

21 US Geography & Directions

Clarifying confusion creates communicative competency.

INTRODUCTION

1. This is an information gap activity, and has a version for 3 and 4 persons.
2. This activity is a little easier to understand and do than the street directions, so I do this activity first.
3. This can be used at any time, and fits in well with the Vacations unit in Jazz 1.
4. There are 48 states here. 48 divided by 3 = 16, 48 divided by 4 = 12. Thus, each student will ask and receive directions at least 12 times.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Students sit in a group of 3 or 4.
2. I go over the directions 1 - 4, and pronounce the prepositions and directions. They repeat.
3. When I am going over 4, I tell them that this is a chance to practice their **bad-pad-fad vad; light, right, night, white** pronunciation. They can emphasize the difference between B and D, M and N.
4. **A** goes first, and asks: What state is above, below, on the right, on the left of Kansas?
5. After the answer is given and spelled, everyone writes the name down in the proper place. Then, **B** goes.
6. There will be confusion and sometimes students will write the state name in the wrong place and this will start a chain reaction of mistakes. That's OK. Clearing up confusion creates communicative competency.

POST-ACTIVITY ACTIVITY

1. Some groups will finish before others. Therefore, as groups finish I tell them to talk about places in America they have been to, or would like to go to, why, where, for how long. It's a conversation class.
2. After every group finishes, they open their Jazz book to the USA map and I pronounce the names of the states for them, starting with Washington, and going down and then up toward the east.
3. If time allows: I tell them that most states are Indian names: Ohio, Arkansas, Idaho, etc.
4. I explain that the state capitols are not the biggest city in the state, but rather the biggest city near the center of the state. This was to help voting in the old days of horses.
5. I explain the US highway system. Highways that go basically north and south have odd numbers, and begin on the west coast (highway 1) and end on the east coast (Interstate-95).
6. Highways that go east and west are even numbered, and start in the south. For example, Interstate 10 goes from lower California to Florida. The farther north you go, the higher number the highways.
7. Also, there are interstate loops around major cities, and the loops have 3-digit numbers. For example, the 610 loop around Houston.

TALK OR WALK PRONUNCIATION

To help students pronounce states such as Wyoming and Iowa correctly, I have included Jazz spelling in smaller letters underneath each state. The most common states, such as California and New York need no such help. Every student knows certain basics of English pronunciation, such as:

A = ai = pay, pain, main	<i>Maine</i>	aw = saw	<i>Flaw-ree-duh</i>
E = ee = beet, feet, meet	<i>Tehn-neh-see</i>	eh = wet, get, bet	<i>Aw-reh-gahn</i>
I = eye = why, my	<i>Eye-duh-ho</i>	ae = hat, cat, bat	<i>Ae-ree-zoh-nuh</i>
O = Oh = no, go, so	<i>Oh-kluh-ho-muh</i>	ah = how, hot, pot	<i>You-tah,</i>
U = oo = you, flew, blue	<i>Mae-suh-choo-suhts</i>	uh = but, hut, mutt	<i>Ae-luh-baem-uh</i>
Y = eye = why	<i>Y-oh-ming</i>	un = gun, fun	<i>Aw-reh-gun</i>

