Landform Greeting

How to do it:

1. Introduce the greeting: “Today, you’ll greet classmates with gestures that make the shapes of landforms we’ve been studying.”

Model landform gestures for mountain, plateau, valley, island, and plain, using hands and arms (some possible shapes are shown below). Have the whole class make each shape as you model it. You may also want to display a chart showing the shapes.

2. Have students count off by fives around the circle. Assign each number a landform: “Ones are mountains, two are plateaus,” and so forth.

3. Explain how the greeting will work: “When I call out the names of two landforms, those students will come to the middle of the circle, make the shape of their landform, and greet each other with ‘Hello’ and their landform names—for example, ‘Hello, mountain!’ and ‘Hello, plain!’ Then I'll say ‘Landforms return,’ and I’ll call out two more landforms.”

4. Call out different pairs of landforms until everyone has been greeted.

Variation

- Have students choose the landforms and create the hand motions.

Extending the Social Studies Learning Beyond Morning Meeting

- Assign small groups of students one landform to research. They might create a narrated slideshow or booklet of images and text about the landform and places in the world where it can be found.