



The Bay State | Lesson Plan

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

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

Learning Objectives:

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

Key Vocabulary:

- **Beantown:** A nickname for the city of Boston, Massachusetts, derived from the region's early colonial history when baked beans cooked in molasses were a popular dish among residents.
- **Barter:** A system of exchange in which goods and services were traded directly without the use of money, widely practiced in early Massachusetts. This method facilitated trade with Native American tribes, as well as with Europe, the Caribbean, and Africa. Colonists exchanged goods like furs, timber, and fish for European manufactured items, Caribbean sugar and molasses, and African commodities, contributing to Massachusetts's role in the transatlantic trade network.
- **Boston Tea Party:** A significant event in American history that took place on December 16, 1773, when American colonists, protesting the British government's Tea Act, disguised themselves as Native Americans and boarded British ships in Boston Harbor. They dumped 342 chests of tea into the water, symbolizing their resistance to taxation without representation and escalating tensions that eventually led to the American Revolution.
- **Mayflower Compact:** A foundational document signed in 1620 by the Pilgrims aboard the Mayflower before they disembarked at Plymouth Colony. It established a framework for self-government and mutual cooperation among the settlers, pledging to create and abide by laws for the good of the colony. The Mayflower Compact is often regarded as an early step in the development of democratic governance in America.
- **Paul Revere:** A Boston-born silversmith and patriot, Paul Revere is famed for his midnight ride in 1775, where he warned the Massachusetts militia of the approaching British forces. His actions played a key role in the start of the Revolutionary War, making him a central figure in Massachusetts's fight for independence.

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: The Bay State* (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 Massachusetts.

Wrap-Up: (10 mins.)

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

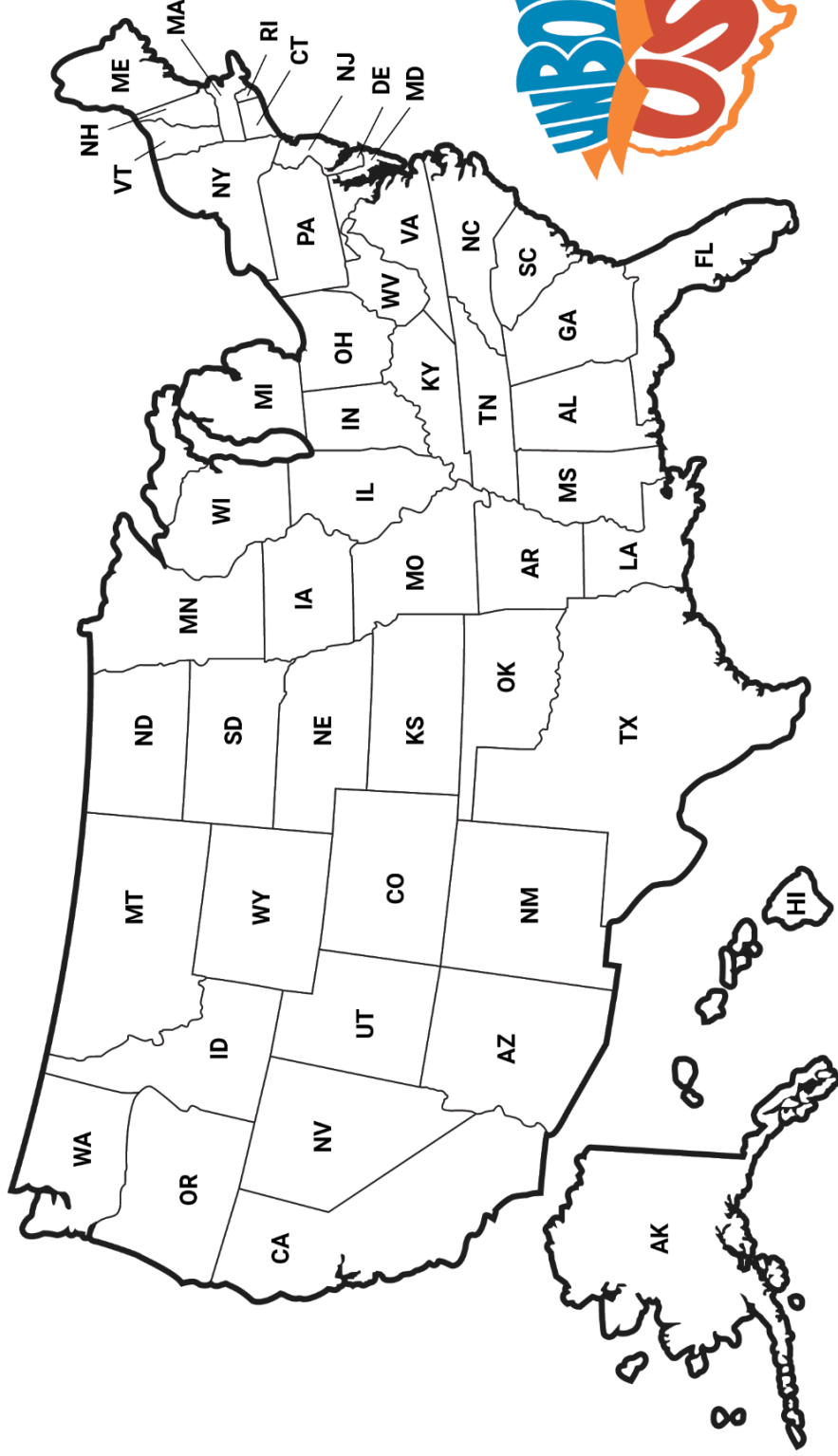
- Analyze the role of the Electoral College in the presidential election process, considering its impact on state representation, the balance of power between states, and its alignment with the principles of federalism outlined in the U.S. Constitution.
 - *Street Smarts: The Constitution* (Video and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