

North America Knowledge

Introduction: For young students without much travel time outside of their immediate world, recognizing locations of major parts of the U.S. can be difficult. In this activity, students obtain some knowledge of general geographical locations of the U.S. in a fun and memorable way.

Grade Level and Subject: 2nd Grade Social Studies and P.E.

TEKS: Social Studies – 5A, 6A, 6B, 6C
P.E. – 1A, 1D, 1F, 3A, 3B, 7A, 7B

Materials: Chalk

Resource: *201 Games for the Elementary Physical Education Program* by Jerry D. Poppen.
ISBN: 0-13-042061-1

Activity: Before beginning this activity, the teacher will need to draw a large map of the United States on the playground. It does not have to be accurate to the minute detail, but it should be large enough so that all students can stand comfortably in the center of it. The teacher should then label Canada, the Pacific Ocean, the United States, Mexico, and the Atlantic Ocean.

To begin the activity, all students should walk out to the map and stand in the center of it (in the United States). Each student should listen carefully as the teacher calls out the directions, and the students are to perform the activity the teacher has called out. The teacher can use the following set of directions or develop his or her own:

1. “Take a car to _____.” The students should pretend to hold a steering wheel and “drive” to the destination designated by the teacher. Since they are cars, the students can decide whether or not they want to “drive” fast.
2. “Go by train to _____.” The students should get into groups of three or four and place their hands on the shoulders on the student in front of them. They should then move to the area designated by the teacher.
3. “Go by plane to _____.” The students pretend they are flying (arms and hands out to the side) and move to the designated area.
4. “Climb a mountain.” The students are to remain in the United States in the general area of the Rocky or Appalachian Mountains. They are to mimic the motions of climbing up something.
5. “Chop down a tree in the Northwest.” The students are to place themselves in the general area of the Pacific Northwest. They are to pretend they are chopping down a tree.

After performing these tasks, the teacher should encourage the students to develop their own tasks and direct the other students in performing them.

Evaluation: The teacher should monitor and observe that all actions are performed correctly. He or she can also develop other motions for the students to perform.



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