



## **SIMON SAYS...EXPLORE!**

### **Objectives:**

- Students will explore both the physical and human geography of Africa using the popular game *Simon Says*.
- Students will utilize movement and knowledge of cardinal directions to locate and identify major physical and political features in Africa.

### **Recommended Grades: K-8**

### **Materials (all included in the trunk):**

- *Simon Says* Statement Card (two-sided)
- Colored Lanyards

### **Preparation: 5 minutes**

- Read the activity introduction and locate the examples to show students.
- Read over the *Simon Says* statement card and familiarize yourself with statements appropriate for student grade level.

### **Rules:**



Shoes are not allowed on the map. Please have students remove shoes before walking on the map.



No writing utensils on the map.

## **INTRODUCTION**

Students may need a general introduction or tour of the Africa map. This teacher-led activity can serve as an introduction or review of some of the major physical or political features that *Simon Says* 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:

### **Political boundaries**

**Capital Cities**

**Nile River**

**Congo Basin**

**Gabon**

**South Africa**

### **Coast**

**Sahara Desert**

**Okavango Delta**

**Lake Victoria**

**Kenya**

**Madagascar**

### **Cardinal Directions**

**Kalahari Desert**

**Atlas Mountains**

**Atlantic and Indian Oceans**

**Namibia**

**Egypt**

Remember to 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.

## PLAYING THE GAME

Divide the class into 4 teams—red, yellow, green and blue—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 their team.

Using *Simon Says* statements, direct students to visit various locations in Africa. 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 must walk off the map and sit on the border of the map near their team’s corner until the start of a new game.

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

Simon Says **everybody**...

Simon Says **Red Team**...

Simon Says **all girls**...

Simon says **all boys**...

You may set a predetermined game length (5 to 10 minutes). The team with the most team members still on the map when time is up will be declared the winner of that game. Team members who were out of the game can return to the map for the start of a new game.

The *Simon Says* Statement Card is two-sided. Side one features statements best for when the game begins and there are larger groups of students. Side two statements are best for the middle and end of the game when there are fewer students left on the map.

No running is allowed. Students who run, touch, or impede other students will be out.

Allow students a few seconds to get to each location that Simon Says for them to visit. Assure students that each game will have a time limit of 5 to 10 minutes to keep “out time” to a minimum.

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

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

Review the rules, check a clock to set the time for the end of the game, and begin!

## **SIMON SAYS STATEMENTS FOR LARGE GROUPS**

### ***Simon Says* statements for the start of the game or with larger numbers of students**

Simon Says...dive into and swim in the Atlantic Ocean.

Simon Says...crawl and search for water in the Sahara.

Simon Says...stand on the Atlantic coast of the continent.

Simon Says...climb any mountain range.

Simon Says...stand on a political boundary.

Simon Says...face east.

Simon Says...sit in a country that borders Chad.

Simon Says...swing your trunk like an African elephant

Simon Says..."walk like an Egyptian" as you walk to Egypt.

Simon Says...hop up and down on a capital city.

Simon Says...walk as tall as a giraffe to Kenya .

Simon Says...leap like a lemur to Madagascar.

Simon Says...swim to Cape Town, South Africa.

Simon Says...stand in a landlocked country.

Simon Says...fly your plane from the northernmost to southernmost points of Africa.

Simon Says...walk west to east across Africa.

Simon Says...stand in a country that starts with the letter "A"; (*Algeria, Angola*)

Simon Says...Click your claws like a crab among the mangroves on the coast.

Simon Says...stand on one leg like a flamingo on the coast of South Africa.

Simon Says...stand atop a mountain at least 2000 feet above sea-level.

## SIMON SAYS STATEMENTS FOR SMALL GROUPS

### ***Simon Says* statements for the end of the game or with smaller numbers of students**

Simon Says...yawn like a hippo in waters near Lake Victoria.

Simon Says...go to Gabon and pound your chest like a Western lowland gorilla.

Simon Says...face north in South Africa.

Simon Says...stand in a country that starts with the letter "N." (*Niger, Nigeria, Namibia*)

Simon Says...tip-toe to Tanzania.

Simon Says...swim in the Nile River and snap like a Nile crocodile.

Simon Says...look for pirates off the coast of Somalia.

Simon Says...roar like a lion in the Kalahari Desert.

Simon Says...put a toe on any tributary of the Nile River.

Simon Says...do your best chimpanzee in Cameroon.

Simon Says...lay down entirely within the political boundary of any country.

Simon Says...hiss like a Madagascar hissing cockroach in Madagascar.

Simon Says...stand on a river in Sudan.

Simon Says...stand with each foot in a different country.

Simon Says...lay down across at least 4 countries.

Simon Says...go to Ethiopia and face west.

Simon Says...form a circle around Madagascar.

Simon Says...Swim north along the eastern shore of the continent.

Simon Says...stretch your running legs like a cheetah in Namibia

Simon Says...stand in the largest country in Africa by area. (*Sudan*)

Simon Says...stand on a capital city on the coast.