

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 Pacific Ocean.

Learning Objectives

Students will:

- utilize movement and map reading skills to locate and identify major physical and geological features in the Pacific Ocean

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 Pacific Ocean map. This teacher-led activity can serve as an introduction or a review of some of the major geological features that the game will require students to visit. Walk over the map and show (or have selected students locate and stand on) the following:

Galápagos Islands
Hawaiian Islands
Line Islands

Mariana Trench
Chile Trench
Arctic Circle

Tropic of Cancer
Tropic of Capricorn
Equator

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 the Pacific Ocean. 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 in the Pacific Ocean.
- Stand on the Equator.
- Kneel on one knee north of the Tropic of Cancer.
- Place one foot on an island.
- Sit anywhere in a trench. [Examples: Aleutian Trench, Kermadec Trench, Mariana Trench, West Melanesian Trench, New Guinea Trench, Peru-Chile Trench, Tonga Trench, Vityaz Trench, and others]
- Put one toe in a sea. [Arafura Sea, Bering Sea, Caribbean Sea, Chukchi Sea, Coral Sea, East China Sea, Java Sea, Philippine Sea, Sea of Japan, Sea of Okhotsk, South China Sea, Tasman Sea, Timor Sea, Yellow Sea]
- Stand in the Pacific Ocean and face east.
- Kneel on one knee on the Tropic of Capricorn and face south.
- Stand on a ridge. [Examples: Cocos Ridge, Louisville Ridge, Macquarie Ridge, Sala y Gomez Ridge, and others]
- Sit in a basin. [Examples: Celebes Basin, Coral Sea Basin, East Caroline Basin, Guatemala Basin, Melanesian Basin, Mexico Basin, North Australian Basin, Perth Basin, Philippine Basin, South China Basin, Southeast Pacific Basin, South Fiji Basin, Southwest Pacific Basin, Tasman Basin, West Caroline Basin, Wharton Basin, and others]
- Stand on one foot on the Hawaiian Islands.
- Sit within six feet of the map scale.
- Swim from the north to the south.
- Sit in a continent. [Asia, Australia, North America, South America]
- Stand along a fracture zone. [Examples: Agassiz Fracture Zone, Challenger Fracture Zone, Clarion Fracture Zone, Clipperton Fracture Zone, Diamantina Fracture Zone, Galapagos Fracture Zone, Marquesas Fracture Zone, Menard Fracture Zone, Mendocino Fracture Zone, Molokai Fracture Zone, Pioneer Fracture Zone, and others]

“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 on a continental shelf.
- Stand in the Arctic Ocean.
- Sit in the Indian Ocean.
- Put a finger on the Mariana Trench.
- Sit on a rise. [Examples: Gallego Rise, Magellan Rise, South Tasman Rise]
- Put a finger on an atoll. [Examples: Bikini Atoll, Enewetak Atoll, Johnston Atoll, Kwajalein Atoll, Majuro Atoll, Palmyra Atoll, Taongi Atoll]
- Swim east in the Pacific Ocean.
- Skip along the Aleutian Islands.
- Stand on a seamount. [Examples: Caroline Seamounts, Emperor Seamounts, Foundation Seamounts, Magellan Seamounts, Mapmaker Seamounts, Marcus-Wake Seamounts, Musicians Seamounts]
- Put a toe on a plateau.
- Dive in a basin. [Examples: Caroline Basin, Celebes Basin, Coral Sea Basin, East Melanesian Basin, Guatemala Basin, Mexico Basin, North Australian Basin, Perth Basin, Philippine Basin, South China Basin, Southeast Pacific Basin, South Fiji Basin, Southwest Pacific Basin, Tasman Basin, West Caroline Basin, Wharton Basin, and others]
- Sit in the Arctic Ocean.
- Stand on the equator and face west.
- Put a finger on the deepest place in the Pacific Ocean. [Mariana Trench]
- Put a finger on the deepest place in the Indian Ocean. [Java Trench]