

PLATES OF THE BOOK OF MORMON - READER'S THEATER

Preparation before class:

- Print out 11 copies of the **script** found on pages 2-3 (one set for each of 10 actors, and one set for the teacher).
- Print out pages **name tags** found on pages 4-8. You can print on 2-per-page label sheets, or just on regular paper and let actors attach with pins or tape to shirts. You can even provide or assign other costume items to characters if desired.
- Print out **geographic location signs** found on pages 9-13. Posted these around the room before class to identify different geographic locations.
- Print out **plates covers** found on pages 14-18. You might want to print on gold colored paper. Fold each plate cover in half to make plates. You can also use them to cover old Reader's Digests to give more bulk if desired.

Preparation at beginning of class:

- Give each actor a script, the plates they will start with, and a name tag. Have them go to their appropriate geographic locations as indicated in their parts:

Ether: in the Land of Desolation with the Plates of Ether

Laban: in Jerusalem with the Plates of Brass

Nephi: in Jerusalem with the Small and Large Plates of Nephi

Mormon: the Plates of Mormon

Joseph Smith: a copy of the Book of Mormon

- Point out the different geographic locations. Explain that Jerusalem is in the Middle East, while the Land of Desolation, the Land of Nephi, Zarahemla and Cumorah are all in the Promised Land.
- If you feel it necessary, explain the words "secular" and "abridgment" to the class.

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ETHER: *(in the Land of Desolation with the Plates of Ether)*

I, Ether, am the last prophet of the Jaredites. My people are descendants of the Brother of Jared and his people, who sailed to the promised land from the Tower of Babel around 2200 B.C. After around 1,500 years my people completely destroyed themselves by war in this land. I recorded the history and final destruction of my people on these 24 gold plates.

(Hold up Plates of Ether.)

I then hid them sometime after 600 B.C. in such a manner that they would be found by later generations.
(Ether leaves Plates of Ether in Land of Desolation, then returns to seat.)

LABAN: *(in Jerusalem with the Plates of Brass)*

It is 600 B.C. here in Jerusalem. I Laban possess the Plates of Brass (hold up plates), which contain an account of the Creation of the World, many writings of the prophets, including the five books of Moses and writings of Isaiah, and the history of the Jews up until this present time.

NEPHI: *(in Jerusalem with the Small and Large Plates of Nephi)*

I am Nephi. I was commanded by the Lord to slay Laban to obtain these Plates of Brass.
(Slay Laban, take Plates of Brass from Laban.)

LABAN: *(Dies, then returns to seat.)*

NEPHI: When my father Lehi and my family sailed to the Promised Land, we brought these plates with us.

(walk over to Land of Nephi with Plates)

We arrived in the Promised Land at a place we called the Land of Nephi. The Lord commanded me to make plates and keep a record of my people. I made two sets of plates:

(hold up the Small Plates of Nephi)

On these Small Plates of Nephi I record the more sacred things, including many of the writings of Isaiah, and also the spiritual history of my people, and I have commanded the prophets after me who will keep these plates to do the same. Upon these Large Plates of Nephi *(hold up Large Plates of Nephi)* I record the secular history of my people, including the reigns of the kings and history of our wars and contentions.
(Nephi hands all plates to Amaleki and returns to seat.)

AMALEKI: *(in Land of Nephi with Plates of Brass and both sets of Nephi.)*

My name is Amaleki. I am the fifth Great Grandson of Lehi, and the last writer in the Small Plates of Nephi, which have been handed down to me. The Lord warned King Mosiah to leave the Land of Nephi, which is governed by the Lamanites, so we Nephites came to the Land of Zarahemla.

(go to the Land of Zarahemla)

One group of Nephites led by a man named Zeniff did return to live in the land of Nephi, but we have not heard from them since. I have no children, and knowing King Benjamin to be a righteous king, I give these plates, which are now full, to him.

(Amaleki gives plates to King Benjamin and returns to seat)

KING BENJAMIN: *(in Zarahemla with the the Plates of Brass and both sets of the Plates of Nephi.)*

I am King Benjamin, son of King Mosiah. Having both the Large and Small Plates of Nephi, and the small plates being full, I record the history of my people on these Large Plates of Nephi, as will all of the prophets who come after me. I give all of these plates to my son Mosiah.

(King Benjamin gives all plates to Mosiah, then returns to seat)

MOSIAH: *(waits in Zarahemla with Plates of Brass and both sets of the Plates of Nephi until Limhi comes there.)*

KING LIMHI: *(in Land of Nephi)*

I am King Limhi, son of wicked King Noah, who was the son of Zeniff, who left the Land of Zarahemla to come back here to the Land of Nephi, where our ancestors first landed in the Promised Land. My people have lived here for three generations, but now the Lamanites have put us into bondage, and we must pay half of all that we have to them or they will kill us. I sent 43 people to look for our fellow Nephites in the Land of Zarahemla (*wander over to the Land of Desolation*) but they became lost and found a land with many bones and broken swords and other weapons where a great nation had been destroyed.

