**Title: *Simon Says...Explore Alabama!***

**Recommended Grades:**

* K-3

**Time Needed:**

* 15+ minutes

**Objectives:**

* Students will locate various land forms, bodies of water, and other physical features and use vocabulary associated with those features on the Giant Traveling Map of Alabama

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

* list of Alabama universities and colleges (see **Resources**)

**Preparation:**

* Students may need a general introduction of the Alabama map.
* Teachers should familiarize themselves with the following:
	+ **Rivers and lakes**
	+ **Mobile Bay**
	+ **Appalachian Mountains**
	+ **Gulf of Mexico**
	+ **Border states**
	+ **Cardinal directions (north, south, east, west)**
	+ **Cumberland plateau**
	+ **Island (Dauphin)**
	+ **State capital (Montgomery)**
* Some game prompts (see **Activities**) work better with a small number of students. You may want to save these prompts for when most students are “out”.

**Rules:**

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

**Review:**

* Review how to play the game “Simon Says”. Students only follow the direction given if the teacher first says “Simon says…”. If the teacher gives a direction without saying “Simon says…”, then any students who follow that direction are “out” and sit on the gold perimeter of the map.

**Activity:**

* Play the game “Simon Says” using the following prompts:
* Once students arrive in the general location, call on a few students to tell more specifically where they are.
	+ swim in a river (have students name some specific rivers)
	+ stand on a border (name the border state)
	+ hop to a larger city (larger font and dot represent greater population)
	+ climb a mountain range (Appalachian Mountains)
	+ climb a tree in a forest (green on the map)
	+ go fishing in a lake (name the lake)
	+ drive a boat across Mobile Bay or the Gulf of Mexico
	+ trace a river from North Alabama to Mobile Bay
	+ throw a football in a popular college town (see **Resources**)
	+ drive to a state east of Alabama (do this for north, south, and west)
	+ hike across the Cumberland Plateau
	+ put your pinky finger on Dauphin Island
	+ form a circle around Alabama’s capital (Montgomery is designated with a star)

**Tips:**

* Teacher may choose to present information about locations students will be finding prior to the lesson.
* Teacher may choose to cover vocabulary words prior to the lesson (see **Vocabulary**).
* If working with a large group, divide students into home teams (red, yellow, blue, and green) and have a few students from each team on the map at a time.
* Once the game has been played, finish the lesson with these higher level questions about Alabama’s place in the world:
	+ Where is Alabama in relation to the Pacific Ocean? (Gulf of Mexico, etc)
	+ Is there more land east or west of Alabama?
	+ Where is Alabama in relation to the equator? (North Pole?)

**Standards:**

ALCOS Social Studies 2010

* K.9- Differentiate between landforms and bodies of water on maps and globes.
* 1.8- Identify land masses, bodies of water, and other physical features on maps and globes.
	+ Explaining the use of cardinal directions and the compass rose
	+ Measuring distance using nonstandard units (Example: measuring with pencils, strings, hands, feet)
	+ Using vocabulary associated with geographical features, including *river, lake, ocean,* and *mountain*
* 2.5- Differentiate between a physical map and a political map.
	+ physical—illustrating rivers and mountains
	+ political—illustrating symbols for states and capitals
	+ Using vocabulary associated with geographical features, including *latitude, longitude,* and *border*
* 3.2- Locate the continents on a map or globe
	+ Using vocabulary associated with geographical features of Earth, including *hill, plateau, valley, peninsula, island, isthmus, ice cap,* and *glacier*
	+ Locating major mountain ranges, oceans, rivers, and lakes throughout the world (Alabama)
* 3.8- Identify geographic links of land regions, river systems, and interstate highways between Alabama and other states. (Alabama)
	+ Examples: Appalachian Mountains, Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway, Interstate Highway 65 (I-65), Natchez Trace Parkway (Alabama)
	+ Locating the five geographic regions of Alabama (Alabama)
	+ Locating state and national parks on a map or globe (Alabama)

**Vocabulary:**

* border, mountain range, forest, north, south, east, west, plateau, bay, gulf, lake, river, island

**Resources:**

A sampling of Alabama universities and colleges-

* University of North Alabama (Florence)
* University of Alabama (Tuscaloosa)
* University of Alabama at Huntsville
* University of Alabama at Birmingham
* University of South Alabama (Mobile)
* Auburn University
* Alabama State University (Montgomery)
* Troy University
* Alabama A&M University (Huntsville)
* Samford University (Birmingham)
* University of West Alabama (Livingston)
* Jacksonville State University
* Tuskegee University

*Creators:*

* *Robin Brower, National Geographic Certified Educator*
* *Gifted Specialist, Grades 3-5*
* *Bryan Elementary School*
* *Jefferson County Schools*
* *rbrower@jefcoed.com*
* *Megan Smith-Keenum, National Geographic Certified Educator*
* *First Grade Teacher*
* *Forest Hills Elementary School*
* *Florence, Alabama*
* *mskeenum@florencek12.org*
* *Kim Morris*
* *Third Grade Teacher*
* *Kilby Laboratory School*
* *The University of North Alabama*
* *kwmorris@una.edu*