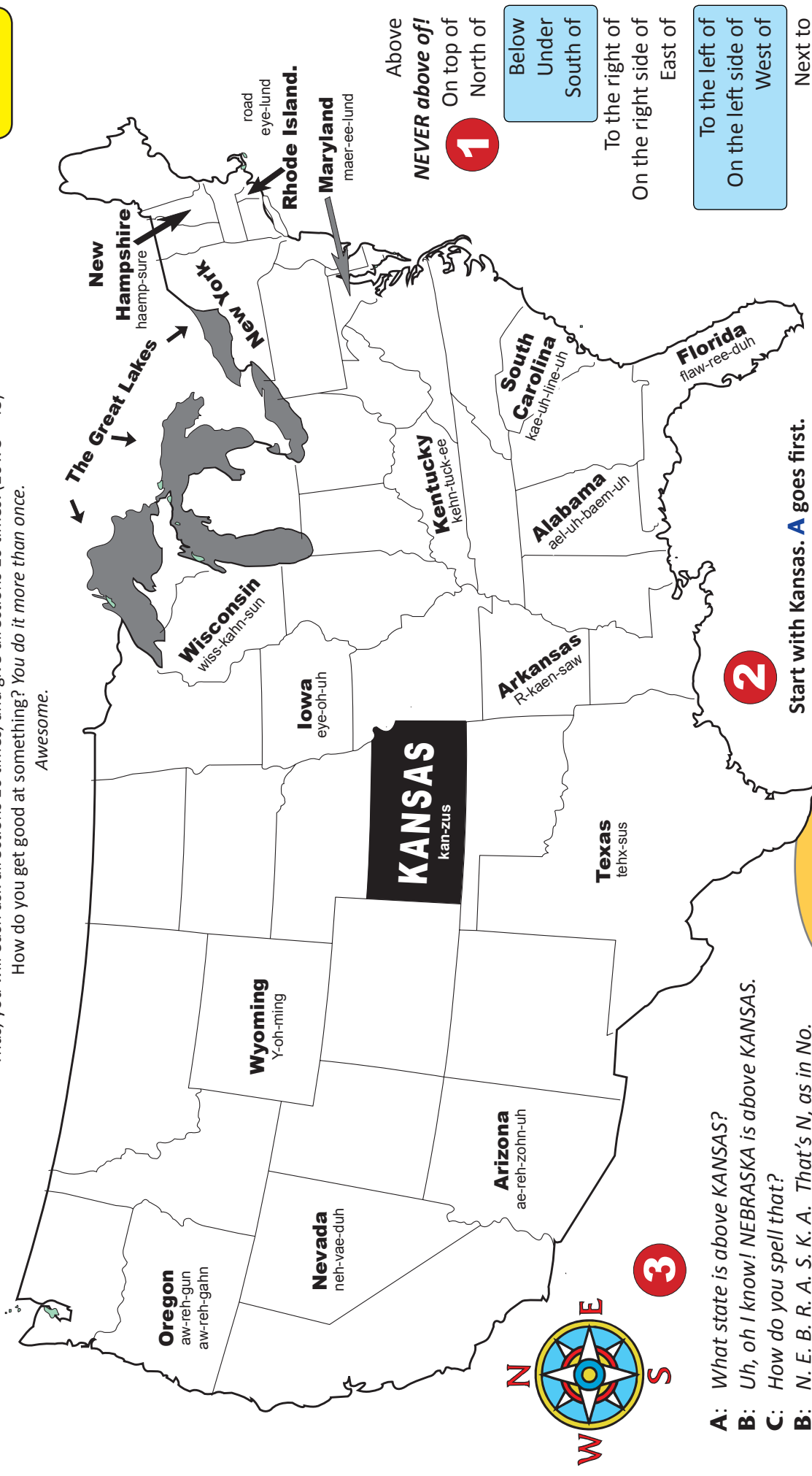
This is not formal phonetics, merely help to pronounce the names of the states for the first time.

You can go to talk-or-walk.com and get an MP3 audio of the states pronounced, and play that before or after the activity.

US GEOGRAPHY & DIRECTIONS

3 person
A

There are 48 states below. You know name and location of 16 states. Your partners know the rest. Thus, you will ask directions 16 times, and give directions 16 times. (16 x 3 = 48)
How do you get good at something? You do it more than once.
Awesome.



1
Above
NEVER above of!
On top of
North of

Below
Under
South of

To the right of
On the right side of
East of

To the left of
On the left side of
West of

Next to
In between
Southeast of
Northwest of

2

Start with Kansas. **A** goes first.
Take turns asking: **What state . . . ?**
until everyone has written the names of all the states.

NEVER, EVER
let your partners see
your map!

