



#10097 THE SCRAMBLED STATES OF AMERICA

WESTON WOODS STUDIOS, 2000
Grade Level: 2-5
17 mins.

DESCRIPTION

Disenchanted with their fixed locations on the map, the States decide to swap places, hoping to see another part of the country and do something different for a change. They're all initially happier, but soon become disgruntled. Animated version based on the award-winning book by Laurie Keller.

ACADEMIC STANDARDS

Subject Area: Geography–The World in Spatial Terms

- Standard: Understands the spatial organization of places through such concepts as location, distance, direction, scale, movement, and region
 - ◆ Benchmark: Understands the characteristics and uses of spatial organization of Earth's surface (See INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS 1.)

Subject Area: Geography–Places and Regions

- Standard: Understands the concept of regions
 - ◆ Benchmark: Knows the characteristics of a variety of regions (land form, climate, vegetation, shopping, housing, manufacturing, religion, language) (See INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS 2.)
 - ◆ Benchmark: Understands the influences and effects of particular regional labels and images (e.g., Twin Peaks in San Francisco, Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., the South, the rust belt, "developed" vs. "less-developed" regions) (See INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS 2.)

Subject Area: Language Arts–Reading

- Standard: Uses reading skills and strategies to understand and interpret a variety of literary texts
 - ◆ Benchmark: Uses reading skills and strategies to understand a variety of familiar literary passages and texts (e.g., fairy tales, folktales, fiction, nonfiction, legends, fables, myths, poems, nursery rhymes, picture books, predictable books) (See INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS 3.)

INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS

1. To identify various U.S. states and their locations.
2. To explore the characteristics of states and regions of the U.S.
3. To promote the reading of children's literature.

VOCABULARY

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|----------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. arrangement | 6. lonesome | 11. south |
| 2. assuming | 7. Midwestern | 12. southwestern |
| 3. bicker | 8. north | 13. state |
| 4. invitations | 9. packed (a suitcase) | 14. switch places |
| 5. irritated | 10. rumbling | |

BEFORE SHOWING

1. Read the book *The Scrambled States of America* by Laurie Keller.
2. Discuss geography using a large U.S. map. Locate your home state and neighboring states. Describe characteristics of other states that are well known.

DURING SHOWING

1. View the video more than once, with one showing uninterrupted.
2. Pause in the beginning after Sam counts "1001, 1002, 1003" to give the states a couple of seconds. Explain that many people count seconds by saying 1000 between numbers.

AFTER SHOWING

Discussion Items and Questions

1. Why was Kansas feeling unhappy? What did Kansas and Nebraska decide to do? Who helped them?
2. What kinds of things did the states do at the party?
3. What did Idaho and Virginia want to do? How did the other states respond when they suggested that all of the states might want to switch places?
4. How did the states feel after they switched places? Why were the Great Lakes confused?
5. Describe what happened after a few days in their new places. Explain why the various states were unhappy.
6. Which two states were happy together in their new places? Why?
7. How did the states feel after they got back in their regular places? Name some of the things the states shared with their old neighbors.

Applications and Activities

1. Watch the video again or use the book to identify characteristics about various states and regions. Record the information by state on a large classroom chart.
2. Provide several U.S. map puzzles. Spend time putting the puzzles together. While working, discuss distinctive shapes and sizes of the states.

C a p t i o n e d M e d i a P r o g r a m

3. Visit a local travel agency. Ask questions about states of interest. Examine brochures of different states. Point out landmarks and parks. Compare climate, vegetation, etc.
4. Research and report on a state. Include size, geography, population, economy, climate, history, government, and recreation. Write or e-mail the state government for information.
5. Locate items to represent characteristics of each of the states. Examples include: maple syrup (Vermont), a cowboy hat (Texas), a potato (Idaho), a surfboard (California), or specific souvenirs from a state.
6. Create riddles about various states by describing state characteristics. Share the riddles. Try to identify the states by the clues given.
7. Identify and define common idioms from the video or book. Examples include: "hit the road," "sick and tired," "peace and quiet," and "in the middle of nowhere."

SUMMARY

What would happen if the entire configuration of the United States was turned upside down and inside out? *The Scrambled States of America* explores this concept with humor, unpredictability, and countless surprises throughout. Children will become acquainted with the "personalities" of individual states, learning their locations relative to other states in the process.

CMP RELATED RESOURCES

- *The United States: Geography of a Nation #8939*

World Wide Web



The following Web sites complement the contents of this guide; they were selected by professionals who have experience in teaching deaf and hard of hearing students. Every effort was made to select accurate, educationally relevant, and "kid safe" sites. However, teachers should preview them before use. The U.S. Department of Education, the National Association of the Deaf, and the Captioned Media Program do not endorse the sites and are not responsible for their content.

- **SCRAMBLED STATES OF AMERICA RESOURCES**

http://www.libsci.sc.edu/miller/Scrambled_States.htm

Check out this Web site with links to maps, games, activities, quizzes, and songs.



- **THE SCRAMBLED STATES OF AMERICA LESSON PLAN**

http://kancrn.kckps.k12.ks.us/read_alouds/3_5/scrambled.htm

This lesson plan focuses on the theme of perspective, being happy with where you are and what you've got. It suggests reading *The True Story of the Three Little Pigs* as a tie-in to *The Scrambled States of America*. Clear objectives and creative activities.

- **50 STATES.COM**

<http://www.50states.com>

Click on the name of any state and get connected to dozens of links to specific state features—major cities, state flower, bird, tree, government, history, the list is limitless. Also has links to sites for teachers, state facts and trivia, public records, and much more.

- **LAURIE KELLER PORTFOLIO**

<http://irmeliholmberg.com/Keller/>

Laurie Keller is one of many featured illustrators at this Web site. See 16 drawings from her children's books. No text is included.

