



Arkansas | Lesson Plan

What are the unique facts and features about the state of Arkansas?

Students will understand Arkansas's geography, unique characteristics, and historical significance.

Learning Objectives:

- Identify and locate the state of Arkansas on a map, understanding its geographical positioning among the 50 states.
- Know the abbreviation for the state of Arkansas and be able to spell its name.
- Describe nine unique characteristics of Arkansas, including aspects of its history, climate, and cultural significance.

Key Vocabulary:

- **"South Wind"**: A name used by other Native American tribes to describe the Quapaw people, who lived in the area now called Arkansas. French explorers adopted a French version of the Quapaw name, which led to the name "Arkansas." Calling them the "South Wind" people honors the Native Americans who originally lived in the region before it became part of the United States.
- **Reconstruction**: A time period after the Civil War when Southern states were rebuilt and brought back into the United States. In Arkansas, Reconstruction involved major changes like the rebuilding of the government, helping freed slaves start new lives, and dealing with political conflicts.
- **Freedman's Bureau**: A government agency created to help former slaves and poor people after the Civil War. In Arkansas, the Freedmen's Bureau gave food, provided medical care, opened schools, and helped people find jobs during the challenging years of Reconstruction.
- **"Regnat Populus"**: A Latin phrase meaning "The People Rule," which is the state motto of Arkansas. This motto reflects the idea that the power of the government comes from the people, and it connects to the American belief in democracy and self-government.
- **"The Natural State"**: A nickname for Arkansas that highlights its natural beauty, forests, rivers, mountains, and wildlife. The state has six geographic regions—Ozark Plateau, Ouachita Mountains, Arkansas River Valley, Gulf Coastal Plain, Mississippi Alluvial Plain, and Crowley's Ridge—each known for resources like timber, agriculture, oil, and wild game.

Educational Standards: CCRA.R.1, CCRA.R.7, CCRA.SL.1, CCRA.SL.2, CCRA.W.7, CCRA.W.8

Academic Subjects: America, History, Geography

What You'll Need

- Video: *Unboxed, USA: Arkansas* (Watch [Here](#))

Scan to watch episode:



- Worksheet: *Unboxed, USA: Game Map* (Click [Here](#))
- Optional: colored pencils, crayons, or markers to color the map

Lesson Plan (45 mins.)

Warm-Up: (10 mins.)

1. Begin by exploring the concept of the United States as a unified country with diverse states, each with its unique history, landscape, and characteristics. Reflect on the meaning of the word “United” in “United States” and its significance.
2. Introduce the “Unboxed, USA: Game Map,” explaining the instructions and emphasizing the mystery element of identifying one of the fifty states through clues.

Watch and Complete: (25 mins.)

1. Explain that students will play a game to discover the mystery state.
2. Play the video. Encourage active participation and observational skills.
3. Pause the video as needed to allow students time to process information, make educated guesses, and understand key points in greater depth.
4. Take time to go over key vocabulary and historical elements for the state of Arkansas.

Wrap-Up: (10 mins.)

1. Facilitate a review of the nine key facts about Arkansas, encouraging students to articulate their learning and contribute their insights either verbally or by writing on the board.
2. Consider collecting the completed activities as a formative assessment to gauge understanding and engagement with the lesson's content.

Optional Extension Lesson:

