

# Simon Says...EXPLORE!

**Objective:**

Students will utilize movement and map reading skills to locate and identify major physical and political features in Vermont.

**Grade Level:** K-8

**Materials:**

Question Sheet

**Directions:**

1. Before you begin the lesson, review the locations of the example features you will be showing students.
2. Choose the appropriate Simon Says statement card for your group size and familiarize yourself with the statements.
3. Depending on experience and prior knowledge, students may need a general introduction or tour of Vermont. Walk over the map and show (or have selected students locate and stand on) the following:

Lake Champlain	Canada
Connecticut River	a state highway
Lake Memphremagog	an Interstate highway
Green Mountains	symbol for an elevation
Taconic Mountains	symbol for a railroad
Northeast Highlands	symbol for a capital city
New York	compass rose
New Hampshire	latitude line
Massachusetts	grid line

4. Remember to note the colors on the map that represent countries, elevation or relief, and water.
5. Have students face north on the map and then turn and face each of the cardinal directions before starting the game.

**Playing the Game:**

1. Divide the class into four teams—red, yellow, green, and blue—and instruct each team to gather behind their “Base Camp” (the colored spots in the corners of the map). Make the teams as even as possible.



2. Review the rules:

- No running is allowed.
- Students who run, touch, or impede other students will be out.
- The team with the most team members still on the map 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.
- Time will be used to signal the end of each game.

3. Using Simon Says statements, direct students to visit various locations in Vermont. 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 they will 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...

Early statements on the sheets are useful for the beginning of the game and large groups, later statements are good for the middle or end of the game when there are fewer students left on the map.

4. 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 to keep “out time” to a minimum.

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

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

## **SIMON SAYS STATEMENTS**

*For the beginning of the game and larger numbers of students*

Swim in Lake Champlain

Stand north of Vermont

Stand on an international border

Stand east of the Green Mountains

Stand on your county

Kayak on the Connecticut River

Stand south of Vermont

Stand on a human-made border

Stand in the farthest northwest county

Ride on a railroad

Stand on a physical border

Stand in the farthest southeast county

Stand on an international lake

Stand on 44° North

Stand in the state west of Vermont

Stand in the farthest east county

Stand on a village

Drive on an interstate

Stand on a shire seat

Water ski on the largest lake inside Vermont

Stand in the state east of Vermont

Paddle on Otter Creek

## **SIMON SAYS STATEMENTS**

*For the middle of the game and smaller numbers of students*

Visit the state capital

Stand in our town

Stand in a town due (north, south, east, or west) of our town

Stand on a state highway

Stand on the highest peak in the Green Mountains

Stand on an island

Visit Mount Independence

Stand on an even numbered highway

Stand on Killington Peak

Stand south of Route 4 and west of Route 5

Stand on 72°West

Stand in the B 5 section

Stand on a highway that extends the entire length of the state

Stand on a highway that extends the entire width of the state

Stand in a location where Vermont is west of New York