

Visual Analysis:

Analyze George Steinmetz's aerial photography to interpret how visual storytelling contributes to our understanding of global food production, sustainability and human impact.

1. Compare (10 minutes)

Look closely at the first two photos on the next pages.

Discuss with a partner or write individually for the following:

- What visual elements stand out? How do they represent food production differently?¹





2. Context From the Text (10 minutes)

Using evidence from the article, answer the following questions:

- In what ways was George Steinmetz ahead of his time in using aerial photography to capture land and food systems?²
 - Use the article to explain how his photography evolved from 2008 to today.

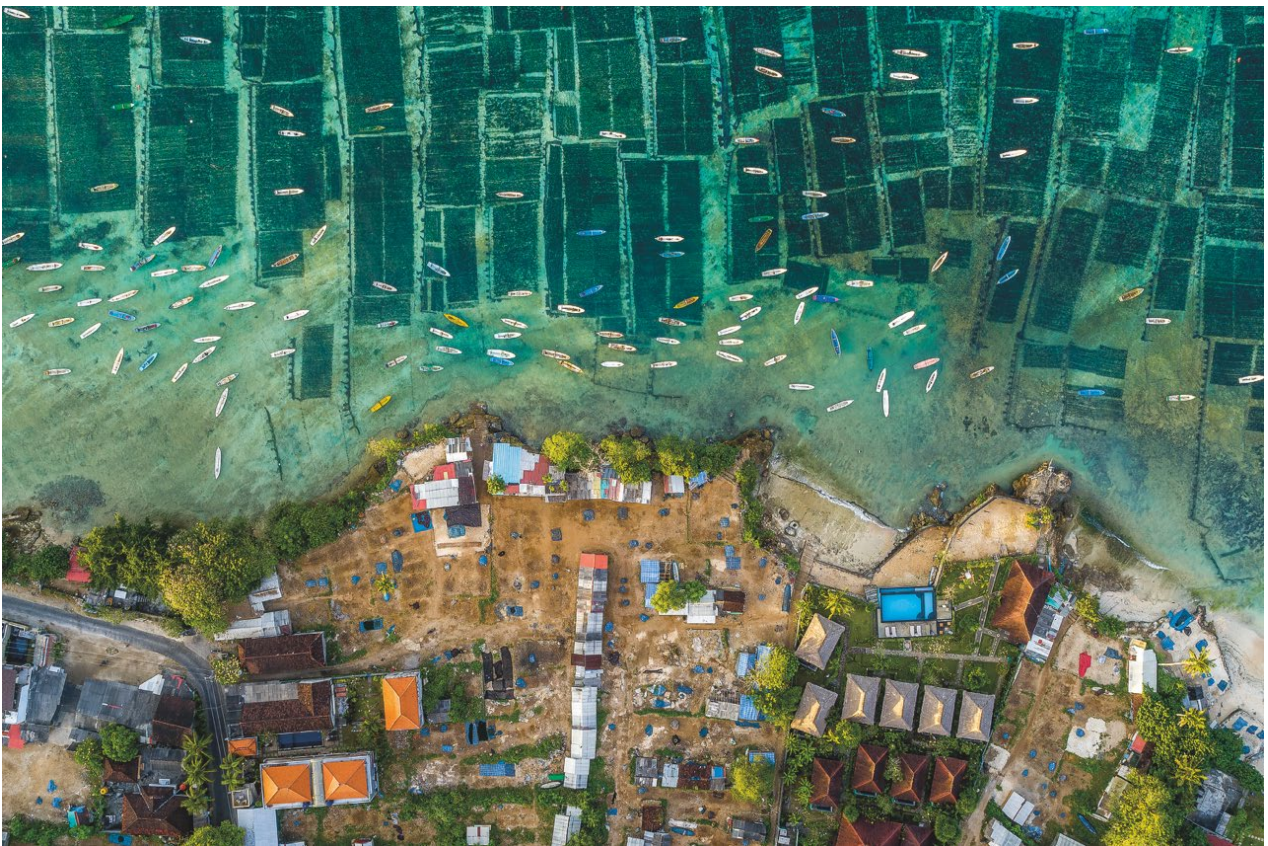
- What technological development motivated Steinmetz to include seaweed farming from Bali?³
 - Skim the article to find out how drones or mapping tools influenced this decision.

3. Creative Caption Writing (10 minutes)

Write a new caption for the two photos above and the one below. Each caption should accomplish the following:

- Explain what's happening in the image.
- Reflect the connection to global food systems or sustainability.

- Be no more than 25 words each.



Common Core Standard(s) Met:

CCRA.R.7 Integrate and evaluate content presented in diverse media and formats, including visually and quantitatively, as well as in words.

1 Answers may vary. One image reflects Steinmetz at different ages. Students may observe differences in human presence. One shows students interacting with Steinmetz; the other may abstract landscape. Others may note the technology and method of photography: paragliding with a camera versus the usage of a drone. Either way, both photos rely on the progression of time and its impact on lives and technology.

2 Steinmetz began using motorized paragliders to photograph landscapes before drones became widely available. This allowed him to soar high enough to show the scale of agriculture, but still low enough to connect with the people on the ground. His first book, *African Air* (2008), validated this approach. Over time, he transitioned to using drones, which now let him capture detailed patterns from above while navigating more terrain with greater efficiency. His photography has evolved from relying on physical flight to incorporating newer technology like drones to document food systems globally.

3 Steinmetz initially spotted the seaweed farms in Bali using Google Earth. This tool helped him locate visual patterns from above, but he notes that being physically present adds depth—allowing him to capture the interaction between people and the environment. His use of aerial imagery combined with digital mapping tools like Google Earth motivated him to include this image, highlighting both the method of farming and the sustainability of the practice.