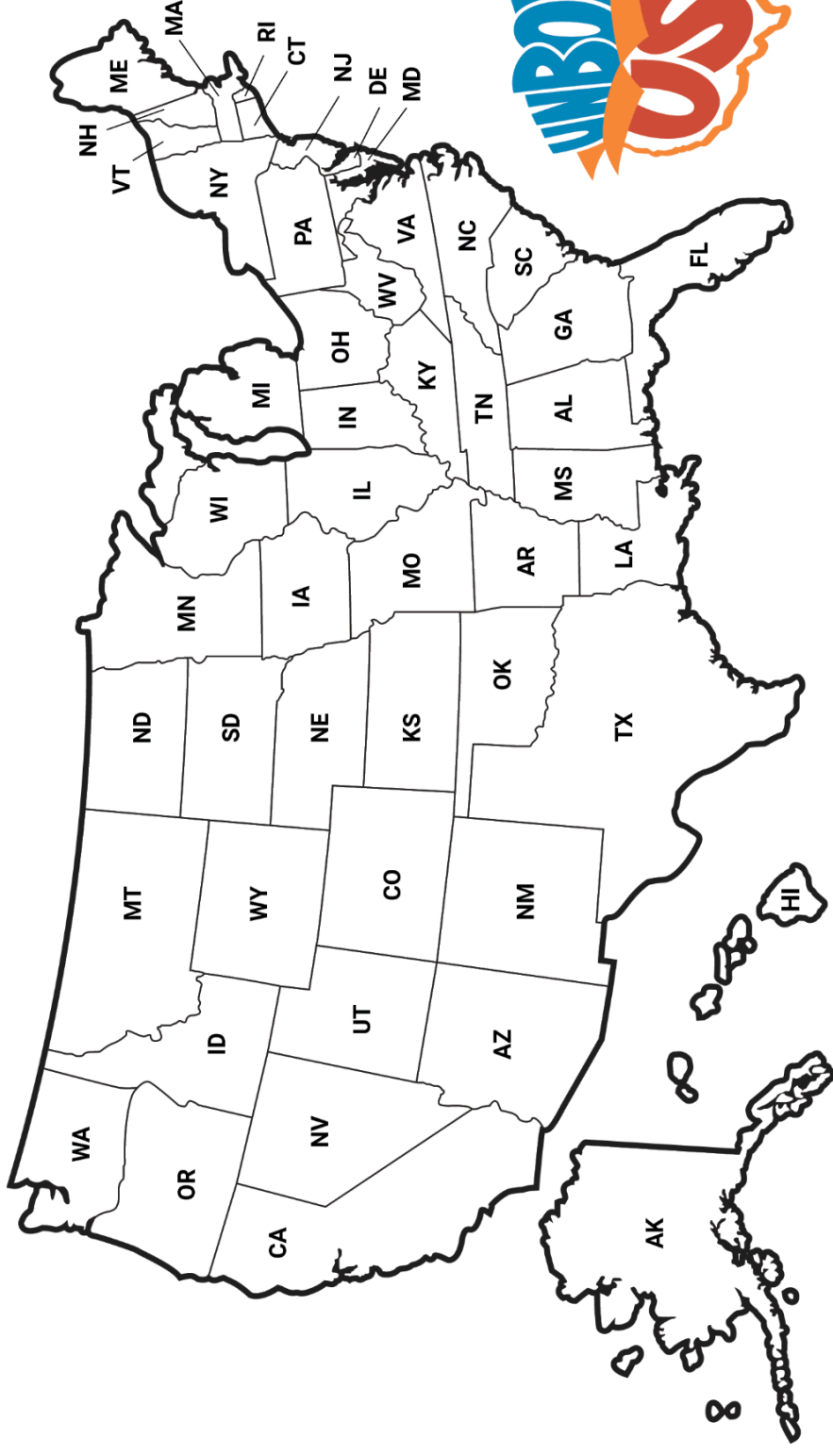
- Analyze the role of the Electoral College in the presidential election process, considering its impact on state representation, the balance of power between states, and its alignment with the principles of federalism outlined in the U.S. Constitution.
 - *Street Smarts: The Constitution* (Video and educational resources [Here](#))
 - *Street Smarts: The Electoral College* (Video and educational resources [Here](#))
 - *Craftory: Ballot Box* (Video and educational resources [Here](#))
- Analyze the concept of federalism and its impact on the relationship between state and national governments, as outlined in the U.S. Constitution.
 - *Street Smarts: Federalism* (Video and educational resources [Here](#))
 - *Leo & Layla: Madison & Montesquieu* (Video and educational resources [Here](#))
 - *Leo & Layla: John Adams & Thomas Jefferson* (Video and educational resources [Here](#))
 - *Leo & Layla: Justice John Marshall* (Video and educational resources [Here](#))

Don't have time for the full lesson? Quick Activity (15 mins.)

Distribute the game map and allow students to complete it while they follow along with the video.

Instructions:

Play along with the **Unboxed, USA** video. After the first three clues, mark your initial guess with a "1" on the state you think it is. Start jotting down any important facts on the lines provided. After the next three clues, make your second guess by marking a "2" on the state you think it is. Continue adding facts to your list. Following the last set of three clues, make your final guess and mark it with a "3." Were you correct? Put a star on the correct state and write it out on the line provided. Aim to have a list of six key facts by the end of the episode.



Fact 1

Fact 4

Fact 2

Fact 5

Fact 3

Fact 6

State Name