

# **GEOGRAPHICAL PLAYS**

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Geographical Plays by Jane Andrews

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**JANE ANDREWS**

**GEOGRAPHICAL  
PLAYS**



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PLAYS

BY

JANE ANDREWS

AUTHOR OF "SEVEN LITTLE SISTERS," "TEN BUTS," ETC.



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## CONTENTS.

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UNITED STATES.

EUROPE.

ASIA.

AFRICA AND SOUTH AMERICA

AUSTRALIA AND THE ISLANDS.

COMMERCE OF THE WORLD.

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## PREFACE.

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**TO MY FELLOW-TEACHERS:** In allegiance to the free-masonry of our order, I hold that a teacher who invents or discovers a plan which proves itself good in the working should pass it along to the next, and indeed offer the benefit of it to all.

These little plays I have prepared for my own school as a final review of each country before beginning a new one.

We all know that the children must, of necessity, study one or two States only at each lesson, and it is difficult to make them take a comprehensive view of the country as a unit. The boundary lines on the map are too definite to be ignored, and so the political *divisions* are apt to be more prominent to the child's mind than the *natural relations*. I have tried in my little plays to overcome in some measure these difficulties. I think they should never be used until a country has been faithfully studied in the Geography, and until the child is familiar with all the names he is likely to meet in the play, which will then serve as a summary of previous knowledge.

I have been greatly tempted to extend my range of topics; for instance, in the present case, to touch upon the mounds of the Mississippi and Ohio valleys, the recent discoveries of the cave-dwellings in Colorado, &c.; and also to introduce more history. But I have decided that it is better adapted to the average child of ten or twelve years, if left in the present concise form, referring only to such prominent facts as he really can remember, and is likely to make constant use of; while to the teacher it may serve as a frame-work or suggestion for a much broader and more valuable review for such pupils as can appreciate it.

As a supplementary reading-book, it has the advantage of short paragraphs, and an animating effect upon a class; since, if each child personates a State, he must be always on the alert, and interested in his neighbor's topics, in order to bring in his own part properly.

While I have prepared the plays for my pupils, I have always expected them to prepare for themselves a little set of cards, of which I give a sample. This game we play occasionally, and so keep alive our knowledge of names and places. Sometimes I take all the cards, read the list of cities, and give the card to the one who can tell the name of the State. That is the easiest way of all, and is good for practice when the game is first made. But to reverse the plan, give the name of the State and require the cities, or at least a majority of them, is better; or to distribute the cards among the children, and let them call upon each other in turn, best of all.

I offer these suggestions merely, for I know that each teacher's own way will work best in her own school.

#### SAMPLE OF THE CARD.

<b>BOSTON.</b>	
<i>Seaports.</i>	<i>Inland Cities and Towns.</i>
SALEM,	SPRINGFIELD, HADLEY,
MARBLEHEAD,	WORCESTER, HOLYOKE,
GLOUCESTER,	FITCHBURG, TAUNTON,
PLYMOUTH,	FALL RIVER, QUINCY,
PROVINCETOWN,	CONCORD, LEXINGTON,
NEW BEDFORD,	CAMBRIDGE,
NEWBURTPORT,	LOWELL, LAWRENCE,
CHARLESTOWN (Navy Yard).	HAVERHILL, LYNN.

*MASSACHUSETTS should be in large letters on the back.*



# GEOGRAPHICAL PLAYS.

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## I.

### UNITED STATES.

*Room decorated with the American flag; and each child wears a little flag, and a card with the name of the State which he represents.*

*They march in to some national tune ("The Star-Spangled Banner").*

*Stranger (who may be the teacher or one of the older pupils). What is this floating banner, with its stars and stripes, and who are these children that follow it to the sound of such stirring music?*

*United States.* We are a band of brother and sister States stretching from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific, and from the great lakes to the Gulf of Mexico. We are not ruled by a king, but are bound together by laws of our own making, and governed by a President chosen by the people. Perhaps we are not so old nor so wise as some other countries, but every year will improve us in these respects. And now if you would like to know some of our States more intimately, they shall tell you what they have of treasures and advantages. Here is a little New England group; let them

Speak first, for, if they are not very large, they are still the oldest of us all.

*Maine.* Do you want masts for your ships, or lumber to build them? Then let me take you down to Bangor, and back into the old pine forests with the lumbermen.

*Alabama.* Wait a minute! Don't suppose you have all the lumber! I am sure my masts and spars are equal to any you can show.

*North Carolina.* And who has better pine-trees than I? Think of all the tar, pitch, and turpentine that I make!

*Washington and Oregon.* You make me laugh, old friends. Why, don't you know that my fir-trees are three or four hundred feet high, and that the Pacific side is the place for ship-building? But don't let's dispute. We are each good in our own way. Let Maine go on with his story.

*Maine.* Well, if you, Alabama, and you too, Washington, will come down to Bath and Belfast, we will build you ships as fine as any you ever saw. And if Oregon has a Portland, so have we, with one of the best harbors in the world. It isn't frozen in the coldest weather; and that reminds me to tell you of the Grand Trunk Railroad that brings the winter passengers down from Canada to take the steamers for Europe that sail out of our harbor when their St. Lawrence River is full of ice. Then, if you want lime, I will send you some from Rockland and Thomaston; and if you would like cotton cloth by the mile or the hundred miles, come down to Lewiston and Biddeford. Biddeford, I think, must have been named for old Biddeford in Devon, where lived Amyas Leigh, and where Sir Walter Raleigh used to visit.

*Massachusetts.* I don't want to be impolite; but when

you talk of cotton factories, I wish you could just see my Merrimac River. I believe it turns more spindles than any other river of its size in the world; and there are on its banks big cities, — Lawrence, and Lowell, and Haverhill, and Newburyport, — all busy as bees. Why, you can hear the hum of the factories all day long.

*South Carolina.* But what would you do if we didn't send you any cotton to spin?

*Mississippi and Alabama.* And we, too, and Georgia besides.

*Massachusetts.* Ah, that would be very hard, like the war times. But we won't let that happen again — will we?

*New Hampshire.* You mustn't leave the Merrimac without sailing up to my part of it, and seeing what spinning and weaving it can do in Nashua and Manchester. And why are you talking of nothing but work, when you can find such beautiful places for play, if you will follow up the rivers to their mountain-homes, and see the Glen, and the Notch, and the Flume, and the Old Man of the Mountains; to say nothing of Lake Winnepiseogee and the grand peaks of Washington, Jefferson, Adams, and the rest.

*Maine.* If you want mountains and lakes, let me speak, for I haven't had a chance to say a word about Katahdin, or Mars Hill, or Moosehead Lake, or the Schoodics.

*New York.* I think Maine has said enough for the present. Haven't I lakes, with fine old Indian names too; a whole string of them. And Vermont and I together own as pretty a lake as you will find the world over. There are stories about it too, MacDonough's victory on Lake Champlain, and stories about old Samuel Champlain, who discovered it. And if you come down to Lake George, who doesn't know about Fort Ticon-