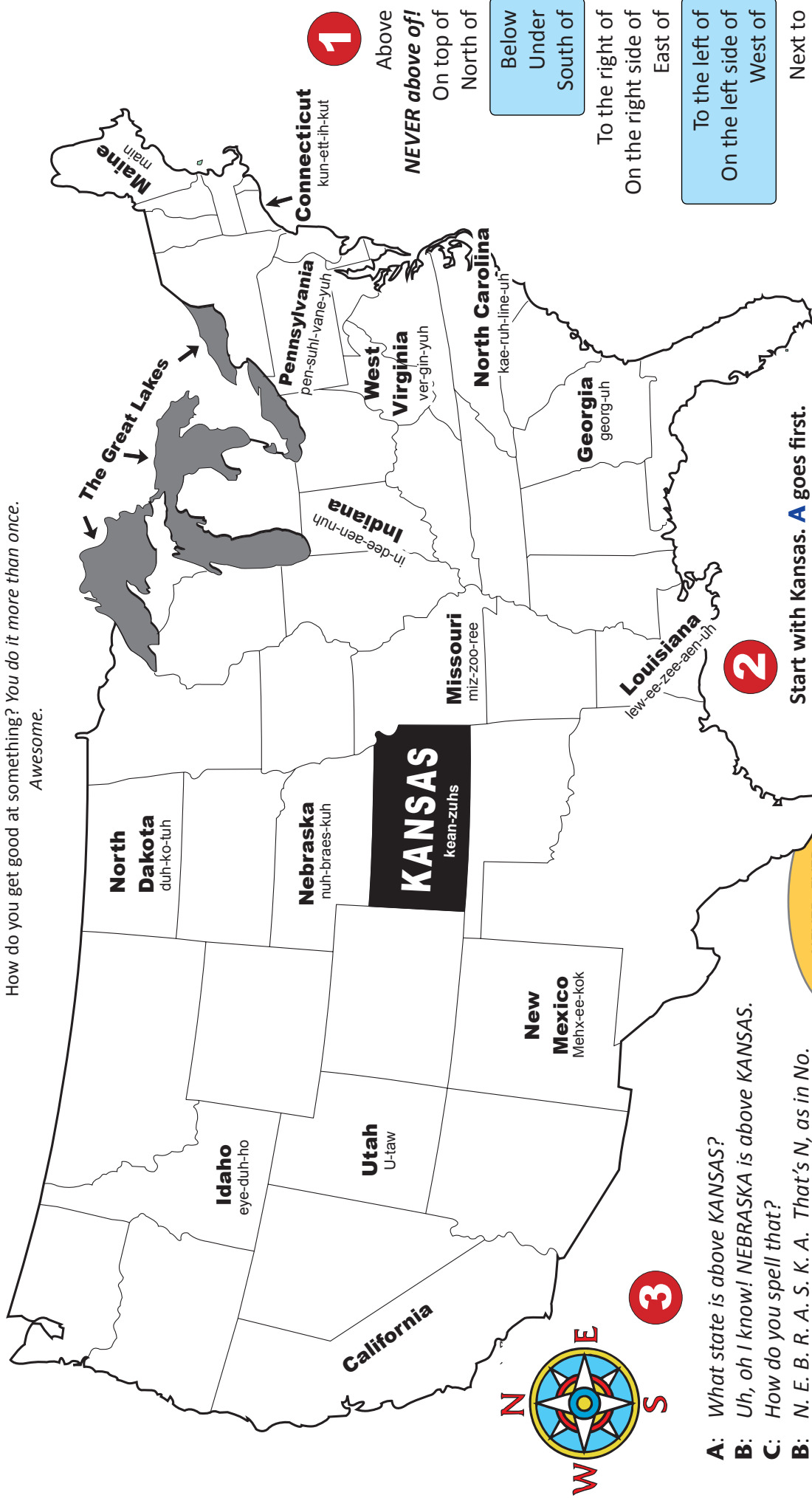
3

A: What state is above KANSAS?
B: Uh, oh I know! NEBRASKA is above KANSAS.
C: How do you spell that?
B: N. E. B. R. A. S. K. A. That's N, as in No.
B: Cool. What state is west of KANSAS?
C: That's COLORADO.
A: How do you spell that?

US GEOGRAPHY & DIRECTIONS

3 person
B

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- B:** N. E. B. R. A. S. K. A. That's N, as in No.
- B:** Cool. What state is west of KANSAS?
- C:** That's COLORADO.
- A:** How do you spell that?

