



Missouri | Lesson Plan

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

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

Learning Objectives:

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

Key Vocabulary:

- **Louisiana Purchase:** The acquisition of a vast territory in North America by the United States from France in 1803. The purchase, negotiated by President Thomas Jefferson, doubled the size of the U.S., adding approximately 828,000 square miles of land west of the Mississippi River. This territory included the area that would become Missouri and is considered one of the largest land deals in history.
- **Pony Express:** A fast mail delivery system in the 1800s that used a relay of riders on horseback. Each rider would carry the mail part of the way, then pass it to the next rider at a station. This relay system helped deliver mail nearly 2,000 miles across the country in just 10 days. It started in Missouri and connected the East to the West.
- **Missouri Compromise:** A law passed in 1820 to keep a balance between free states and slave states in the U.S. It allowed Missouri to enter as a slave state and Maine as a free state. The compromise also set a line across the western U.S. to decide where slavery would be allowed in future states.
- **Dred Scott Decision:** A Supreme Court ruling in 1857 that began in Missouri, where a slave named Dred Scott sued for his freedom. The Court decided that slaves were not U.S. citizens and had no legal rights. It also said Congress couldn't stop slavery in new U.S. territories. This decision made tensions worse between the North and South and brought the country closer to the Civil War.
- **George Washington Carver:** A scientist and inventor who was born into slavery in Missouri and freed after the Civil War. He became known for his work with peanuts and farming. Carver discovered many new ways to use crops like peanuts, sweet potatoes, and soybeans, and taught farmers how to take better care of their soil. His work helped improve agriculture across the South and made a lasting impact on farming in America.
- **Mark Twain:** The pen name of Samuel Langhorne Clemens, a famous American writer born in Missouri. He is best known for his books *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* and *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, which were inspired by his childhood along the Mississippi River. Twain's stories captured life in Missouri during the 1800s and helped shape American literature.



Scan to watch episode:

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: Missouri* (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 Missouri.

Wrap-Up: (10 mins.)

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

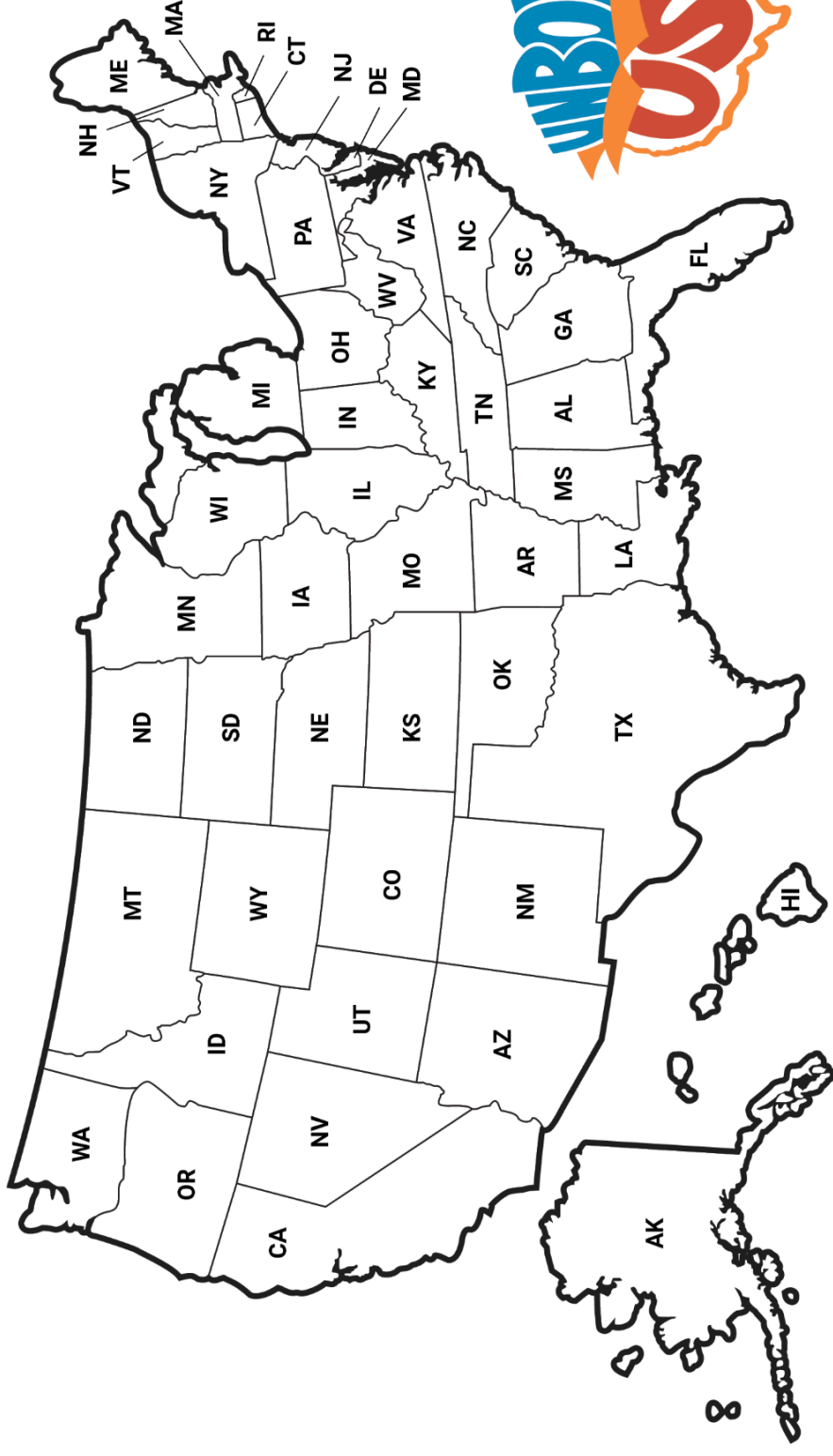
- *Leo & Layla: Justice John Marshall* (Video and educational resources [Here](#))

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