



Texas | Lesson Plan

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

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

Learning Objectives:

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

Key Vocabulary:

- **The Alamo:** A historic Spanish mission in San Antonio, Texas, originally known as Mission San Antonio de Valero. It later became a fortress and is most famous as the site of the 1836 Battle of the Alamo during the Texas Revolution, symbolizing the fight for Texan independence.
- **Black Gold:** Another name for oil, a valuable natural resource. The term highlights the economic significance of oil production, which fueled industrial growth and contributed to Texas' prosperity.
- **Spindletop:** A major oil discovery in 1901 near Beaumont, Texas, where an oil well erupted with an unprecedented flow of oil, marking the start of the Texas oil boom. This event revolutionized the petroleum industry, making Texas a leading oil producer and significantly boosting the state's economy.
- **Stephen F. Austin:** A key figure in the early settlement of Texas, who led the first organized group of American settlers to the area in the 1820s. Known as the "Father of Texas," Austin helped lay the groundwork for the establishment of thriving communities, setting the stage for Texas' path to 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

What You'll Need

- Video: *Unboxed, USA: Texas* (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 Texas.

Wrap-Up: (10 mins.)

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

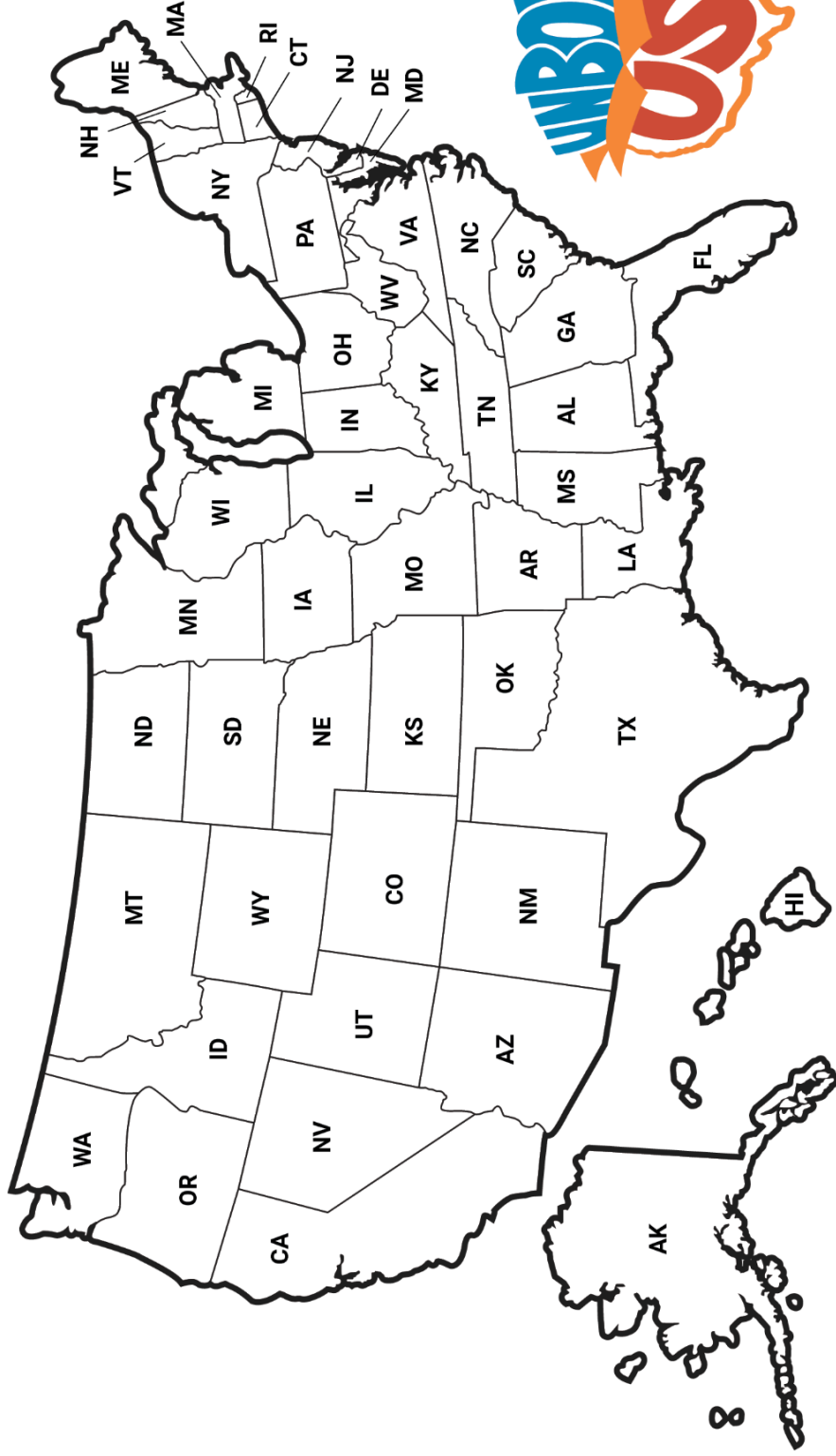
- Analyze the role of the Electoral College in the presidential election process, considering its impact on state representation, the balance of power between states, and its alignment with the principles of federalism outlined in the U.S. Constitution.
 - *Street Smarts: The Constitution* (Video and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