US GEOGRAPHY & DIRECTIONS

3 person **C**

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- 1**
- Above
 - NEVER above of!
 - On top of
 - North of
- 2**
- Below
 - Under
 - South of
 - To the right of
 - On the right side of
 - East of
 - To the left of
 - On the left side of
 - West of
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 - In between
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 - Northwest of

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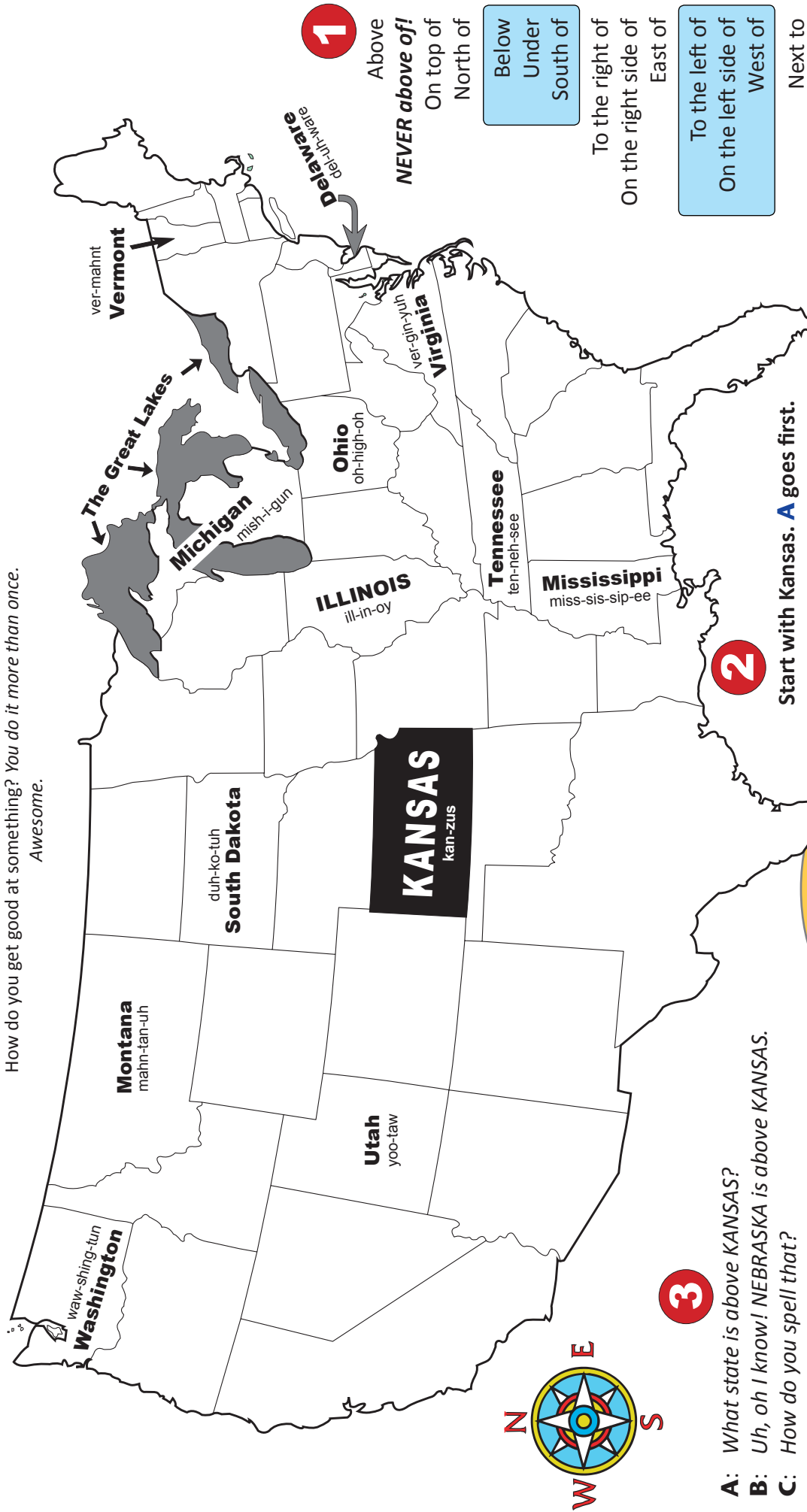
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US GEOGRAPHY & DIRECTIONS

