



North Dakota | Lesson Plan

What are the unique facts and features about the state of North Dakota?

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

Learning Objectives:

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

Key Vocabulary:

- **Pelt:** The skin and fur of an animal, especially when it has been removed for making clothing or other items.
- **Red River Valley:** A fertile region in eastern North Dakota and western Minnesota, created by the ancient Glacial Lake Agassiz, known for its rich soil and agriculture, especially wheat and sugar beets.
- **Drift Prairie:** A rolling landscape in central North Dakota, shaped by glaciers, featuring hills, valleys, lakes, and fertile soil that supports farming and ranching.
- **Great Plains:** A vast, flat to rolling region covering western North Dakota and much of the central United States, known for its grasslands, agriculture, and ranching.
- **Badlands:** A rugged, eroded landscape in western North Dakota, characterized by steep hills, deep valleys, and unique rock formations, often shaped by wind and water over time.
- **Homestead Act of 1862:** A U.S. law that provided free land to settlers who agreed to live on and improve the land for at least five years, encouraging westward expansion and settlement in places like North Dakota.
- **Bakken Formation:** A large underground rock formation in western North Dakota, Montana, and Canada that contains significant oil and natural gas reserves, making it an important source of energy production.

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

Scan to watch episode:



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 North Dakota.

Wrap-Up: (10 mins.)

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

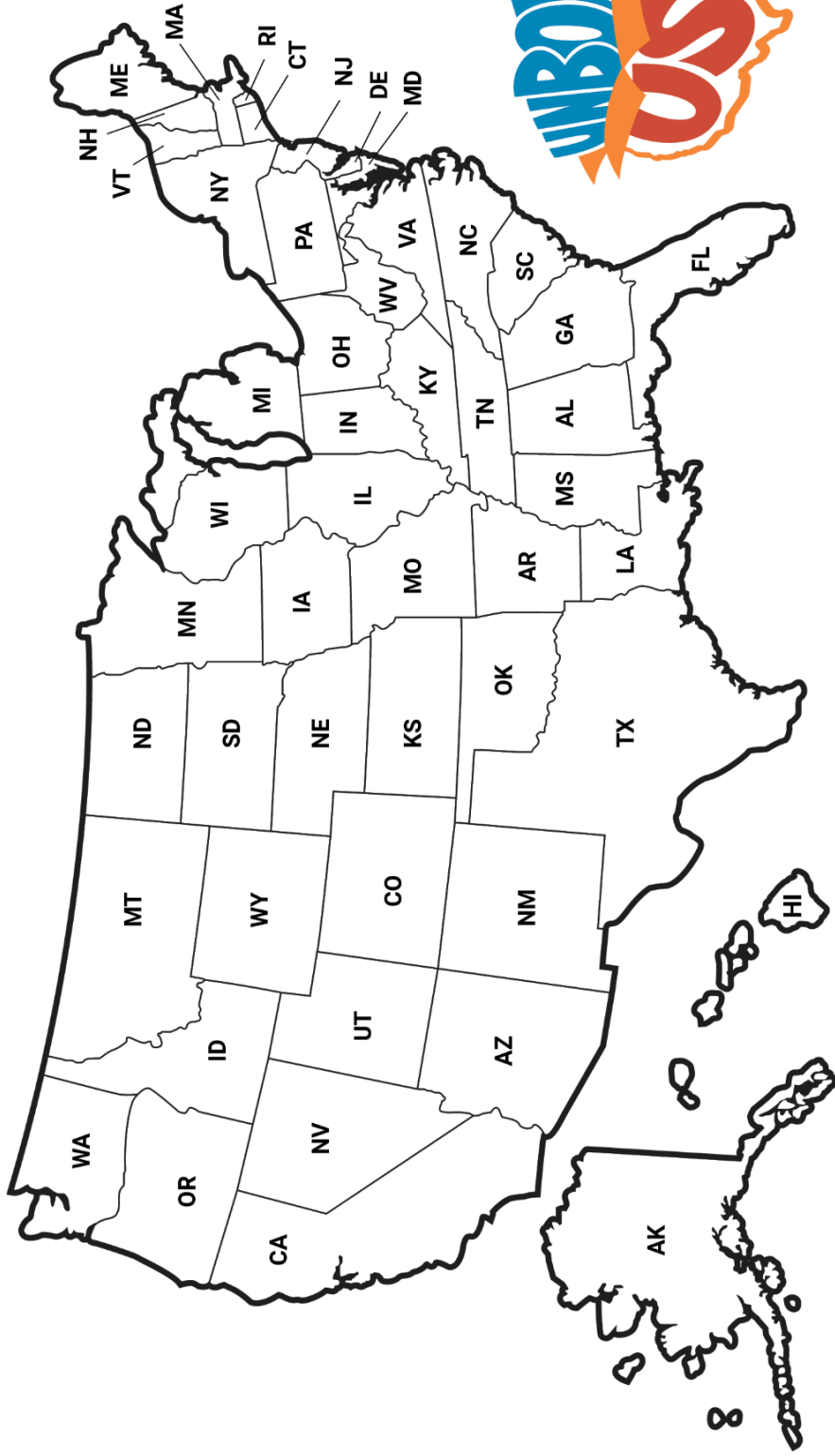
- Analyze the role of the Electoral College in the presidential election process, considering its impact on state representation, the balance of power between states, and its alignment with the principles of federalism outlined in the U.S. Constitution.
 - *Street Smarts: The Constitution* (Video and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