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The Scrambled States Of America



Synopsis

At the first annual "states party," Virginia and Idaho hatch a plan to swap spots so each can see another part of the country. Before the party is over, all the states decide to switch places. In the beginning, every state is happy in its new location. But soon things start to go wrong. Florida, who switches spots with Minnesota, is freezing in the frosty northern climate, and Minnesota hasn't brought sunscreen and is getting an awful sunburn. Will the states ever unscramble themselves and return to their proper places? Packed with madcap humor and whimsical illustrations, this quirky story--starring all fifty states--is chock-full of introductory facts and silly antics that will make learning geography as much fun as taking a vacation. This title has Common Core connections.

Book Information

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Age Range: 6 - 10 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 5

Customer Reviews

One day, Kansas wakes up grumpy. The other 49 states are stretching, yawning, and pouring maple syrup onto each other's pancakes, but irritable Kansas announces to his kindly neighbor Nebraska that life is dull and changes must be made: "All day long we just sit here in the middle of the country. We never GO anywhere. We never DO anything, and we NEVER meet any NEW states!" Nebraska, sick of hearing North Dakota and South Dakota bicker all the time, agrees to help organize a party for all the states. It's a hit! Late into the evening, Idaho and Virginia get up onto the

stage and suggest that all the states change places. What a state of affairs. Minnesota, who switches places with Florida, gets a sunburn. Kansas, having traded places with Hawaii, gets lonely and sings some soggy blues so sad that a shark sheds a mournful tear offshore. Nevada and Mississippi fall in love. Despite the initial excitement, the new arrangement just doesn't feel right. The states manage to swim, fly, bike, and hitchhike their way home, and everyone goes to bed in the right place--even Kansas is happy to be home after such an adventure. This wacky, thoroughly engaging tale of mixed-up geography is a good bet for some awards. Perhaps best of all, the large format and riot of detail allow for plenty of amusing asides. Books that claim to "make geography fun" usually have to be taken with a dose of skepticism: so often, the teaching is there and the entertainment isn't. This delightfully quirky and original book shows how it should be done. (Ages 4 and older) --Richard Farr

It's hard to imagine a more engaging (or comical) way to learn the 50 states and their locations than in this auspicious debut from Keller. Dorothy may have thought there's no place like home when she clicked her red ruby slippers, but her native state's wanderlust starts all the trouble here. Kansas is bored ("All day long we just sit here in the middle of the country. We never GO anywhere. we never DO anything") and drafts best friend Nebraska into the cause of stirring things up. Soon they're throwing a potluck party for all the states (the spread includes "Iowa Corn Surprise" and "Boston Baked Beans") and everyone delights in the idea of seeing another part of the country. Keller bestows a unique personality onto each of the states, yet keeps them true to their national identity. Kansas gets to take exotic Hawaii's place ("Aloha, world!"), Wisconsin packs up its famous cheese, Nevada and Mississippi fall in love ("Do you want to become MRS.issippi?" Nevada asks), and in a subtle lesson, Maryland places the Washington Monument and Capitol building carefully in a suitcase ("Are you o.k. in there Mr. President?"). Keller cleverly illustrates the chaos that ensues when the states cross country (e.g., the displaced Great Lakes ask, "Um... where did Michigan go?"). Soon the gang get homesick for their native lands, and New York hails a taxi home, California flies west in a plane, while a hitchhiking Connecticut cops a ride with Massachusetts, New Jersey and Maine. Readers will unwittingly learn more than they bargained for about the (finally) United States, while poring over the endless witty remarks exchanged over state lines. Ages 6-9. Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc.

My little nephew kept checking & rechecking this out of his local library. When I visited, I saw he had nearly memorized the book and I knew he should have his own copy. .com to the rescue!!! Plus

there's also a game available. With Prime, I could nearly buy the game for what postage would have cost. It's a terrific learning tool. Thank you .com for having what I need at the push of a button!

I admit - I still sing my favorite song from the 5th grade, "Fifty Nifty United States from the 13 Original Colonies...." I love U.S. history and have always wondered how am I going to pass that along to my children. Ladies and gentlemen... drum roll please! This book is so freaking cute that I can hardly stand it. It's hysterical (with it's little side comments written throughout the book), fact-filling fun. "The Scrambled States of America" tells the journey of a few states (while at a "state party") who decided to switch places on the map. They were tired of their "neighbors" and/or just wanted a change of pace. Soon all the states were in on the gig and decided to go live elsewhere. So, Texas goes to Alaska... Alaska goes where Texas is from.. etc etc. After they all settled into their new respective "homes" on the map -- chaos ensues. They realize that really - there is no place like home - and go back to their original spots. The commentary from each state is classic. It made me giggle. hee hee And to be truthful, I bought this book back in 1997. WAAAAAY before I was even married with kids. It just was too cute to keep away from home. I love the concept of this book. It is very well-written and makes learning all about the 50 states a joy. Thank you, Ms. Keller!

These Scrambled States books have really launched an interest in the states for my 8 and 6 year old girls. We read the books over and over again. They love to read not just the story, but all the little side phrases and conversations that happen between the states on several of the pages. After seeing how much they loved the book, I also purchased the Scrambled States of America game, which has also been a huge hit, especially with my older daughter. She knows SO much about the states now, after just a few weeks! We also bought a Melissa & Doug giant floor puzzle of the U.S. to help reinforce state locations. This book started it all...what a fun introduction to the states!

Such a cute book. Very engaging for kids and adults alike. Great way to get familiar with all the states in a fun way.

I love books that have a great story and offer something to learn. My kids love this book and ask me to read it all the time. I have a 4 year old and 6 year old (and book was bought for my 11 year old who reads it to himself or to the younger ones)

This, I think, is the perfect children's book. They will love it as toddlers, as little tikes, as middler

schoolers....even adults love it. It was published around my son's 1st birthday. I got a hardback copy, and was glad I did. His brother was born 2 years after, and we read that book SO much over the years that, even with care, it was more tape than book by the end. They are now 14 and 18 and STILL make jokes from it. I just gave a new copy as a baby gift and recommend it with all my heart. It's educational, delightful and just plain fun. Laurie Keller wrote other books, but Scrambled States was the book that was her first up to bat, and she hit that ball right out of the park. I'd give it 10 stars if I could. Truly Excellent.

We are huge Laurie Keller fans! This was the book that started it all. We discovered this book at the library, and my children loved it. The story, the wit, the humor, the illustrations. My daughter got into learning about US geography thanks to this book. She also learned about various donuts from Arnie and teeth and cavities from Tooth School Inside. I love Laurie Keller continues to write and illustrate more educational books. We ended up purchasing our own copy because my children loved the book so much.

This is a terrific book. We bought it after learning that Laurie Keller was going to visit my daughter's school. I hadn't heard of her, and now plan on getting many of her other books. My 7 year old daughter has loved the story line, and all the adorable and hilarious details on every page. Every time we look at this book we see knew things. She has also learned a lot about the states, and has even enjoyed the more mundane pages where specific facts about lists about each state.

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