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US GEOGRAPHY & DIRECTIONS

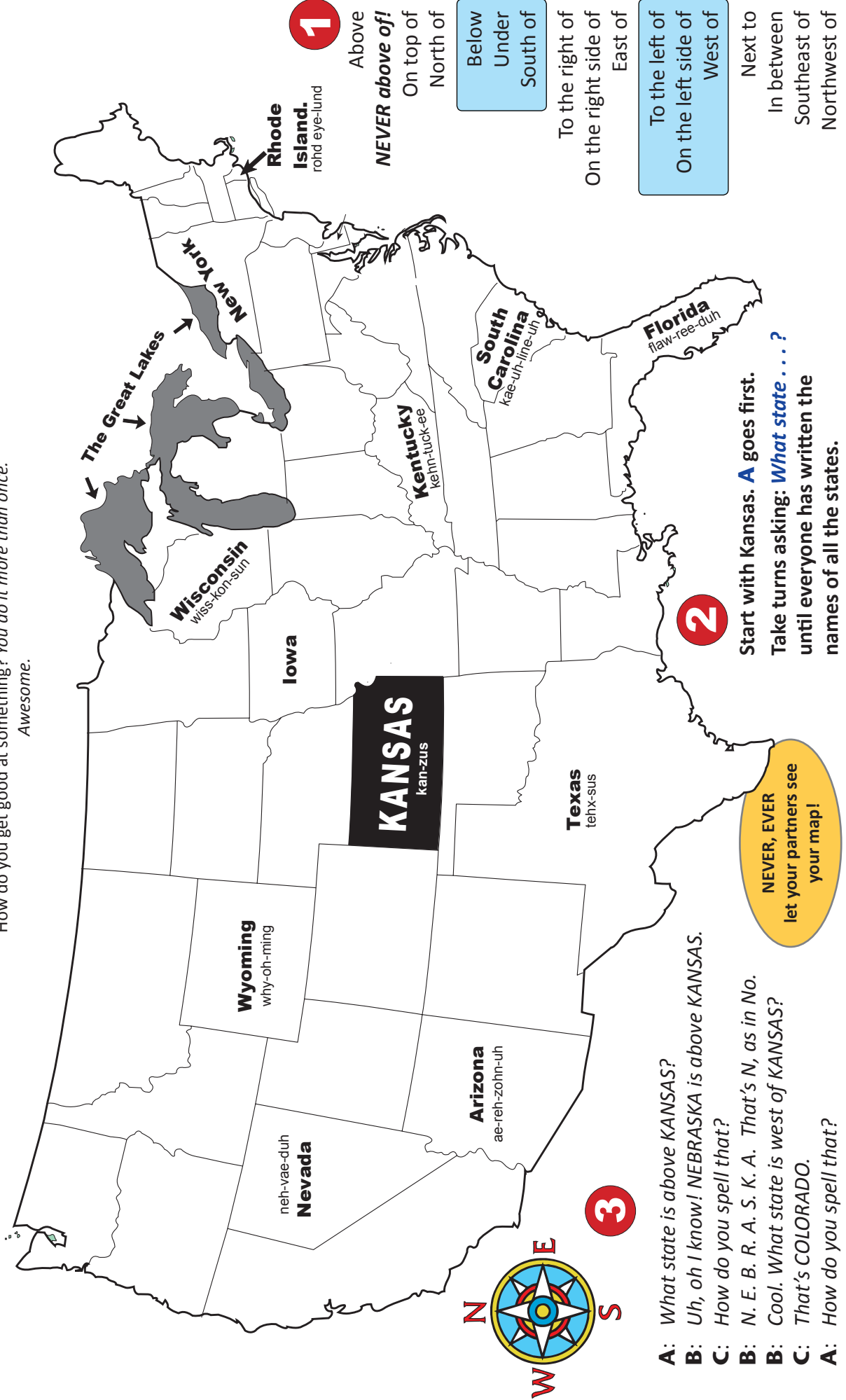
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4 person

