

Title of Book: The Train of States

Author's Name: Peter Sis

Publisher: Greenwillow

Copyright year: 2004

Reading Level: 3<sup>rd</sup> grade

Genre: Non-Fiction

Synopsis:

This book has many great illustrations of train cars that represent each state. This is a great way to not only learn the states, but many details about each one of them. It's evident that Sis did much research on the issue to bring us a detailed book about all of the states in the union. The states are in the order in which they joined the union, beginning with Delaware, "The First State" and ending with Washington, D.C. as the caboose. Some of the details that are included about each state include the flag, nickname, motto, bird, tree, and animal as well as important people or sites. It's a great teaching tool and a fun book to have in the classroom.

Theme: Geography

Activity One: Region Maps

- Original---Jeff Mendenhall
- In groups students will be assigned a specific region of the United States and become experts on the issue.
- There will be eight different groups for eight of the regions in the United States. In these groups the students will list the states located within their region and become experts. This means they will know the state bird, state flower, state nickname, when it became a state, and the natural resources for each state in their region.

Activity Two: 50 States that rhyme

- <http://www.mrsjonesroom.com/songs/50states.html>
- The students will learn the *50 States that Rhyme* song
- The *50 States that Rhyme* song will be learned by each one of the students for this activity. The students will be exposed to the song several times, as well as the lyrics. The lyrics are located on

the web page listed above. After repetition students should be able to learn this song along with the beat.