There they found 24 gold plates (*pick up Plates of Ether*) and brought them back to me in the Land of Nephi. (*return to the Land of Nephi.*)

Later, when we were rescued and returned to Zarahemla (*walk over to Zarahemla*), I delivered these plates to King Mosiah, who is also a Seer and a Prophet.

(King Limhi gives Plates of Ether to Mosiah and returns to seat.)

MOSIAH: *(in Zarahemla with the Plates of Brass, both sets of Plates of Nephi, and the Plates of Ether)*

Using the Urim and Thummim, I Mosiah translated these 24 gold plates (*hold up Plates of Ether*) which were written by the Prophet Ether and tell about the history and destruction of the Jaredites. After me, all of these plates (*hold up all plates*) were handed down by the prophets until they came to Mormon.

(Mosiah gives plates to Mormon and returns to seat.)

MORMON: *(in Zarahemla with all of the sets of plates)*

I, Mormon, was commanded by the Lord to condense the most important information from these plates onto one set of plates for you in the last days. It has taken me many many years, but I have put the things which the Spirit has told me that you will need onto these gold Plates of Mormon. (*hold up Plates of Mormon.*)

The Small Plates of Nephi, I have included just as they are, for they only contained the spiritual history. The translation of these plates comprise the first six books of the Book of Mormon: 1 Nephi through Omni. I wrote "Words of Mormon", a short section between the books of Omni and Mosiah to explain this. From Mosiah through the seventh chapter of Mormon is my abridgment of the Large Plates of Nephi. I now give these plates to my son, Moroni. (*give plates to Moroni, and return to seat.*)

MORONI: *(Set aside all plates except Plates of Mormon, Small Plates of Nephi and the Plates of Ether.)*

I am Moroni. I have witnessed the final destruction of my beloved people, the Nephites, by our brethren, the Lamanites. (*hold up Plates of Mormon*)

After adding to these Plates of Mormon my own abridgment of the Plates of Ether, which were translated by Mosiah (*hold up Plates of Ether; then set them aside*) and adding some of my own writings, and after wandering alone for many years, (*Go to Hill Cumorah with Plates of Mormon and Small Plates of Nephi*) I hid these gold plates (*hold up Plates of Mormon and Small Plates of Nephi*) in the Hill Cumorah in around 421 A.D. (*Moroni leaves Plates of Mormon and Small Plates of Nephi in Cumorah, then stands aside and waits.*)

JOSEPH SMITH: *(at Hill Cumorah with copy of Book of Mormon)*

I am Joseph Smith, Jr. It is now just over 1400 years after Moroni buried the plates. In 1823, Moroni appeared to me as an angel here in New York State and told me about gold plates the Lord wanted me to translate and where they were hidden. Four years later, after I had received further instructions and preparations, Moroni allowed me to receive these plates.

(pick up the Plates of Mormon and Small Plates of Nephi and hold them up)

I also received the Urim and Thummim, which allowed me to translate these plates into English by the power of God as the "Book of Mormon: Another Testament of Jesus Christ."

(hold up Book of Mormon)

After translating the plates, I returned them to Moroni (*hand plates back to Moroni, Moroni returns to seat*), but the Book of Mormon is available to all. It has been translated into many languages, has touched the lives of millions, and continues to go forth in the last days to all the world as a second witness of the Lord Jesus Christ.

THE END

hello

my name is.....

Ether

hello

my name is.....

Laban

hello

my name is.....

Nephi

hello

my name is.....

Amaleki

hello

my name is.....

Mosiah

hello

my name is.....

King

Benjamin

hello

my name is.....

Mormon

hello

my name is.....

Moroni

hello

my name is.....

**Joseph
Smith**

hello

my name is.....

**King
Limhi**

THE CITY OF

JERUSALEM

THE LAND OF DESOLATION

**THE LAND OF
NORFOLK**

THE CITY OF

ZARAHONA

THE HILL

CUMORAH



The Plates of



BRASS

(Record of the Jews:

Creation until c. 600 B.C.)





The Plates of



EMHER

*(Record of the Jaredites :
Creation until after 600 B.C.)*



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The

—
SMALL
—
Plates of

—
NEPHEI
—
(Spiritual Record of the Nephites :
600 B.C. until c. 130. B.C.)

—
The

—
LARGE
—
Plates of

—
NEPHTH
—
*(Spiritual & Secular Record of Nephtes :
600 B.C. until c. 385 B.C.)*



The Plates of



MORMON

*(Mormon's Abridgment of Large Plates of Nephi
and a few writings of his son Moroni:
c. 130 B.C. until c. 421 A.D.)*

