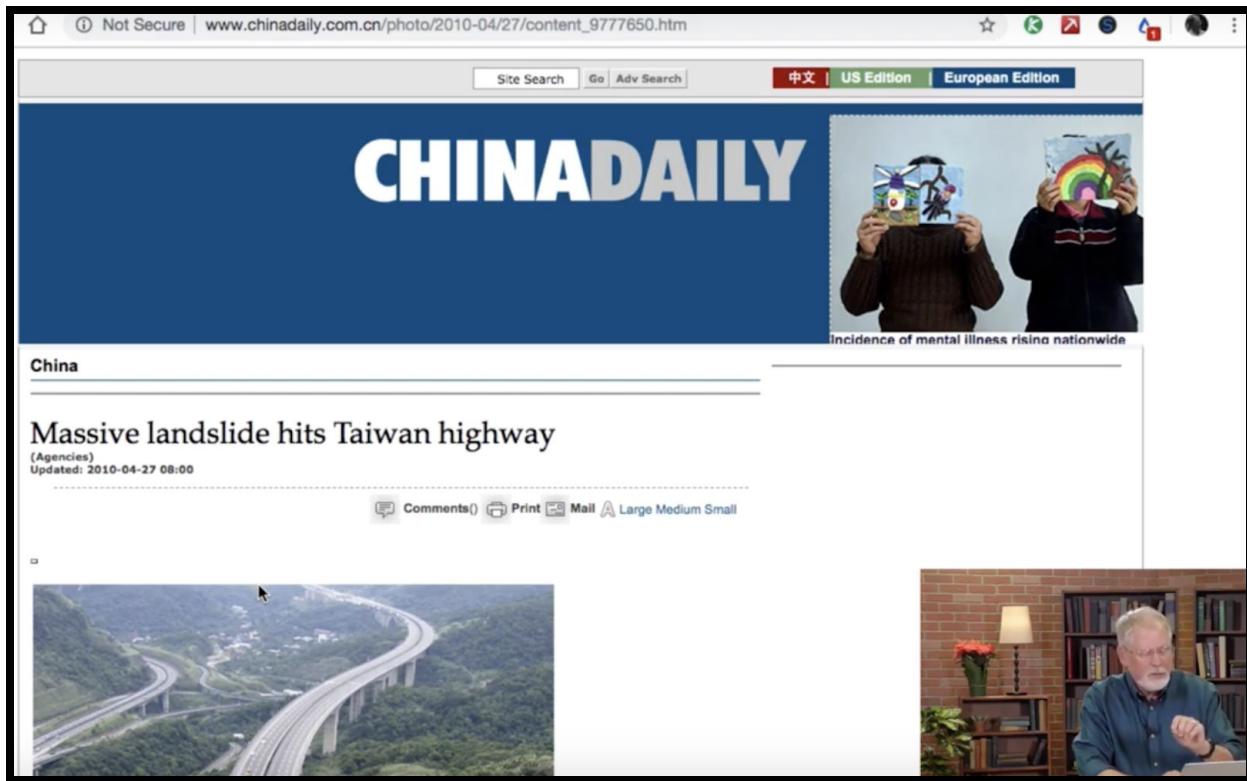
Massive landslide in Taiwan caught on camera - Truthloader - YouTube
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EFWnppxgU1U> ▾
Sep 2, 2013 - Dramatic footage has emerged on YouTube showing a massive landslide that took place in Laiyi Township in Pingtung county, southern ...

AMAZING Massive Landslide in the world | Massive Landslide caught ...
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OeBF-SyAY0c> ▾
Dec 28, 2016 - AMAZING Massive Landslide in the world | Massive Landslide caught on camera ✓P19 . Earthquake caught on camera ... Flash floods are ...

Visually similar images

A row of five small images showing different views of the same massive landslide on a highway. To the right of these images is a larger image of a man with a beard sitting at a desk with a laptop, likely the video poster or a related image.

We can find obviously a lot of corroborating evidence here, but this is probably something that would be useful because these up here are all YouTube videos and those might be interesting, if you want to check out the metadata for that, but let's go look at this.



So I just clicked on this and this is an article from China Daily. You check out the URL, chinadaily.com.cn, so here we have the original article for that landslide and we can see exactly that it's been corroborated. So my point is you can use search by image for all kinds of things, discovering where an image is from originally, basic metadata information about that image in its context, so now you can go ahead and go to the next activity and see if you can use some of these techniques to answer that problem there.