



Arizona | Lesson Plan

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

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

Learning Objectives:

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

Key Vocabulary:

- **Federally Recognized Tribes:** Native American groups officially recognized by the U.S. government as separate nations with their own leaders, cultures, and lands. This recognition helps these tribes preserve their traditions and access support for schools, healthcare, and more.
- **Francisco Vasquez de Coronado:** A Spanish explorer and conquistador who led a major expedition through the American Southwest from 1540 to 1542. He was searching for the mythical Seven Cities of Gold and was one of the first Europeans to explore what is now Arizona.
- **Mission:** A religious settlement established to convert and educate indigenous people, often founded by Spanish missionaries in the Americas. In Arizona, missions played a key role in introducing Christianity and European culture to Native American communities.
- **Contiguous:** Sharing a common border; touching. In the context of U.S. geography, it refers to the 48 states that are connected to one another, excluding Alaska and Hawaii.
- **Gadsden Purchase:** A land agreement in 1854 between the United States and Mexico, in which the U.S. bought a portion of land in present-day southern Arizona and southwestern New Mexico for \$10 million. This purchase helped establish the modern border between the two countries.
- **Harvey House:** A chain of hotels, restaurants, and gift shops established in the late 19th and early 20th centuries along railroads in the American Southwest. Created by Fred Harvey, these establishments brought hospitality, tourism, and economic development to Arizona and other states.
- **The Grand Canyon:** A natural landmark in northern Arizona, carved by the Colorado River over millions of years. It is one of the seven natural wonders of the world.

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: Arizona* (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 Arizona.

Wrap-Up: (10 mins.)

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

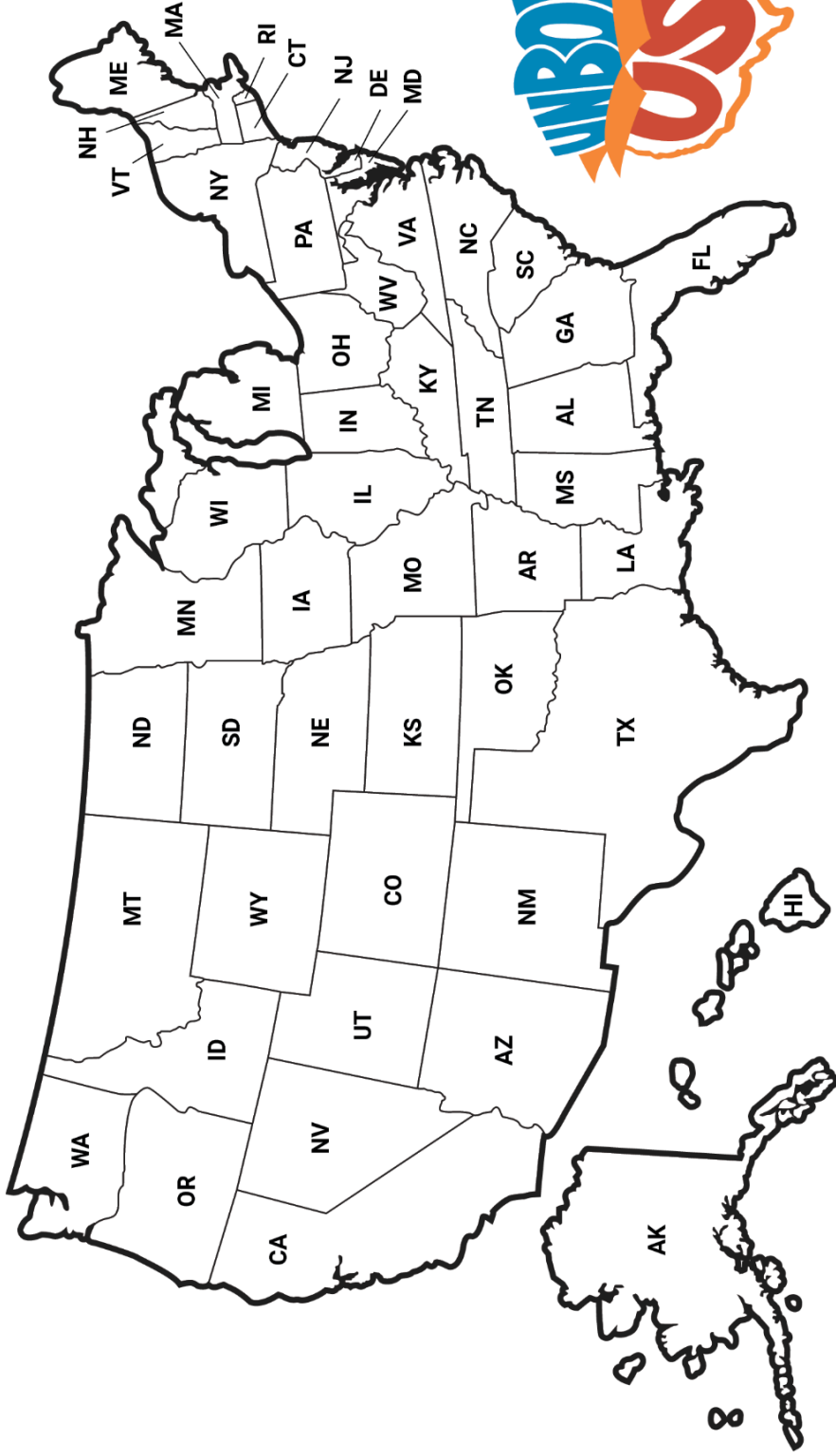
- Analyze the role of the Electoral College in the presidential election process, considering its impact on state representation, the balance of power between states, and its alignment with the principles of federalism outlined in the U.S. Constitution.
 - *Street Smarts: The Constitution* (Video and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