

## Geography Lesson Plan

### Locate the States of the United States of America

**Grade Level(s):** 4-12

**Class Time:** 1 hour, or 2 hours with extensions

**Purpose:** To learn state names and state locations.

**National Geography Standards Exemplified:**

1. How to use maps and other geographic representations, tools, and technologies to acquire, process, and report information from a spatial perspective;
3. How to analyze the spatial organization of people, places, and environments on Earth's surface;
18. How to apply geography to interpret the present and plan for the future.

**State Educational Standards or Indicators Exemplified:** Indiana SSAI

3. Students will examine the physical and human geographic factors associated with population characteristics and distribution;
10. Students will analyze and evaluate the physical and human geographic factors that contribute to the formation of states.

**Background:** Students will need to have learned how to read a map, know the principal directions, and know how to find countries on a world wall map or in an atlas.

**Materials Required:** Country wall map or atlases; outline map of the United States of America (with individual state boundaries shown); pens or pencils (perhaps colored).

**Procedures:**

1. Initial instruction: Each country has numerous territorial subdivisions (called states, provinces, departments or prefectures). To develop knowledge of a country it is important to learn about its principal subdivisions.
2. Ask students, working in small groups, to consult the wall map or the atlases on their work tables and locate the United States of America. Ask them to make a numbered list of the different states and to label each state accurately on the outline map. Ask them to compare their list with their map to make sure all states are identified.
3. For a challenge and for fun, ask them to color the boundaries so that no two states that share a border have the same color boundary, with as few colors as possible.
4. Ask students to complete the Level 1 Geography Crossword Puzzle for the United States of America.

**Assessment:** Informal assessment by instructor moving from group to group and assisting with the lesson. Formal assessment could follow, with a quiz to place state names correctly on an outline map with state boundaries shown (perhaps with numbers shown on the map for each state and a list of state names, requiring the students to write the correct number next to the name).

**Adaptations/Extensions:**

1. Ask the students to draw a new map locating the states of the United States of America, entirely on their own, as homework.
2. Ask students to complete the Level 2 Geography Crossword Puzzle for the United States of America.

**Resources:** World Trade Press for world wall maps, atlases. AtoZMapsOnline.com for base maps (with and without country boundaries).

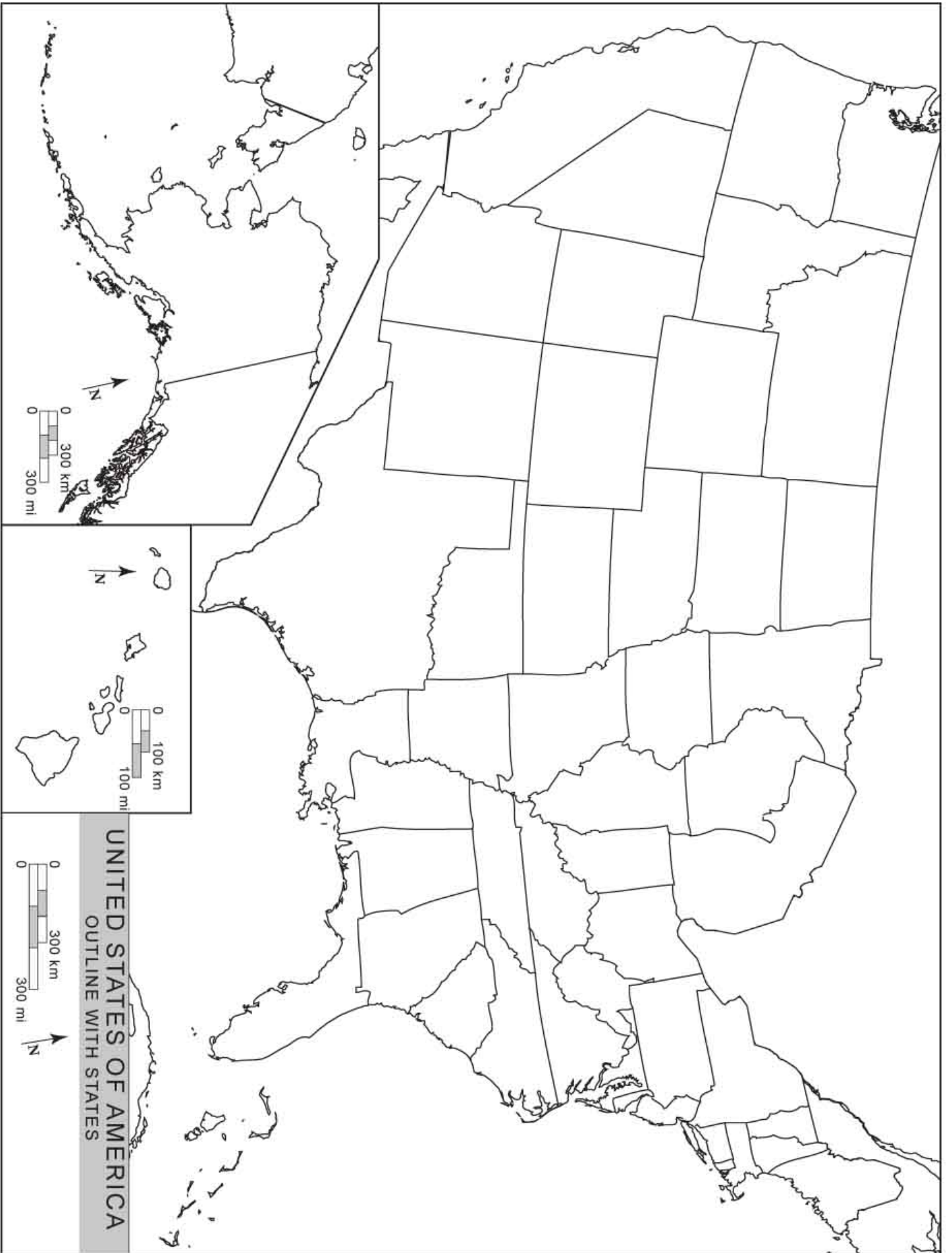
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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Class \_\_\_\_\_

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
OUTLINE WITH STATES

