

Maps
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INT. LECTURE ROOM - DAY

A smartly dressed JAMES stands in front of a blank white board with a controller in his hand. A closed suitcase is by his side. He faces a projector a few feet in front of him and many rows of tables seating around 30 UNIVERSITY STUDENTS.

JAMES

Hello class. I've been invited here to lecture you all on geography as your regular teacher I recently befriended is stuck in severe traffic.

A MALE STUDENT puts his hand up.

JAMES

Yes, sir?

MALE STUDENT 1

Why are you teaching instead?

JAMES

Because I'm the best.

MALE STUDENT 1

There are rumours going around that the regular teacher has been heard mumbling in a locked closet...

JAMES

No, fake news.

MALE STUDENT 1

I heard the teacher was mumbling for ages, you opened and shut the closet and he mysteriously stopped making noises...

JAMES

Lies. Right, class! Let's cut to the chase. Who here thinks the world is flat?

There is silence.

JAMES

None of you, huh? Well, I have some very interesting things to show you.

JAMES presses a button on his controller to show a 2D map of Earth.

JAMES

Who here knows what that is?

A GROUP of STUDENTS say 'It's the Earth.'

JAMES

Well done. But who here knows what
THIS is?

He presses a button to show a distorted map of Earth. A
FEMALE STUDENT puts her hand up.

JAMES

Yes?

FEMALE STUDENT 1

It's also the Earth...

JAMES

Exactly. But why is there more than
one map of the same planet? Doesn't
that sound strange? There are
actually many more as I will show
you, now.

JAMES presses the button some more showing more maps.

FEMALE STUDENT 1

It's because it's impossible to show
a 3D map as 2D and different maps are
used for different purposes, for
example to show distance and areas...

JAMES

That's what you're told, but how do
you explain THIS...

JAMES presses the button once more to show a strange looking
map of America.

JAMES

Who knows what that is?

FEMALE STUDENT 1

It looks like a map of America with
Germany in its centre....

JAMES

Right. What's the purpose of that,
then?

FEMALE STUDENT 1

I've never seen that map before...

JAMES

It's a very famous map. Does anyone here know its purpose?

MALE STUDENT 1

It can't possibly have any kind of purpose. I really don't think that's real...

JAMES

It's as real as an imprisoned geography lecturer.

MALE STUDENT 1

What was that?

JAMES

Whoops. It was a joke...

MALE STUDENT 1

I don't get it...

JAMES

It's non humour. Like why did the chicken cross the road.

MALE STUDENT 1

Why did you say it here and now?

JAMES

I don't know. So, anyone here know the map's purpose?

FEMALE STUDENT 1

What do you think its purpose is?

JAMES

To mock sheep like you.

Another MALE STUDENT puts his hand up.

MALE STUDENT 2

It looks like Germany have invaded America again.

JAMES

How dare you, my people are a peace loving nation. At least now.

MALE STUDENT 2

I heard Germany wants to have a massive army again. Why do you think that is?

JAMES

The map proves nothing if that's what you're saying. And how would Germany manage to literally be part of America?

MALE STUDENT 2

It shows how desperate Germany is.

JAMES

Get out.

There is silence.

JAMES

No seriously, get out now.

MALE STUDENT 2

No.

JAMES

Fine. Then sit in silence like you were before. Mostly.

FEMALE STUDENT 1

This has happened before, hasn't it sir?

JAMES

What has?

FEMALE STUDENT 1

This whole situation...

JAMES

What do you mean?

FEMALE STUDENT 1

Trespassing and impersonating a teacher...

JAMES

People need to hear my message.

Police sirens are heard getting nearer.

JAMES

Oh (expletive).

FEMALE STUDENT 1

Why did you just swear in horror?

JAMES

Oh no reason.

JAMES opens the suitcase to reveal a pink dress and blonde wig that he puts on.

FEMALE STUDENT 1
What's going on?

JAMES
Nothing, nothing. Bye class.

FEMALE STUDENT 1
Is that some kind of disguise?

JAMES
Err...

FEMALE STUDENT 1
It's just no one in this whole
building dresses that way...

JAMES
Sure they do. It's retro chic, as is
the hair. Bye.

JAMES strolls away casually.