

# AMERICA IS...

## K-3

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### ***Book Summary***

This book is a salute to America, our great country, the land of freedom for us and for people all over the world. This book beautifully illustrates many aspects of our nation----its farmlands, its prairies, its cattle country, its rivers, and the many kinds of people who live and work here. Mountains and deserts, waterfalls and beaches---each of our states has things to see and enjoy. Wherever you go, you will see our flag flying, with fifty stars for our current fifty states and thirteen broad stripes for our original thirteen colonies.

### ***Objectives***

1. The children will develop a greater awareness of the characteristics and natural resources of the state in which they live.
2. The children will develop an awareness of the common characteristics shared by people in all states.
3. The children will identify areas of the United States that are different from theirs and note special characteristics of these areas.
4. The children will identify a specific area of interest and determine where in the United States this might be explored in greater detail.

### ***Before viewing the video***

Tell the children that they will view a video about many of the different kinds of special things there are to see and enjoy in America. Use a map of the United States to locate your home state. Then identify some of the areas and landmarks of the United States that are mentioned in the book on your map (i. e., Statue of Liberty, Los Angeles,

Chicago, Mississippi River, Minnesota, Grand Canyon.) As they view the video they should try to remember things of special interest that they would like to learn more about. Tell them that this picture book will show them what it is like to live in different parts of America.

### ***Questions to ask after viewing the video***

1. What are some of the things you saw in the video that children do all over America?
2. Why are people who are farmers important to everyone in America?
3. What are some of the jobs that people have in every state in America?
4. Where might you go if you wanted to see a skyscraper?
5. Can you think of something that is special in your state that some other states might not have?
6. How do people in cities get to their jobs?
7. What might people who live near rivers and lakes do for a job?
8. What are some of the things you would see in the Western part of America?
9. If you like cold weather, where might you go to live? Where would you go if you like warm weather?
10. America is a very large country. What are some of the ways you communicate with people who live far away?

### ***Activities***

1. Create a list with the class of the things they like about their state. Share stories of family travel around the state.
2. Using a large map of the United States that is displayed, have each child place their name on a flag that will be pinned to states they have visited.
3. Encourage a group activity for an older class that includes selecting a leisure-time activity of interest and investigates the places in America where this could be possible.
4. Create a composite class story "My Favorite Thing About America Is..." and have the children provide illustrations.
5. Take an imaginary trip. Start where you live and have a destination in mind. Draw a route on the map. What might you see along the way? Use library resources for additional information on sights to see.