

9 Read Signs

Author & Illustrator: Tana Hoban

Activities

Ask the children to make their own signs by drawing pictures and/or writing words. Examples of signs may include indicating a place to get something to eat or drink, find a restroom, locate an animal in the zoo, tell of road conditions (bump, sharp curve, fog), or give a warning (hot, sharp, quiet).

Show the children a map of the United States. Slide your finger along the northern border and say, "This is North." Put a card marked NORTH at the top of the map. Repeat along the southern border for SOUTH. For EAST, run a finger down the Atlantic coast and place the East card on the Atlantic coastline. For WEST, run a finger down the Pacific coast and place the West card on the Pacific coastline.

Have the children make NORTH, SOUTH, EAST and WEST cards with arrows pointing in the appropriate direction. Allow them to take turns putting their arrow sign cards on the correct parts of the map. Ask them why it is important it is to have arrows on signs.

On the world globe, point to the North Pole and have the children put a sticky note with the word NORTH on it there. Repeat for the South Pole. At the equator, have children place an EAST note on the right side of the equatorial line and a WEST note on the left side of the equatorial line.

Materials

- art paper
- crayons
- markers
- pencils
- paints
- large wall map of the United States
- four 3x5 index cards marked NORTH, SOUTH, EAST and WEST, each with a directional arrow pointing up, down, right or left
- black marker
- world globe
- sticky notes
- pencils

Joel Says

Before the book is read, ask...

What does the cover of this book tell you? What do you think this book will be about?

Stop during the reading and ask...

Why do you think some signs have both words and pictures? What are some important messages that signs give us?

After reading the book, ask...

Why do you think signs are important? What are some ways that signs help us? Protect us? Give us information? How do signs with no words still give