

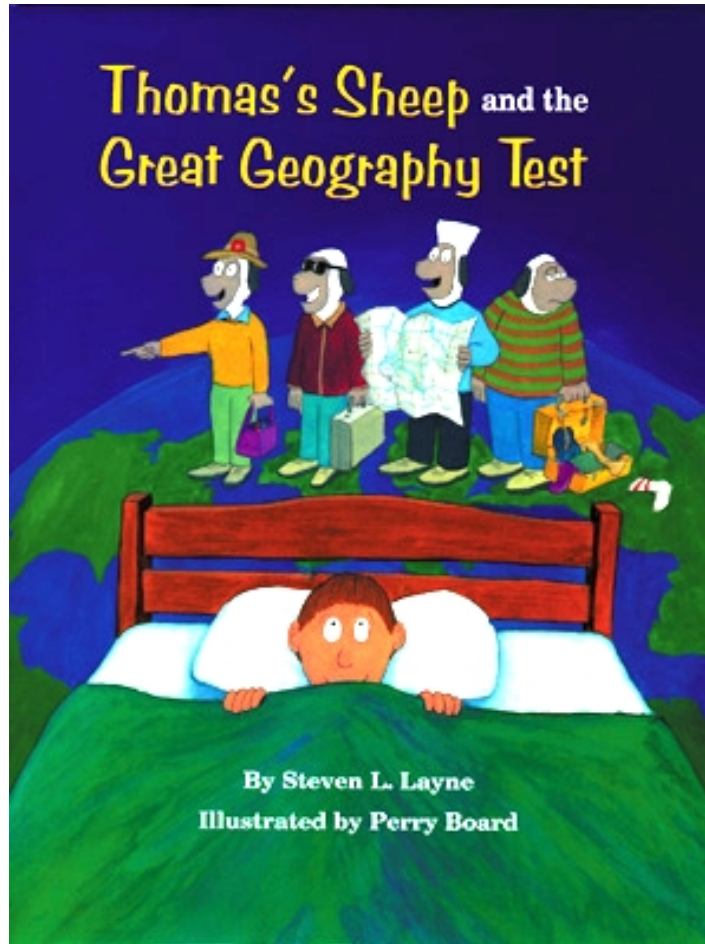


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Study Guide for *Thomas's Sheep and the Great Geography Test*

By Steven Layne
Illustrated by Perry Board



Classroom activities to go along with this book include:

Word Puzzles

Writing and critical thinking exercises

Website activities

Mazes



Study Guide created by

Jill Cole Ed.D



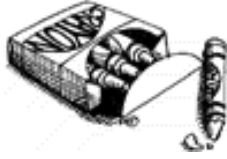
Reproducible Worksheets



WHAT DO YOU THINK?

What did you think of the book *Thomas's Sheep and the Great Geography Test*? Whenever you read a book, you should think about your opinion. Answer the following questions to help you think about the book.

1. Do you have trouble sleeping like Thomas did? Have you counted sheep? Did it work? Do you have another method that works?
2. Try a book scavenger hunt. Look back in the book to answer these questions. See if you can find the answers faster than a friend!
 - What are the stuffed animals that sleep in bed with Thomas?
 - Name 3 things in the pasture besides sheep.
 - What is written on the apron when the sheep are baking in Belgium?
 - What did the sheep do in the United States?
 - Where did the sheep mountain climb?
 - What play did the sheep do in Australia?
 - Where did the sheep read in the library?
 - Where did one of the sheep score a hole in one?
 - What does the stamp say on Thomas's A+ geography test?Now try to come up with some new questions for the book. See if your friend can answer them!
3. The illustrations in *Thomas's Sheep and the Great Geography Test* are humorous. Why do you think they are funny? Find the one you laughed at most. Why?
4. Why do you think Thomas got an A+ on his geography test?
5. What would you like to tell the author, Steven L. Layne, and the illustrator, Perry Board, about the book?
6. Have a literature circle! Get together with 3 or 4 friends and talk about the book. Discuss your favorite pages, which countries you would like to visit, which of the activities in the book you have done or would like to do, which is your favorite sheep, and your opinion of the book. Here's an activity your group can do: close the book and list the ABCs on a piece of paper. Can you remember the countries and activities for each letter? You can use a globe or world map to help.
7. Now that you're an expert on *Thomas's Sheep and the Great Geography Test*, read the book to a friend or someone in your family.



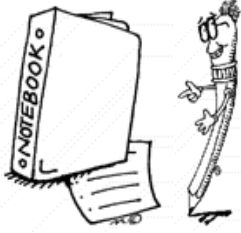
ART

The sheep in *Thomas's Sheep and the Great Geography Test* show many different emotions. Can you find a sheep acting happy? How about sad? There are other emotions, too. Talk about the emotions below. Can you find an illustration of a sheep in the book that shows each of the emotions?

confused	frightened	shocked
guilty	disgusted	lonely
suspicious	enraged	hopeful
angry	ecstatic	overwhelmed
hysterical	cautious	surprised
embarrassed	content	bored
shy	confident	jealous
ashamed	mischievous	frustrated

Look at this illustration of a sheep drawn by Perry Board. Study the illustrations in the book as well. Choose an emotion from the list above and draw a sheep that shows that emotion. Add other details to your drawing so your sheep is in a setting and is doing something, too. Share your illustration with a friend.





