

**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 South America.

### Learning Objectives

Students will:

- explore the physical and human geography of South America
- utilize movement and map-reading skills to locate and identify major physical and political features in South America

### 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 South America map. This teacher-led activity can serve as an introduction or review of some of the major physical or political features that the game will require students to visit during the game. Walk over the map and show (or have selected students locate and stand on) the following:

**Pacific Ocean****Andes Mountains****Galápagos Islands****Falkland Islands****Tropic of Capricorn****Guiana Highlands****Ecuador****Atlantic Ocean****Amazon River****Lake Titicaca****Strait of Magellan****Argentina****Peru****French Guiana (territory)****Caribbean Sea****Equator****Brazil****Rio de Janeiro****Patagonia****Angel Falls****Cape Horn**

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, direct students to visit various locations in South America. 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 Atlantic Ocean.
- Kneel on one knee in the largest country in square miles. [Brazil]
- Stand south of the Tropic of Capricorn.
- Place one foot on a capital city. [Examples: Bogota (Colombia), Caracas (Venezuela), Lima (Peru), and others]
- Stand on the Equator and face east.
- Sit anywhere along the Andes Mountains. [The Andes are located on South America’s western coast. Countries include: Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Venezuela]
- Put one toe on the Amazon River.
- Sit in a country that borders South America’s only mainland territory. [Territory: French Guiana. Surrounding countries: Brazil, Suriname]
- Stand in the Pacific Ocean and face west.
- Sit in the country with the largest population in South America. [Brazil]
- Stand in the 2016 Summer Olympics host country. [Brazil]
- Place a finger on any major highway.
- Put one toe on a city that has an airport.
- Stand south of the Equator and face north.
- Line up on 40° south latitude and face Antarctica.
- Put one toe on any tributary of the Amazon River.
- Stand in Brazil and face northeast.
- Sit within six feet of the map scale.
- Stand on the Tropic of Capricorn and face south.
- Line up on 70° west 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 one toe in a landlocked country. [Bolivia, Paraguay]
- Stand in a country that does not start with A, B, or C. [Ecuador, French Guiana, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Uruguay, Venezuela]
- Make a circle around the country that includes the Galápagos Islands. [Ecuador]
- Stand with one foot in Argentina and the other in the Pacific Ocean.
- Stand in one of the two countries that share Lake Titicaca. [Bolivia, Peru]
- Place one foot in a country that does not border Brazil. [Ecuador, Chile]
- Stand in a country that borders the Caribbean Sea. [Colombia, Venezuela]
- Put one toe on the Strait of Magellan.
- Stand in the Amazon Basin, but not in Brazil.
- Form a circle around the Falkland Islands.
- Stand in a country that starts with P. [Paraguay, Peru]
- Put one toe in the country with the world’s highest waterfall. [Venezuela (Angel Falls)]
- Sit in the country that spans the most degrees of longitude. [Brazil]
- Put one foot in a country that starts with C. [Chile, Colombia]
- Stand in Patagonia or the Guiana Highlands.
- Put one toe on a capital that is not also a port city. [Examples: Bogota (Colombia), Brasilia (Brazil), Quito (Ecuador), Santiago (Chile) and others]
- Place one foot in a South American country that is a member of OPEC. [OPEC is the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries. South American country members are: Ecuador, Venezuela]
- Place one hand in the country where you will find the ruins of Machu Picchu. [Peru]