



The Treasure State | Lesson Plan

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

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

Learning Objectives:

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

Key Vocabulary:

- **Battle of Little Bighorn:** A significant clash between the U.S. Army's 7th Cavalry Regiment led by Lieutenant Colonel George Armstrong Custer and a coalition of Native American tribes, including the Lakota Sioux, Cheyenne, and Arapaho, which took place on June 25-26, 1876, near the Little Bighorn River in Montana Territory, resulting in a decisive victory for the Native American forces.
- **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 includes all or part of 15 current U.S. states and is considered one of the largest land deals in history.
- **Corps of Discovery Expedition:** A significant journey led by Meriwether Lewis and William Clark from 1804 to 1806, commissioned by President Thomas Jefferson to explore the newly acquired Louisiana Purchase, map the uncharted territory, establish American presence before European powers tried to claim it, and study the area's plants, animal life, and geography while also establishing trade with Native American tribes.
- **Yellowstone National Park:** Established in 1872 as the first national park in the United States and widely regarded as the first in the world, is a vast wilderness area spanning parts of Wyoming, Montana, and Idaho, renowned for its geothermal features like the iconic Old Faithful geyser, diverse wildlife, stunning landscapes, and unique natural wonders.

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: The Treasure State* (Watch [Here](#))

Scan to watch episode:



- 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 Montana.

Wrap-Up: (10 mins.)

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

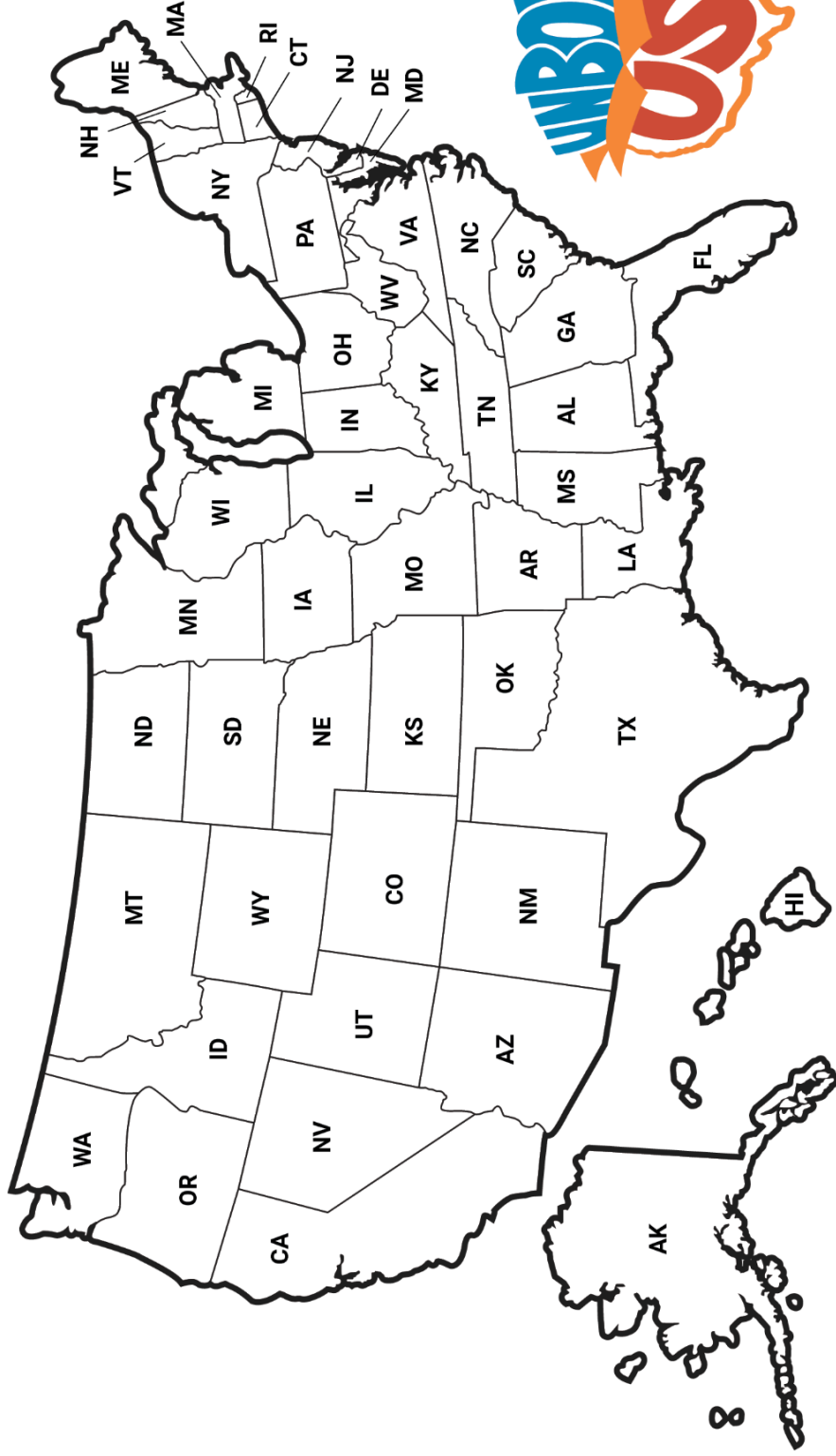
- Analyze the role of the Electoral College in the presidential election process, considering its impact on state representation, the balance of power between states, and its alignment with the principles of federalism outlined in the U.S. Constitution.
 - *Street Smarts: The Constitution* (Video and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