

SIMON SAYS ... EXPLORE!

RECOMMENDED GRADES: K-8



TIME NEEDED: 15 MINUTES OR MORE

(activity is flexible as to grade level, size of group, and amount of time)

Description

Students play this popular and fun game while exploring Asia.

Learning Objectives

Students will:

- explore both the physical and human geography of Asia
- utilize movement and knowledge of cardinal directions to locate and identify major physical and political features in Asia

Materials

- Lanyards (40 total, 10 of each color: red, blue, yellow and green) (optional)
- Hourglass timer (optional)

Preparation

5 minutes

- Review the “Simon Says” statements for your group size and familiarize yourself with the statements, including locating the solutions to any Simon Says commands that are unfamiliar.

Tips/Modifications

Tip

- This activity can also be used as a pre-assessment or post-assessment tool.

Modification

- This activity can be tailored to grade level, group size, and amount of time. “Simon Says” commands for large groups and small groups are provided.

Rules



Have students remove shoes before walking on the map.

DIRECTIONS

1. Depending on experience and prior knowledge, students may need a general introduction or tour of the Asia map. This teacher-led activity can serve as an introduction or review of some of the major physical or political features that students will visit during the game. Walk over the map and show (or have selected students locate and stand on) the following:

Political boundaries
Capital cities
Arctic Ocean
Mount Everest
India
The Middle East

Coast
Latitude and longitude
Gobi
Yangtze River
Japan
Russia

Cardinal directions
Pacific and Indian Oceans
Ural Mountains
China
Indonesia
Other visible continents

Note the colors on the map that represent political boundaries, elevation (or relief), and water. Have students face north on the map and then turn and face each of the other three cardinal directions (south, east, west) before starting the first game.

2. Divide the class into four teams—red, blue, yellow, and green—and instruct each team to gather behind their “Base Camp” (the colored circles in the corners of the map). Make the teams as even as possible. Give each student a lanyard corresponding to the color of his or her team.
3. Review the rules of “Simon Says” with students. No running is allowed. Students who run, touch, or impede other students will be “out.” Remind students if they move toward a location that did not begin with the direction “Simon Says,” or they choose an incorrect place, they will be “out.” When a student is out, he or she will walk off the map and sit on the border of the map near his or her team’s corner until the start of a new game. Use the hourglass timer (optional) to signal the end of each game. The team with the most team members still on the map will be declared the winner of that game. Assure students that each game will have a time limit of 5 to 10 minutes to keep “out time” to a minimum. (This time is governed by the timer.)
4. Using “Simon Says” statements provided, direct students to visit various locations in Asia. Allow students a few seconds to get to each location that Simon Says.

Mix up the game and control traffic with qualifiers like these:

- Simon Says **everybody ...**
- Simon Says **red team ...**
- Simon Says **all girls ...**
- Simon Says **all boys ...**

Remember to mix in statements without saying “Simon Says” to catch students who are not paying close attention.

Feel free to create and use your own “Simon Says” statements.

5. When the timer is up, the game is over. Have students gather at their “Base Camp” for the start of a new game. Repeat as many times as you’d like!

“SIMON SAYS” STATEMENTS FOR LARGE GROUPS

“Simon Says” statements for the start of the game or with larger numbers of students:

➤ Simon Says ...

- Swim to an island nation. [Cyprus, Indonesia, Japan, Maldives, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Timor-Leste, United Kingdom]
- Prowl like a tiger on your way to India.
- Stand on the Equator.
- Lay down in the largest country in Asia by area. [China]
- Stand on a political boundary.
- Face west.
- Stand in a country that borders Afghanistan. [China, Iran, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan]
- Chew bamboo like a giant panda in the mountains of central China.
- Stand in the country that hosted the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing. [China]
- Hop up and down on a capital city. [Examples: Ankara, Baghdad, Bangkok, Beirut, Damascus, Dhaka, Hanoi, Jakarta, Kuwait City, Manila, New Delhi, Seoul, Tehran, Tokyo, and others]
- Fly to any continent other than Asia on the map.
- Walk north along 90° east longitude.
- Swim in the Indian Ocean.
- Stand in any Asian landlocked country. [Afghanistan, Armenia, Bhutan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Nepal, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan]
- Put one foot in the Arctic Circle.
- Hop from island to island in Indonesia.
- Stand in a country that starts with the letter “I.” [India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Israel]
- Stand on 40° north latitude and face south.
- Walk like an orangutan to the island of Borneo.
- Stand atop a mountain at least 914 meters (3000 feet) above sea level. [Mount Everest (Nepal)]

“SIMON SAYS” STATEMENTS FOR SMALL GROUPS

“Simon Says” statements for the end of the game or with smaller numbers of students:

➤ Simon Says ...

- Sit in Mongolia.
- Put one foot on a landlocked country south of China. [Bhutan, Laos, Nepal]
- Stand in a country that borders the Caspian Sea. [Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Russia, Turkmenistan]
- Stand in a country that ends in “stan” [Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan]
- Ride your camel to Saudi Arabia.
- Stand south of the Equator, and face south.
- Touch a peninsula. [Examples: Arabian Peninsula, Leizhou Peninsula (China), Malay Peninsula, Qatar, Sinai Peninsula, and others]
- Wash your toes in a landlocked sea. [Caspian Sea, Dead Sea, North Aral Sea, South Aral Sea]
- Splash some cold water in the Arctic Ocean.
- Stand atop Mount Everest.
- From where you are standing, take 5 steps in any direction, each step in a different country.
- Lay down entirely within the political boundary of any country.
- Stand in one country with one foot in Asia and one foot in Europe.
- Row in the waters of a bay. [Bay of Bengal, and others]
- Visit Israel.
- Lay down across at least 4 countries.
- Go to Kazakhstan and point west.
- Strike a kung-fu pose at Shaolin Temple [between the “N” and “A” in “CHINA”].
- Swim north along the eastern shore of continental Asia.
- Trumpet like an Indian elephant in India.
- Hop like a kangaroo down under to Australia.