

N is for Natural State





**BUTLER
CENTER FOR
ARKANSAS
STUDIES**

N is for Natural State

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Elementary, Crossett, Arkansas 2005-06 School
Year

Revised 2007-08 School Year Utilizing 2006 Social Studies Frameworks Including
2007 Arkansas History Amendments and 2007 School Library Media Frameworks

The goal of this unit is to give a general overview of the state of Arkansas by introducing the book, *N is for Natural State*. This lesson plan could be used as part of a study of the south-eastern portion of the United States or as an introduction to a larger unit of study. Students may collect information for reports on the natural state.

Grades: 3rd - 4th (Lesson can be modified for use with special needs students.)

Objectives:

1. Use reports, journals, or graphic displays to communicate geographical facts about the natural state.
2. Recognize and use information in a variety of formats.
3. Produce art works about the natural state.

Arkansas Curriculum Frameworks:

Arkansas History Student Learning Expectations:

- G.1.1.2** Locate Arkansas on a United States map (Can be used with special needs students or as introduction for the lesson)
- G.1.3.2** Name and locate the states that border Arkansas
- G.1.3.8** Locate mountain ranges in Arkansas
-Ozark
-Ouachita
- G.1.3.9** Locate major rivers in Arkansas
-Arkansas
-Mississippi
-Red
-White
-Ouachita
-St. Francis
- G.1.4.2** Locate and describe physical characteristics of the six natural *regions* of Arkansas
- Arkansas River Valley
-Crowley's Ridge
-Mississippi Alluvial Plain

- Ozark Mountains (plateau)
- West Gulf Coastal Plain
- Ouachita Mountains

G.1.4.9 Locate major rivers in the United States

- Mississippi
- Ohio
- Arkansas
- Hudson
- Missouri
- Colorado

See also Social Studies Learning Expectations for Geography:

G.1.3.3 Discuss the characteristics that define a *region*

- takes up area
- has boundaries
- has special features

G.1.4.3 Locate each of the five *regions* of the United States and describe each *region's* major physical features:

- Northeast
- Southeast
- Midwest
- Southwest
- West

Arkansas Fine Arts Frameworks:

A.2.6 Produce art works to demonstrate an understanding of the various purposes for creating (aesthetic, functional, historical/cultural, therapeutic and/or social).

Arkansas School Library Media Frameworks

I.1.3.9, I.1.4.9- Recognize and use information in a variety of formats as a starting point for research

- print (e.g., atlases, encyclopedias, dictionaries, and periodicals, thesauri, almanacs)
- non-print (e.g., maps, globes, videos)
- electronic resources (e.g., databases, *Web environments*)

Related Encyclopedia of Arkansas Entries:

[Quapaw](#); [Blanchard Springs Caverns](#); [Bill Clinton](#); [Official State Gem](#); [Elizabeth Ann Eckford](#); [Official State Flag](#); [Official State Seal](#); [Official State Insect](#); [Scott Joplin](#); [Little Rock \(Pulaski County\)](#); [Old Mill](#); [Poultry](#); [Quartz Mining](#); [Timber Industry](#); [Hope Watermelon Festival](#); [Dizzy Dean](#); [Category: Counties, Towns, and Locations](#)

Introduction:

The teacher will select the appropriate student learning expectations for his or her students, obtain a copy of *N is for Natural State*, review key terms, and obtain materials for use with students including the worksheet/transparency pattern (provided). Collaboration with the school library media specialist to obtain the resources in various formats, including electronic ones, for this unit is suggested.

Key Terms:

natural	state
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Key Terms Defined:

natural - existing in or produced by nature

state - a politically organized body of people usually occupying a definite territory

Materials Needed:

United States map with Arkansas highlighted (transparency pattern provided)

Large map of Arkansas (transparency pattern provided)

Copy of *N is for Natural State*

Copies of Arkansas Worksheet

Copy of topic sheet

Poster Board

Writing Utensils

Suggested Timeframe:

Two classes. This could be an introduction to an in-depth unit or just a stand-alone lesson.

Introduction to the Learning:

- ~ Ask students to locate Arkansas on a United States Map.
- ~ Show students how to locate Arkansas, by finding the boot that is Louisiana and traveling north one state.
- ~ Define state.

Suggested Teaching Strategies:

- ~ Introduce students to Arkansas and its nickname, the Natural State. Ask students why they think the state would be named "the natural state."
- ~ Define natural.
- ~ Discuss what makes Arkansas natural, i.e., landforms, resources, hunting & fishing opportunities, natural attractions, etc.
- ~ Read *N is for Natural State* to students.

Closure to Learning:

- ~ Have students complete Arkansas Worksheet using topics from the book and using information from the book and other reference materials in the classroom.
- ~ Assign topics or have students select topic about which they would like to learn (topic sheet is provided to divide and draw topics, or record assigned topics.)
- ~ Have students present findings in poster form before the class.

Assessment:

- ~ Students completing the Arkansas Worksheet may be given a percentage of points for a participation grade if the students met the basic requirements of the assignment (modification).
- ~ A presentation grade may also be given a percentage of points if the students presented their poster to the class.

