



Utah | Lesson Plan

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

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

Learning Objectives:

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

Key Vocabulary:

- **Pelt:** The skin and fur of an animal, often used to make clothing or blankets. In early Utah history, fur trappers came to the region to collect beaver pelts, which were valuable for trade and helped bring settlers to the area.
- **Bingham Canyon Mine:** A large open-pit copper mine in the mountains. Located in Utah, it is one of the biggest man-made holes in the world and has helped make the state a major producer of copper and other valuable metals.
- **Transcontinental Railroad:** A railroad that connected the eastern United States to the western part for the first time. It was completed in Utah in 1869 at Promontory Summit, making travel and trade across the country much faster and helping Utah grow.
- **The Delicate Arch:** A famous natural rock arch shaped by wind and weather over time. Found in Utah's Arches National Park, it's one of the state's most iconic landmarks and appears on Utah's license plates.
- **Deseret:** A word from the Book of Mormon that means "honeybee." Early Mormon settlers used it as the name for the state they wanted to create in Utah, symbolizing hard work and community.
- **Brigham Young:** A leader of the Mormon pioneers who brought thousands of settlers to the Utah Territory. He helped found Salt Lake City and became the first governor of Utah, playing a major role in shaping the state's early history.
- **The Great Salt Lake:** A large, salty lake in northern Utah with no outlet to the ocean. It's the biggest saltwater lake in the Western Hemisphere and helped early settlers choose the area for farming, trade, and settlement.
- **"The Mighty Five":** A nickname for Utah's five famous national parks—Arches, Bryce Canyon, Canyonlands, Capitol Reef, and Zion. These parks are known for their stunning red rock formations and draw millions of visitors to Utah each year.

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: Utah* (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 Utah.

Wrap-Up: (10 mins.)

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

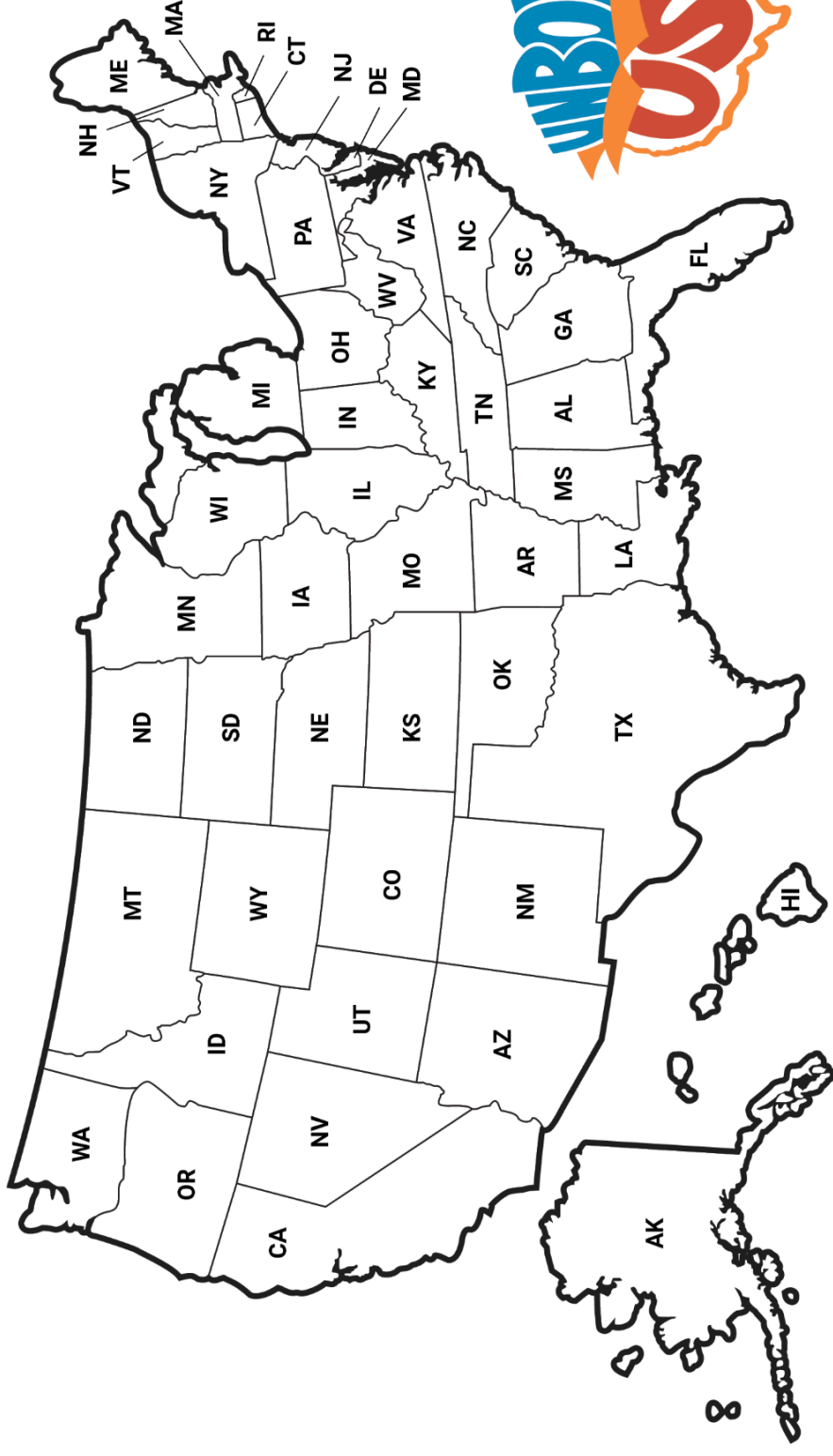
- Analyze the role of the Electoral College in the presidential election process, considering its impact on state representation, the balance of power between states, and its alignment with the principles of federalism outlined in the U.S. Constitution.
 - *Street Smarts: The Constitution* (Video and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