**Title: *Have a Seat***

**Creator:**

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**Recommended Grades:**

* 7-12

**Time Needed:**

* 15 to 20 minutes

**Objectives:**

* Students will become familiar with Alabama counties and their county seats.

**Materials (all included in the trunk):**

* Alabama cities/counties maps (4)
* Have a Seat cards
* Lanyards
* Compass roses

**Preparation:**

* Read over the activity and make adaptations for student grade level.

**Rules:**

* Shoes are not allowed on the map. Please have students remove shoes before walking on the map.
* No writing utensils on the map.

**Setup:**

* Divide the class into four evenly numbered groups: red, yellow, green, and blue.
* Give students lanyards corresponding to the colors of their teams and send them to their base camps (the colored circles at each corner).
* The team members line up on the gold perimeter near their base camp.
* The first person in line will be the **Runner**. This person will be collecting and placing the cards on the Alabama map using the instructions called out by the **Guide**.
* The second person in line will be the **Guide** and should have an Alabama counties map.
* The **Guide** locates the county on the provided Alabama cities/counties map. The **Guide** tells the **Runner** which city is the county seat and guides the **Runner** to the location by calling out cardinal and ordinal directions (west, southeast...etc).

**Review:**

* Review cardinal directions (north, south, east, and west) and ordinal directions (northeast, northwest, southeast, southwest).
* Discuss the concept of a map projection. Be sure that students understand directions as a constant. For instance, north is always north and does not change because a person changed the direction he/she is facing.
* With student guidance, place two compass roses towards the top and bottom of the map.
* Teachers may want to review the concept of counties and county seats in the classroom prior to this activity.

**Activity:**

* When the teacher says “go”, the **Runner** from each team walks to Montgomery to draw a card (in his/her team’s color) with a county name.
* The **Runner** will then call the county name to the **Guide** at the front of the line.
* The **Guide** looks at the counties map to see which city is the county seat.
* The **Runner** must place the card on the city\* that is the county seat and then goto the back of the line.
* The **Guide** then gives the counties map to the next person in line to take on the role. This person now becomes the **Runner** and walks to Montgomery for the next card and so forth.
* Once the last card from their color has been placed on the correct city, the team member must walk back to their line. At this point all members of the team must sit down. The first team to Have A Seat wins.

\*Note: The giant map does not have all the county seats identified. The student will need to place the cards as best they can in relation to those cities that are present on the map.

**Standards:**

ALCOS Social Studies 2015

* 7.1- Describe the world in spatial terms using maps and other geographic representations, tools, and technologies.
* 7.8- Determine political, military, cultural, and economic forces that contribute to cooperation and conflict among people.

**Vocabulary:**

* Cardinal Directions
* County
* County Seat
* Ordinal Directions