



Indiana | Lesson Plan

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

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

Learning Objectives:

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

Key Vocabulary:

- **Northwest Territory:** A large area of land in the United States that included what is now Indiana and other nearby states. It was established after the American Revolution and governed by the Northwest Ordinance of 1787 before Indiana became a state.
- **Northwest Ordinance of 1787:** A law passed by the U.S. Congress that created a system for governing the Northwest Territory, including Indiana. It banned slavery in the territory, encouraged fair treatment of American Indians, and said that schools and education were important for a strong government.
- **Fort Sackville:** A British fort captured in 1779 during the American Revolution by George Rogers Clark and his troops. Its capture helped the United States gain control of land that later became Indiana.
- **28th United States Colored Infantry Regiment:** A group of black soldiers from Indiana who fought for the Union during the Civil War. They were part of a larger effort to allow black men to serve in the military and help end slavery.
- **Battle of Tippecanoe:** A battle fought in 1811 in present-day Indiana between U.S. troops led by William Henry Harrison and Native American warriors led by Tecumseh and his brother, the Prophet. The U.S. victory made Harrison a national hero and helped him later become president.
- **Benjamin Harrison:** The 23rd President of the United States and the only president from Indiana. He encouraged schools to have children recite the Pledge of Allegiance and was the grandson of President William Henry Harrison.
- **Wabash River:** The official state river of Indiana, stretching over 500 miles. It was an important transportation route in the 1800s and is featured in the state song, "On the Banks of the Wabash, Far Away."
- **Indy 500:** A famous car race held every year in Indianapolis, Indiana. It is one of the biggest racing events in the world and attracts hundreds of thousands of fans.
- **Hoosier Hysteria:** A nickname for Indiana's deep love of basketball, especially high school and college games. It shows how important the sport is to the people of the state.



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: Indiana* (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 Indiana.

Wrap-Up: (10 mins.)

1. Facilitate a review of the nine key facts about Indiana, 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](#))

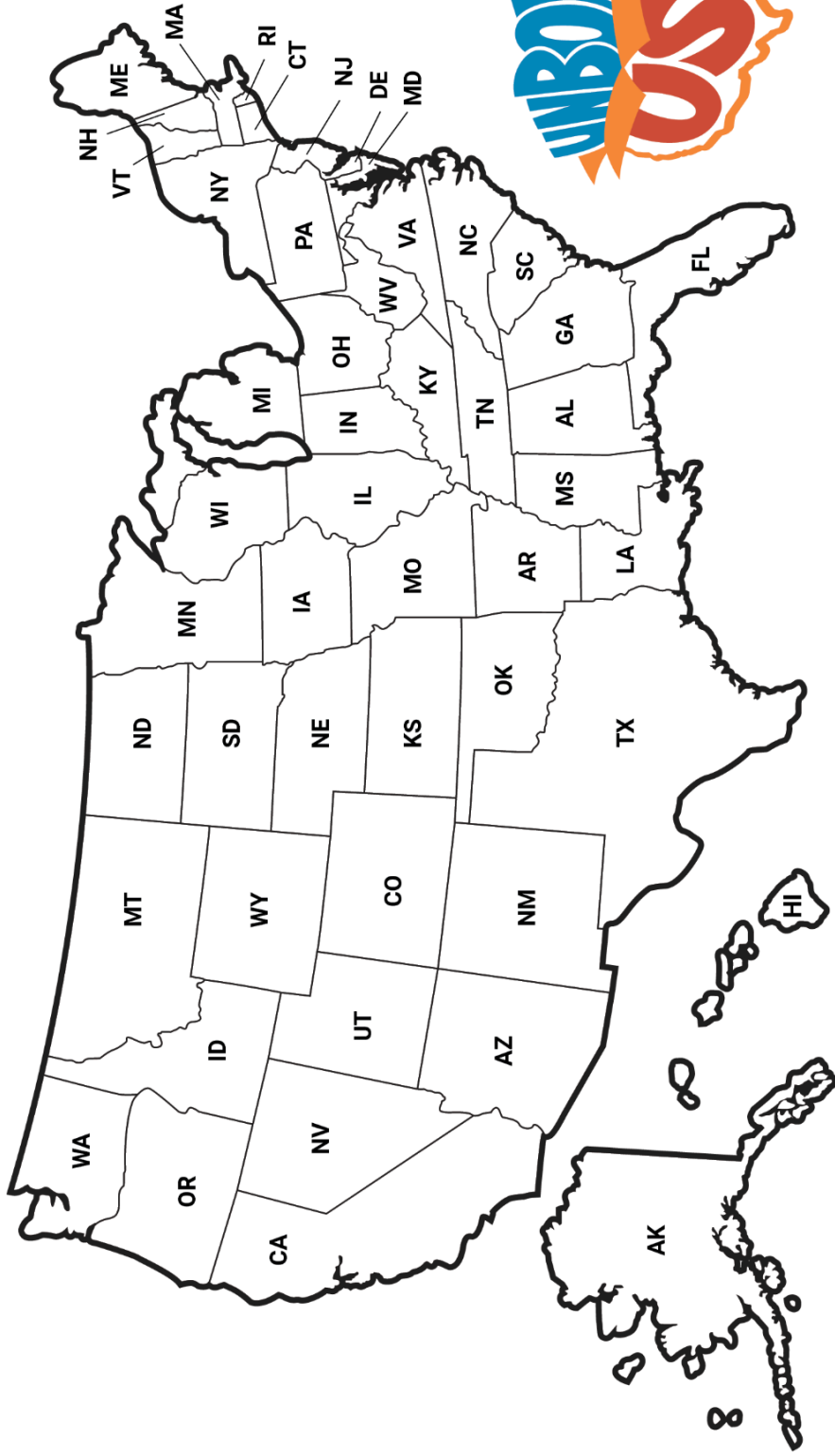
- *Leo & Layla: John Adams & Thomas Jefferson* (Video and educational resources [Here](#))
- *Leo & Layla: Justice John Marshall* (Video and educational resources [Here](#))

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 _____