**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:*

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