

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 Europe.

Learning Objectives

Students will:

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

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 Europe 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:

Atlantic Ocean	Arctic Ocean	Mediterranean Sea
Alps	France	Prime Meridian
Greenland	Sicily	United Kingdom
Ireland	Black Sea	Germany
Caspian Sea	Spain	North Sea
Ural Mountains	Italian Peninsula	English Channel
Russia	Scandinavia	Iceland
Strait of Gibraltar	Asia	Africa

Note the colors on the map that represent countries, 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 4 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 Europe. 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 ...

- Sit on the Arctic Circle and face south.
- Stand in European Russia and face west.
- Stand on any border between European countries.
- Make a circle around the country of Iceland.
- Stand in Atlantic Ocean and face east.
- Put a toe in the country, completely within Europe, with the largest population. [Germany]
- Kneel in the Mediterranean Sea and face north.
- Stand on the Prime Meridian and face east.
- Place a finger on your own European capital city (try to find your own).
- Sit on the African continent.
- Stand in a country that borders the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea. [France or Spain]
- Lie down along any coastline.
- Put a toe on any island north of 50° north latitude.
- Place your right foot on one of Europe’s many peninsulas.
- Stand in a country that starts with a consonant.
- Put a toe on the Italian Peninsula.
- Stand on a mountain range that separates Europe and Asia. [Caucasus or Urals]
- Stand on the Scandinavian Peninsula.
- Place one hand in the Black or Caspian Sea.
- Put a toe in one of Europe’s major Alpine countries. [Austria, France, Germany, Italy, Liechtenstein, Monaco, Slovenia, Switzerland]
- Stand in any country east of 20° east longitude.

“SIMON SAYS” STATEMENTS FOR SMALL GROUPS

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

► Simon Says ...

- Put a toe in the Arctic Ocean.
- Stand in your own landlocked European country.
- Stand in the country that boasts Europe’s longest river. [Russia, Volga River]
- Line up on 40° north latitude facing north. Stand anywhere in the Western Hemisphere.
- Place one hand in a European country that starts with the letter I. [Iceland, Ireland, or Italy]
- Sit in the country in Europe that spans the most degrees of longitude. [Russia]
- Put a toe in the country that hosted the 2012 Summer Olympic Games. [United Kingdom–London]
- Sit in any sea that starts with the letter A, B, or C. [Adriatic, Aegean, Baltic, Barents, Black, Caspian]
- Lie down on the Northern European Plain.
- Put a toe on your own European capital that is not on a coastline.
- Put one foot in a country that starts with the letter S. [San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland]
- Stand on the world’s largest island. [Greenland]
- Stand within eight hundred miles of a map scale.
- Put a toe in a country that starts with P. [Poland, Portugal]
- Place a finger on the country whose capital encircles Vatican City. [Italy]
- Stand in one of the two countries connected by the “Chunnel.” [France, United Kingdom]
- Place a finger on the country where both NATO and EU headquarters are located. [Belgium]
- Put a toe on any island north of 55° north latitude.
- Stand in a country that starts with a vowel. [Albania, Andorra, Austria, Estonia, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Ukraine, United Kingdom]
- Place a finger on one of Europe’s seven smallest countries. [Andorra, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, San Marino Vatican City]

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