WRITING

An alliteration is when two or more neighboring words begin with the same letter sound. Steven Layne used alliteration when he wrote such phrases as “acting in Australia,” “baking in Belgium,” and “canoeing in Canada.” You can write alliterations, too. Use the following countries from the book *Thomas’s Sheep and the Great Geography Test* and write a sentence with alliteration. Use different words than Steven Layne did and have fun. You will notice that your alliterations can be tongue twisters! The examples will help get you started.

Australia An army of ants arrived by airplane in Australia carrying armloads of apples.

Belgium The bat from Belgium broke a broom when he was bitten by a brown beaver.

Canada Can she call the Canadian camels to crush the crunchy candies, or can’t she?

Denmark _____

England _____

Finland _____

Guatemala _____

Hungary _____

Iceland _____

Japan _____

Kenya _____

Continue writing alliterations with other country names on the back of this page. Did you create some funny tongue twisters? See how fast you can read them. Trade alliterations with a friend and read each other’s sentences.

Choose one of your alliterations and turn it into a story. Add illustrations. Collect alliteration stories from your classmates and put them together into a book.

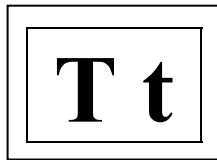


THE ABCs

Thomas's Sheep and the Great Geography Test is a great ABC book. The book reviews the alphabet, shows you words that begin with each letter, and helps you learn many names of countries around the world. Have you read many ABC books? There are many kinds that are fun to read and also give good information about interesting topics. Look up some ABC books in your library. You may be surprised how good they are!

Now you can make your own ABC book. Follow these steps:

1. Decide on a topic for your ABC book. You might choose friends' names, animals, names of cities in your state, Beanie Babies, or another topic you like.
1. Use the sample below to create pages for your ABC book.
2. Put an upper case and a lower case letter in the small box. Use manuscript or cursive and practice your handwriting!
4. Write some sentences on the bottom lines using your topic and the letter for that page.
 1. In the middle, illustrate your sentences.
 2. Put all your pages in order and bind them into a book. Share it with your class!



T is for Thomas. He couldn't
sleep, so he counted sheep.





GEOGRAPHY

It's fun and interesting to learn geography when you have good books and resources to help you. *Thomas's Sheep and the Great Geography Test* introduces you to 26 countries around the world. Here are some activities you can do with the book:

1. Make a list of all 26 countries.

Circle each country you can find on a map or globe.

Put a check by each country you can spell.

Put a square around each country you have visited.

Put a star by each country you'd like to visit someday.

Put an N by the countries found in the northern hemisphere.

Put an S by those found in the southern hemisphere.

Put an E by the countries where the people speak English.

Draw a line to connect any countries that are next to each other.

Discuss your answers with some friends.

1. Choose one country and write a research report. Research means reading and learning about your country. Find books in your classroom, in the library, or from home. The Internet will have information on your country, too. Check out the following websites.

<http://www.VirtualTourist.com>

<http://www.mapquest.com>

<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/mapmachine>

1. Use your resources to take notes on the country you chose. Note taking is writing down INTERESTING things you find in your resources. To help you organize your notes, fill in the chart below. Some sample questions will help you know what to put under each column.

NUMBER FACTS

What is the population?

How big is the country?

How wealthy is the country?

PEOPLE FACTS

Is there a king and queen?

What games do kids play?

What is school like?

FUN FACTS

Information
you find that
is amazing!

When you are done taking notes, take the information in the chart and write it in sentences on some paper. Add illustrations and share what you learned about your country with your teacher and classmates.



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THOMAS'S SHEEP AND THE GREAT GEOGRAPHY TEST

By Steven L. Layne

NAMED THE 1999 JUNIOR HIGH "READING EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR"
BY THE ILLINOIS READING COUNCIL

A little boy named Thomas and his unusual sheep take a whirlwind trip around the world in this story. Anxious about his teacher's Great Geography Test tomorrow, Thomas has trouble sleeping. He tries and tries, but he just cannot fall asleep.

In come the sheep to the rescue! They help Thomas prepare for the big test by traveling to countries around the globe. Mischief follows this crazy crew as they see the world from A to Z, doing everything from acting in Australia to zigzagging through Zimbabwe in this alphabet book adventure.

Thomas and his sheep take the reader on a world tour unlike any ever imagined. Children can learn geography, as well as the alphabet, while following the hilarious antics of these globe-trotters. Their journey is humorously depicted by illustrator Perry Board and the zaniness of this adventure is captured in his drawings.

Dr. Steven L. Layne is a faculty member in the Department of Education at Judson College in Elgin, IL, where he teaches courses in both literature and pedagogy. He also serves as a respected literacy consultant, motivational keynote speaker, and featured children's author both in and outside of the United States. Steve's writing for both children and teens has been honored with multiple awards, and he has written two best-selling gift books of poetry. He lives with his wife and children in St. Charles, Illinois. More information is available on his Web site at www.stevelayne.com.

Perry Board is an art director for Phillips Design Group, an interactive design company specializing in CD-ROM design and programming, Internet web pages, 3D animation, print design, and other new media. A resident of Indianapolis, this is his first book.

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+	+	R	D	E	T	I	N	U	+	C	+	W
+	K	S	T	A	T	E	S	+	+	E	+	S
F	I	N	L	A	N	D	+	+	+	I	+	+
A	Y	N	E	K	Y	E	M	E	N	L	+	+

Answer Key to Word Search