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US GEOGRAPHY & DIRECTIONS

C
4 person

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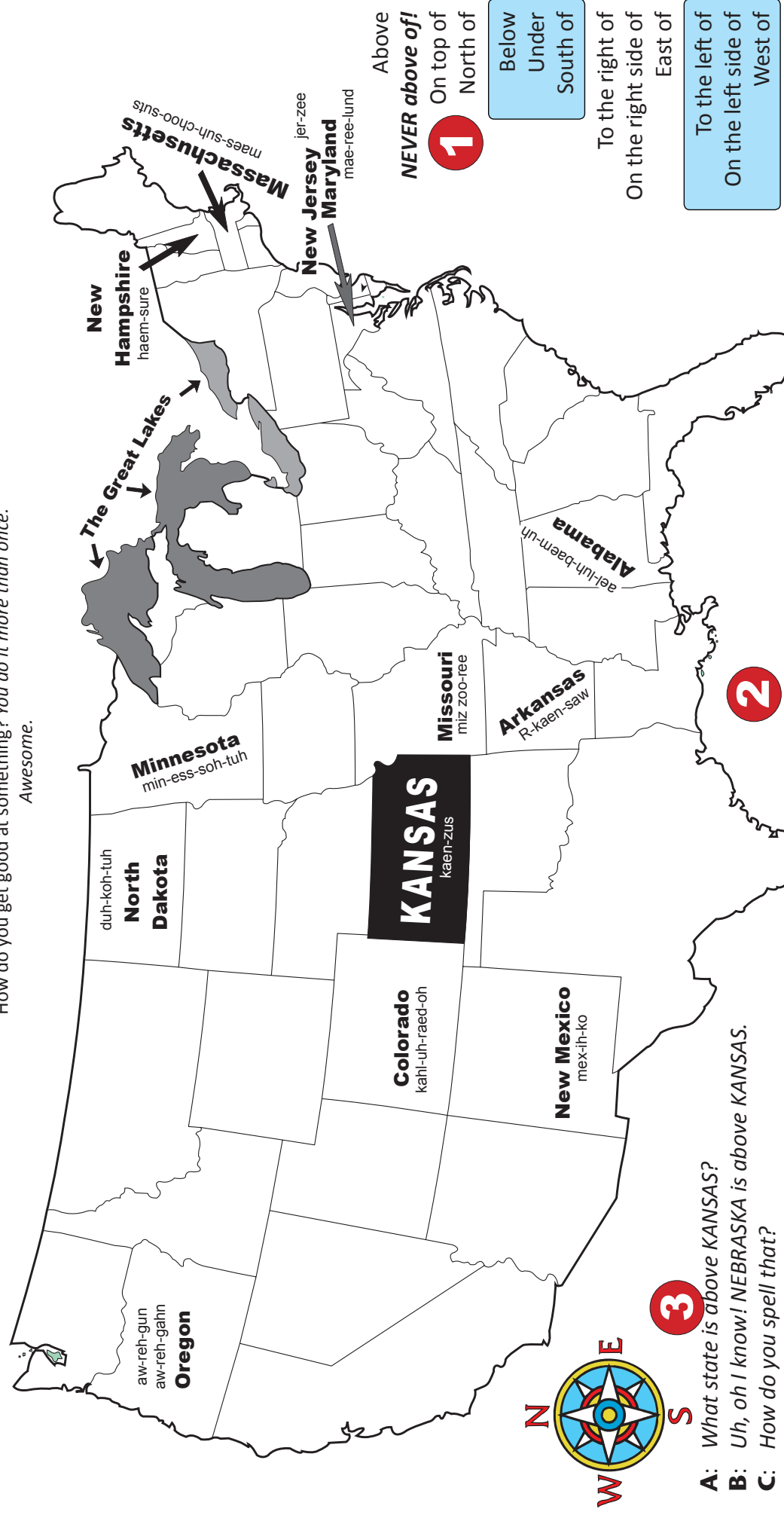
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- A:** How do you spell that?

US GEOGRAPHY & DIRECTIONS

D
4 person

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- B:** Cool. What state is west of KANSAS?
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- A:** How do you spell that?

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