



Rhode Island | Lesson Plan

What are the unique facts and features about the state of Rhode Island?

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

Learning Objectives:

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

Key Vocabulary:

- **Roger Williams:** A Puritan minister who founded Rhode Island after being banished from the Massachusetts Bay Colony for advocating religious freedom, the separation of church and state, and fair treatment of Native Americans. His dissenting beliefs led him to establish Rhode Island as a refuge for religious dissenters and a place of true religious tolerance.
- **King Philip's War:** A conflict between Native American tribes, led by Wampanoag chief King Philip (Metacom), and English settlers in New England, primarily over land disputes, from 1675-1676. The war ended with King Philip's defeat, allowing the settlers to secure their control over the region.
- **Slater's Mill:** The first successful water-powered cotton spinning mill in the U.S., built in 1793. Recognized as the birthplace of the American Industrial Revolution, it now serves as a historic site showcasing early industrial innovation.
- **Narragansett Bay:** A large estuary in Rhode Island that supports fishing, shipping, and tourism while also serving as a key habitat for marine life and as an important feature of the state's geography.
- **Aquaculture:** The farming of aquatic organisms, like fish and shellfish, in controlled environments for food production, habitat restoration, and supporting fisheries.

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: Rhode Island* (Watch [Here](#))
- Worksheet: *Unboxed, USA: Game Map* (Click [Here](#))
- Optional: colored pencils, crayons, or markers to color the map

Scan to watch episode:



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 Rhode Island.

Wrap-Up: (10 mins.)

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

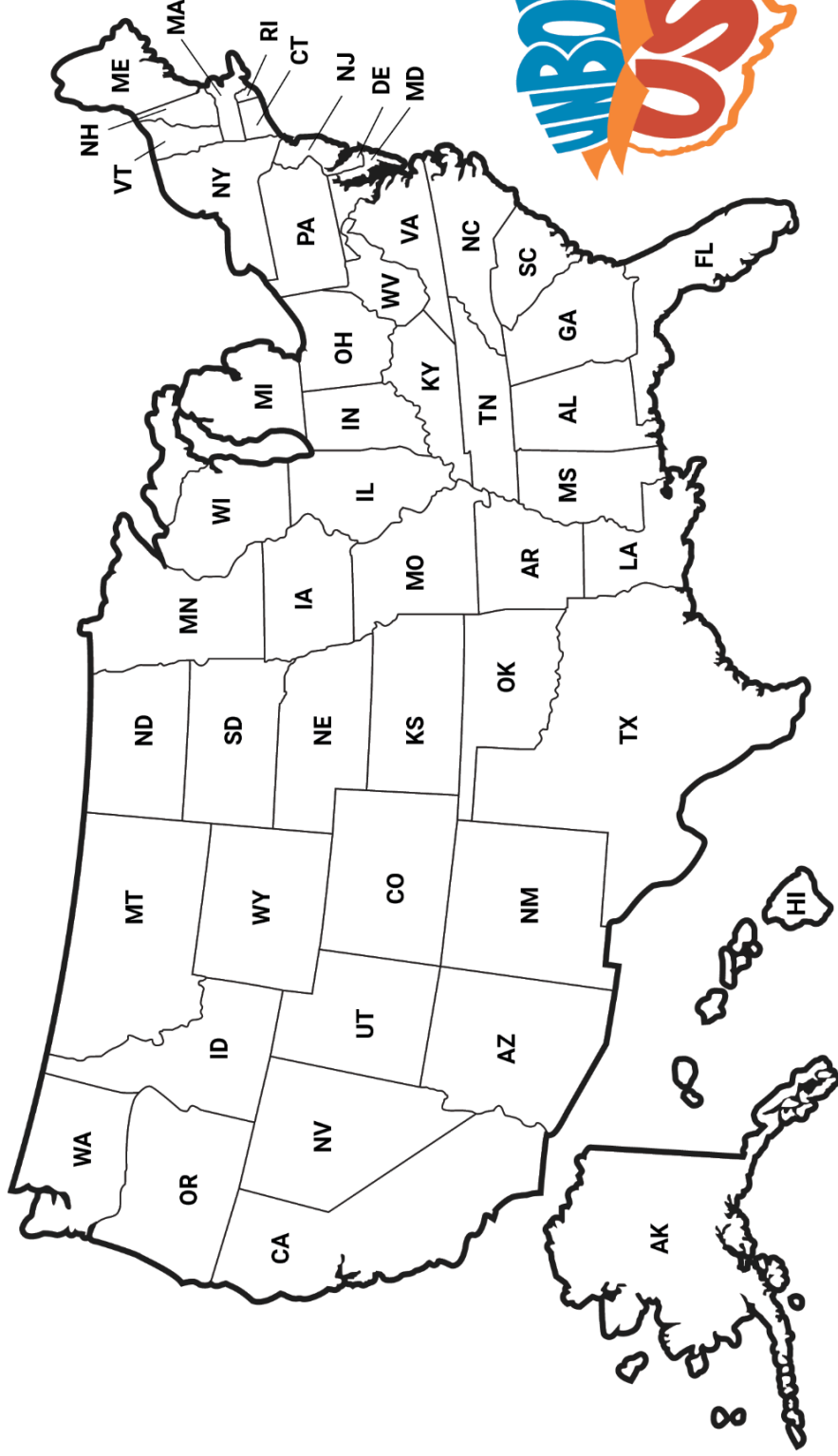
- Analyze the role of the Electoral College in the presidential election process, considering its impact on state representation, the balance of power between states, and its alignment with the principles of federalism outlined in the U.S. Constitution.
 - *Street Smarts: The Constitution* (Video and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