Suggested Extended Activities:

- ~ In addition to the worksheet, have students complete a written report or poster
- ~ As part of a geography unit, have students write the capital of each state in a particular region requesting information about their state.
- ~ Have students create a map of Arkansas, noting important cities, tourist attractions, and natural resources.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Arkansas Worksheet

My topic is: _____

What I want to know most about my topic is: _____

My topic is important to Arkansas because: _____

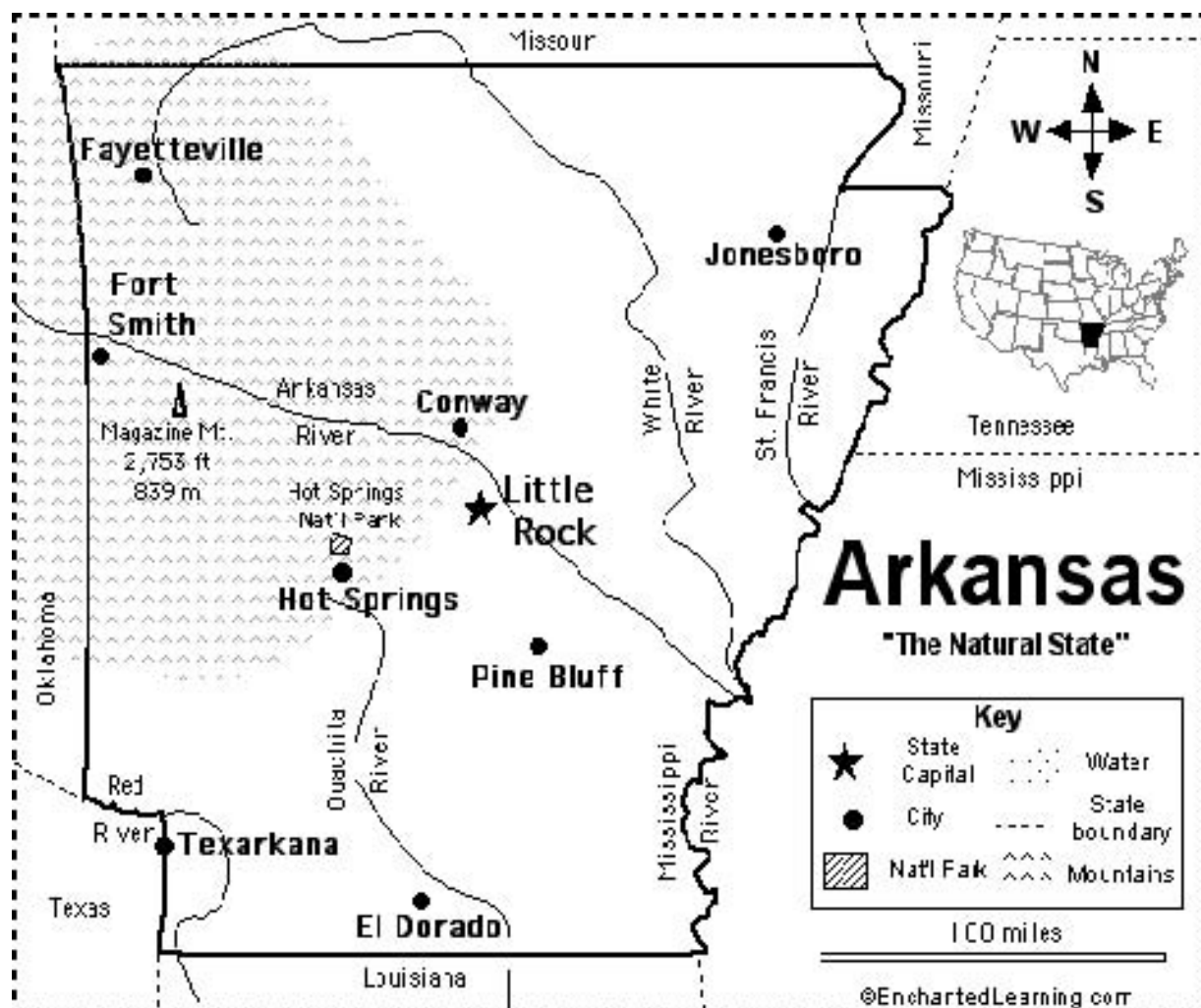
I think the most interesting thing about my topic is: _____

Two facts about my topic I'd like to share are:

1. _____

2. _____

Acansa/Quapaw	Blanchard Springs Caverns	Bill Clinton	Diamonds
Elizabeth Eckford	Arkansas State Flag	Great Seal of Arkansas	Hawskbill Crag
State Insect: Honeybee	Scott Joplin	Kappa – Quapaw	Capital: Little Rock
State Bird: Mockingbird	Nickname: The Natural State	Old Mill	Industry: Poultry
Mining: Quartz	Team: Razorbacks	Agriculture: Soybeans	Resource: Timber
USS Arkansas	Victorian Village	Festivals: Watermelon	Airport: XNA
Origin of the name of your hometown	Dizzy Dean	Origin of the name of your county	





Sources

www.wordcentral.com

Online student dictionary.

<http://www.enchantedlearning.com/usa/states/arkansas/index.shtml>

Wonderful reference site for Arkansas facts, symbols, flags, and other general information.

www.state.ar.us

Official site for the State of Arkansas. Click on Education in the left column and select educational resources.

Shoulders, M. (2003). *N is for natural state: An Arkansas alphabet*. Chelsea, MI: Sleeping Bear Press.

Book gives information about several of the industries and natural resources in Arkansas.

The Taylor Foundation (Little Rock, Arkansas) makes Butler Center lesson plans possible. Contact the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies, Central Arkansas Library System, 100 Rock St., Little Rock, AR, 72201. 501-918-3056 www.butlercenter.org and www.cals.lib.ar.us

