



Wyoming | Lesson Plan

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

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

Learning Objectives:

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

Key Vocabulary:

- **Fort Laramie Treaty:** A written agreement, also known as the Horse Creek Treaty, that was signed in 1851 between the United States and several Northern Plains Indian nations. It was meant to allow settlers safe passage through what is now Wyoming, but it did not prevent future conflicts between Native Americans and settlers.
- **Bison:** A large, hump-backed animal with shaggy fur that once roamed the Great Plains in huge herds. In what is now Wyoming, bison were an important source of food, clothing, tools, and spiritual meaning for Native American tribes, and they are still a powerful symbol of the state's history and natural wildlife today.
- **Transcontinental Railroad:** A railroad that stretched all the way across the United States, connecting the East Coast to the western part of the country, making it possible to travel and ship goods across the nation. The Union Pacific portion of this railroad ran through what is now Wyoming and was completed in 1869, helping the area grow by bringing more settlers, towns, and trade.
- **Yellowstone National Park:** A large, protected area of land known for its geysers, hot springs, and wildlife like bison, elk, and bears. Most of Yellowstone is located in Wyoming, and it became the first national park in the United States, helping to preserve the state's natural beauty for millions of visitors each year.
- **Devils Tower:** A giant, flat-topped rock formation that rises 867 feet high above the surrounding land in northeastern Wyoming. It was named the first national monument in the United States in 1906 by President Theodore Roosevelt and is considered sacred by many Native American tribes.
- **Jackson Hole:** A wide mountain valley in western Wyoming, known for its world-famous ski resorts, outdoor adventures, and stunning natural beauty. It sits in the Rocky Mountains and is a popular vacation spot for hiking in summer and skiing in winter.

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

Scan to watch episode:



What You'll Need

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

Wrap-Up: (10 mins.)

1. Facilitate a review of the nine key facts about Wyoming, 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:

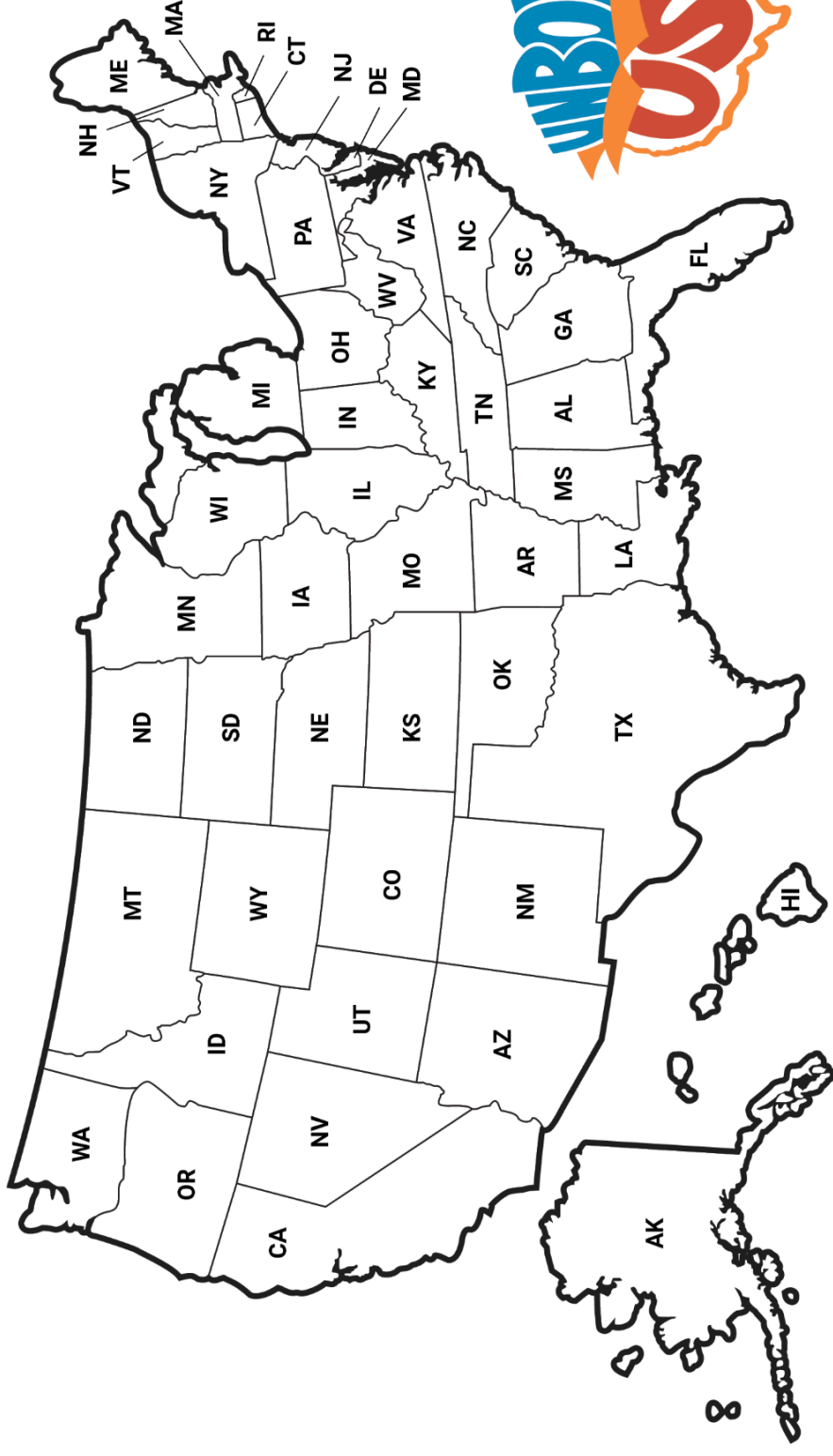
- Analyze the role of the Electoral College in the presidential election process, considering its impact on state representation, the balance of power between states, and its alignment with the principles of federalism outlined in the U.S. Constitution.
 - *Street Smarts: The Constitution* (Video and 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