



## Oklahoma | Lesson Plan

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

---

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

### Learning Objectives:

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

### Key Vocabulary:

- **The Seven Cities of Gold:** Legendary cities rumored to be rich with gold and treasure, inspiring Spanish explorers like Francisco Vázquez de Coronado to search for them in the American Southwest during the 16th century.
- **Indian Removal Act of 1830:** A federal law signed by President Andrew Jackson that authorized the forced relocation of Native American tribes from their ancestral lands in the southeastern United States to territories west of the Mississippi River, leading to the Trail of Tears.
- **Trail of Tears:** The forced relocation of Native American tribes, including the Cherokee, Creek, Seminole, Chickasaw, and Choctaw, from their ancestral homelands to designated Indian Territory (modern-day Oklahoma) in the 1830s, during which thousands died from disease, starvation, and harsh conditions.
- **Tornado Alley:** A region in the central United States where atmospheric conditions frequently produce severe thunderstorms and tornadoes, making it one of the most tornado-prone areas in the world.
- **The Dust Bowl:** A region in the Great Plains that suffered a natural disaster during the 1930s, when severe drought and poor farming practices caused massive dust storms, devastating agriculture and forcing thousands of families, particularly from Oklahoma, to migrate.
- **Chisholm Trail:** A historic cattle-driving route used in the late 19th century to transport livestock from ranches in Texas to railheads in Kansas, facilitating the growth of the cattle industry and the settlement of the American West.

**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: Oklahoma* (Watch [Here](#))
- Worksheet: *Unboxed, USA: Game Map* (Click [Here](#))

Scan to watch episode:



- 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 Oklahoma.

### Wrap-Up: (10 mins.)

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

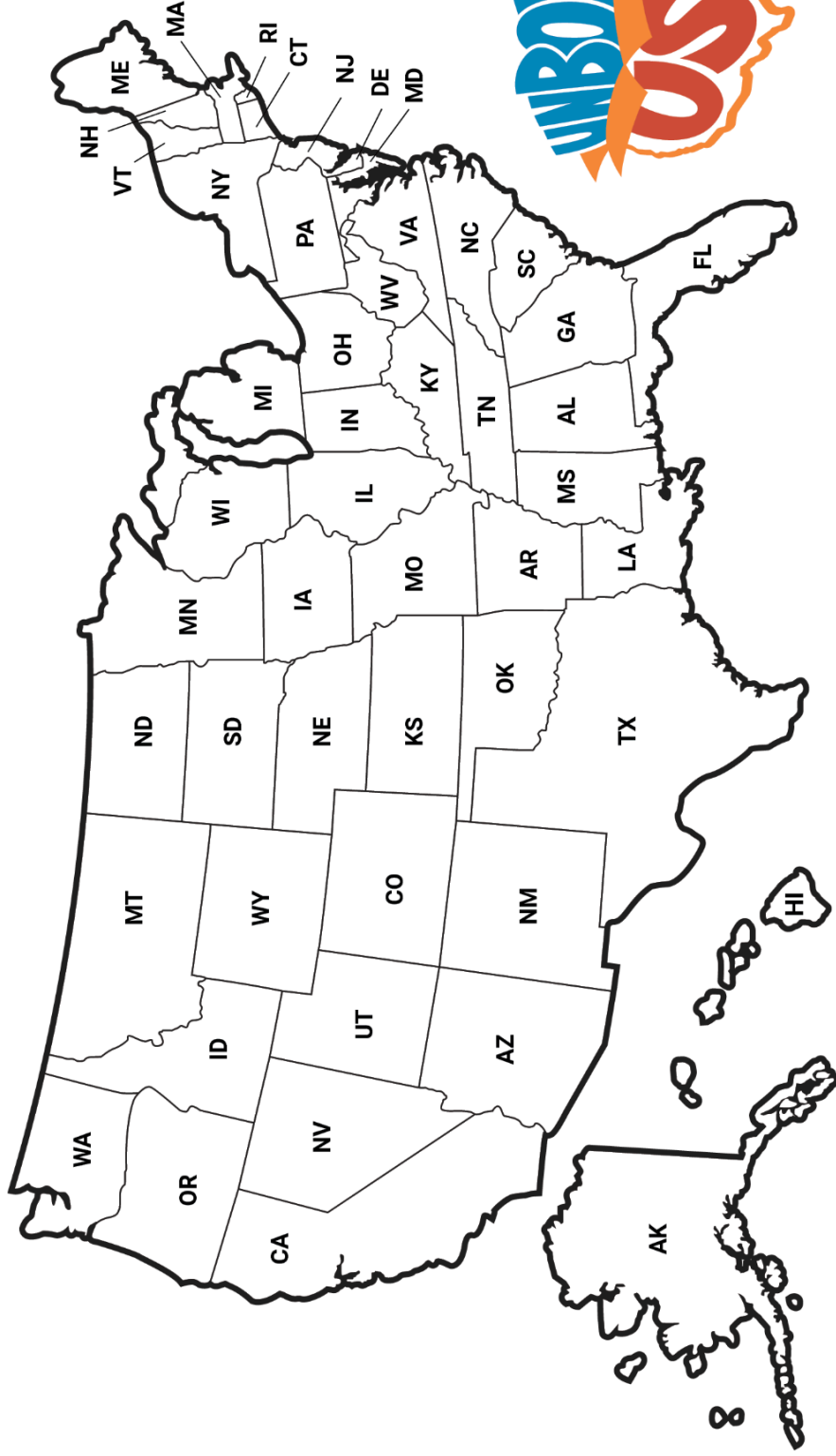
- Analyze the role of the Electoral College in the presidential election process, considering its impact on state representation, the balance of power between states, and its alignment with the principles of federalism outlined in the U.S. Constitution.
  - *Street Smarts: The Constitution* (Video and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