

THE SCRAMBLED STATES OF AMERICA TALENT SHOW

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by Laurie Keller

Themes: Geography, States, Humor, Talent Shows

Grade Level: 1-4, Ages: 6-9

Running Time: 18 minutes

SUMMARY

The fifty states are back together again. This time it's for a talent show! New York wakes up from a dream with the grand idea, and soon all the states are on-board. Some, like Indiana and Arizona, prefer to stay behind the scenes, directing and designing costumes. Others, like Massachusetts, Oregon, and Michigan are eager to be front and center. Georgia develops a bad case of the shakes and is diagnosed with stage fright. Will she recover in time for the big show? What remedy will she use? The exuberant states have quite a repertoire of talent that will keep students laughing until the end.

OBJECTIVES

- Students will identify the 50 states on a map.
- Students will learn about Washington D.C.'
- Students will share their talents and put on a talent show.
- Students will compare and contrast their state with another state.

BEFORE VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Show a large map of the United States to students. Activate their background knowledge. Guiding questions:

- How many total states are there in the U.S.?
- How many states are a part of the continental U.S.?
- Which states are separated from the rest of the states?
- How many states were there originally in the U.S.? Where/what were they?
- Point to our state on the map.
- What other states on the map can you name?
- What is the abbreviation for our state?

Tell students that they are going to watch a funny movie about the 50 states putting on a talent show. Encourage them to watch and listen for their home state and any other states that they recognize.

Discuss Washington D.C. with the students. Guiding questions:

- What is Washington D.C.? Is it a state?
- Why is Washington D.C. important to our country? What happens there?
- Where is Washington D.C.? Can you find it on a map of the U.S.?

Show students slides or pictures of some of the landmarks in Washington D.C. Discuss their importance to our nation's history. Give students a desk map of the U.S. Have them locate and mark Washington D.C. Contrast Washington D.C. with the state of Washington.

AFTER VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Give students a blank desk map of the U.S. Using a larger map or text book, have them fill in the states. Provide students a copy of state abbreviations. Encourage students to neatly color their maps. Once students have a basic knowledge of most states' locations, play a form of state bingo with them. Students receive a standard 6x6 bingo card and chips, with state names written randomly on the card. Using a Smart Board or overhead projector, project a blank map of the U.S. for students to see. Color in states one at a time, without naming them. Students must put a chip on their bingo board for every state that you color. Check students at the end by having them call out the states that they colored and labeling them on the map.

Use a Venn diagram to compare and contrast your home state with another state. This activity can be done first as a class exercise, then individually by students as independent practice. Use information about the different states from the movie *The Scrambled States of America Talent Show*, students' background knowledge, as well as other resources such as textbooks and various reference materials. Guiding questions:

- How is our state similar to _____?
- How is our state different than _____?
- Is our state more similar or more different than _____?
- What is unique about our state?
- What would you like to learn more about our state?
- What would you like to learn more about _____?

After the class has completed the Venn diagram together, have students choose a different state to compare and contrast their state with. Then, have them complete a second Venn diagram on their own. As an extension, students can illustrate their Venn diagrams, showing the ways that the states are unique and different through drawing.

Help the class organize and perform a talent show. Encourage all students to participate, using the example of Georgia from the movie as inspiration. Model the talent show after the one put on by the States in the movie, with a director, MC, and various groups. Provide students with practice time. Invite parents and other classes to watch and join the fun!

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