

Simon Says



Recommended Grades:

K-5



Time Needed:

15 minutes

Description

- Students will play the popular game “Simon Says,” while exploring the geography of Kentucky.

Learning Objectives

- Explore the physical and human geography of Kentucky.
- Utilize movement and knowledge of cardinal directions to locate/identify major features in Kentucky.

Materials

- Lanyards [40 total, 10 of each color] (*optional*)
- Hourglass Timer (*optional*)

Preparation

- Review the “Simon Says” statements that you plan to use for your group. Make sure to be familiar with each command and its solutions.

Rules: Have students remove shoes before walking on the map.

Directions

1. Depending on experience/prior knowledge, students may need a quick tour of the map and explanations of some of the major features on the Kentucky Giant Map. If necessary, briefly review some of the features and symbology on the map.
2. Divide the group into four teams. If you use the lanyards, hand them out and assign one color to each team. Instruct each team to gather at their color’s base camp, which are the four colored circles at the corners of the map.
3. Go over/review the rules of Simon Says with students. If students run, impede, or touch other students, they are “out.” If students move towards a location without the indicated statement “Simon says,” or if they move to an incorrect location, they are out. When students get out, they return to their team’s corner of the map until a new game begins. The hourglass timer can be used to time games and signal when a new one will begin. The team with the most members still in when the time is up wins.
4. Using your own Simon Says statements or the ones below, direct students to a variety of locations in/around Kentucky. Use some of the following qualifiers to mix up the game and control traffic:
 - Simon says everybody...

- Simon says red team...
 - Simon says all girls...
 - Simon says all boys...
5. When the timer is up, the game is over. Repeat as many times as you would like!

Simon Says Ideas for Big Groups:

- Kneel on one knee in a state north of Kentucky
- Put a toe on the Ohio River
- Stand on any city in Kentucky
- Stand in Tennessee and face south
- Stand on a state south of Kentucky
- Kneel on any river
- Sit on the border of Kentucky
- Sit at 37° North
- Sit at 38° North
- Stand on the Kentucky and Tennessee border
- Kneel on one knee anywhere east of Louisville.
- Put a foot on any body of water in Kentucky
- Sit north of 38° North

Simon Says Ideas for Small Groups:

- Kneel on one knee in Indiana
- Stand on the Cumberland Plateau and face west
- Put a toe on a lake in Kentucky
- Stand on National Forest land
- Put a toe on the Mississippi
- Stand on the Ohio and Kentucky border
- Put a toe on National Forest land
- Kneel on one knee anywhere west of Bowling Green
- Stand on mountains
- Put a toe on the Cumberland River
- Stand next to a city that starts with M
- Sit on the Kentucky River