

Selecting features on a view


Selecting features on a view enables you to find specific geographic features that interest you or meet certain important criteria, and to work with specific geographic features in a variety of ways to find out more about them.

Features highlight on the view when they are selected and remain highlighted until a different selection is made, or until they are deselected. By default, selected features highlight in yellow. You can choose the color in which features are highlighted when they are selected, by making the Project window active then choosing Properties from the Project menu.

When you save your project, ArcView remembers which themes were active and which features were selected, so they'll be ready for use when you next open the project.

Before you can select features from a theme, you have to click on the theme in the view's Table of Contents to make it active.


■ Selecting features with the mouse

The Select Feature tool  lets you select features with the mouse by pointing at them or by dragging a selection box over them. Features that fall partly or wholly inside the box you define will be selected. Features will be selected from all of the currently active themes.


■ Selecting features using shapes

The Select Features Using Shape button  lets you select features that fall inside or are intersected by shapes such as circles, boxes, lines and polygons that you have already drawn on a view using the Draw tools. Features will be selected from all of the currently active themes.


■ Selecting a feature using Find

Find  is a quick way to select a particular feature of interest. For example, if you are working with a theme of the world's cities and you want to select Paris, simply type that name into the Find dialog box. Find only lets you select one feature at a time. See [Finding features on a view](#).

■ Selecting features by selecting records in a theme's table

When you use the Select tool  to select records in the table describing a theme's features, the features that these records represent are selected on the view. This is especially useful if you work with a table and a view side-by-side because you can browse through the table, select records for features that interest you, then see where they are on the view. Hold down SHIFT when you use the Select tool to select more than one record in a table.




■ Selecting features using a query

Build a query with the Query Builder  when you want to select features according to their attribute values. For example, you can build a query to select all the states in the USA with populations greater than 10 million. You can build more complex queries too. You can also use the Query Builder to narrow down your selection by building a query that only selects features from the set you have already selected.

Example

You might have a theme displaying the point locations of your customers, and want to find out which customers living within a 20 mile radius of your store have not purchased anything this year. In this case you would first select according to location to find all the customers living in that area, and then use the Query Builder to narrow down the selection

to those meeting your purchasing criteria:



- 1 Click on the theme in the Table of Contents to make it active
- 2 Use the Draw tools  to draw a circle with a 20 mile radius centered on your store.
- 3 Click the Select Features Using Shape button  to select the customers in this area.
- 4 Click the Query Builder button . Build a query to select customers who have not purchased anything this year.
- 5 Press Select From Set on the Query Builder. From the set of customers that is already selected, ArcView will select those which match the query.

With the Query Builder you can also add additional features to the set of features you have already selected. For example, you might want to select customers who either live in a particular location or visit that location frequently. In this case you could use the mouse to select the customers living in the location, and then use the Query Builder to build a query to select those who visit it frequently. After building your query in the Query Builder, press the Add To Set button.

Note You can permanently redefine a theme to contain only a selection of the features in its data source. This enables you to make a certain selection of features become a permanent part of your view. See [Defining a feature selection for a theme](#).

■ Switching the selected and unselected sets of features


If you, for example, want to select all your customers who don't live with 20 miles of a particular location, start by selecting those who do, and then switch the selection:

- 1 Click on the theme in the Table of Contents to make it active if it is not already.
- 2 Click the Open Theme Table button .
- 3 Click the Switch Selection button .

■ Clearing the selected set of features

Click the Clear Selected Features button  to deselect the selected features in the active theme(s).

■ Selecting all the features in a theme

- 1 Click on the theme in the Table of Contents to make it active, if it is not already.
- 2 Click the Open Theme Table button .
- 3 Click the Select All button .

 Related topics