**Hands-On Activities for Studying Missouri State History**

**🗌 Map-Based Activities**

* **Create a Giant State Map**: Use butcher paper or poster board to label major rivers, cities, and landmarks.
* **Pin-the-Fact Game**: Place historical facts on the map and have kids match the event to the correct location.
* **Road Trip Planning**: Plot a fictional road trip to historical Missouri landmarks using online maps or atlases.

**📜 Create a State History Timeline**

* Build a timeline of major Missouri events: Native tribes, Louisiana Purchase, Civil War, etc.
* Use index cards, string, or a printed timeline template.
* Include people, places, dates, and important milestones.

**🏡 Pioneer Life Simulation**

* Host a "Pioneer Day" with simple cooking (cornbread, beans), butter churning, or candle making.
* Dress up in period-style clothing and try writing with a quill or dip pen.
* Write a diary entry as a Missouri pioneer child.

**💼 State History Lapbook or Notebook**

* Create folders with flaps and foldables for:
	+ State symbols (bird, flower, tree)
	+ Key people (Dred Scott, Laura Ingalls Wilder, Daniel Boone)
	+ Important events and regions
* Include coloring pages, printed facts, and maps.

**🎭 Living History Interviews**

* Roleplay as famous Missourians: your child can dress up and answer questions in character.
* Record a video or create a "podcast" style audio interview.
* Examples: Harry S. Truman, Sacagawea, Mark Twain.

**🧰 State Symbols Scavenger Hunt**

* Search your yard, park, or online for:
	+ Hawthorn (state flower)
	+ Bluebird (state bird)
	+ Missouri mule
* Snap photos or draw them in a state history journal.

**🏖 Build a Diorama or Model**

* Use clay, cardboard, or LEGO to recreate:
	+ A log cabin
	+ The Gateway Arch
	+ A Mississippi River steamboat

**🎨 Art and Craft Ideas**

* Make the Missouri state flag with felt or construction paper.
* Create silhouettes of historical figures.
* Design a state quarter featuring Missouri symbols.

**🏰 Postcard or Travel Brochure Project**

* Design a postcard from a historic site like Arrow Rock, St. Louis, or Hannibal.
* Write from the perspective of someone visiting during the 1800s.

**🍞 Food and Culture Exploration**

* Sample or make Missouri favorites: gooey butter cake, toasted ravioli, wild rice soup.
* Research food contributions from German, French, and African American Missourians.

**Two-Week Unit Study on Missouri History**

**📚 Week 1: Missouri’s Geography, Symbols, and Early History**

**Day 1: Introduction to Missouri Geography**

* 📖 Read: [*Missouri* (True Books: States series)](https://www.amazon.com/Missouri-True-Book-United-States/dp/0531235629) or similar library book
* 🌐 Explore: Missouri map at [VisitMo.com](https://www.visitmo.com/)
* ✍️ Activity: Draw a Missouri map with rivers, borders, capital, and major cities

**Day 2: State Symbols Scavenger Hunt**

* 📖 Read: Missouri state symbol pages in [*Our Great State: Missouri*](https://www.amazon.com/Whats-Great-about-Missouri-States-ebook/dp/B013V6OKFA/ref%3Dsr_1_1?crid=32NNP0F1PBUPF&dib=eyJ2IjoiMSJ9.jJEMMhG1loq-xCu4FgYT_YYc-OIZBwMisnc_dZPdCjIiG0N5J28Z2-ROFulV2msMWJDgqf6cd4lZu21Y3sXSwavKIEWX0LKMYWYfXviJ-oD0e3MjZYUdVULdnz4E_-nOAlZWpxDiqOsQH9oaFQdkGS8ELPi_UwSJc6u6eZsg-XjUw-6jqemPl5hA92ukXe_nkyaILzUg1hl1cgOYzB6WJ3Y2_A8H9OWQZmh5YTBzcwI.CPElXz6-keDDEolzZ2dQVKK7Vr-rjkUv-YSvVu-0ZHg&dib_tag=se&keywords=Our+Great+State%3A+Missouri&qid=1753125204&s=books&sprefix=our+great+state+missouri%2Cstripbooks%2C289&sr=1-1)
* 🌐 Explore: [Missouri Secretary of State Symbols Page](https://www.sos.mo.gov/symbols)
* 🎨 Activity: Create a “State Symbol Booklet” with drawings or magazine cutouts

**Day 3: Native Peoples of Missouri**

* 📖 Read: Sections on Osage or Missouria tribes in a U.S. history book
* 🌐 Explore: Missouri Humanities Tribal History Timeline
* 🖐 Activity: Make a simple clay pinch pot or draw a village scene

**Day 4: The Louisiana Purchase & Missouri Territory**

* 📖 Read: Chapter or section on Louisiana Purchase in [*A History of Us* (Book 3)](https://www.amazon.com/History-US-Colonies-Country-1735-1791/dp/0195327179/ref%3Dsr_1_1?crid=14WKXXRUE1EEE&dib=eyJ2IjoiMSJ9.nMRC-zxSz6yAzR6chJ40bkRFcxbUfoEocQZJVqfISSZuUcbBGvY207PidOf7tjG3w8Lh7h45G7K9kXWwsuKH1bhypIYWYOT3ovIqcxsVR7iCDaKFhXb1iYv0xvNGK3bjf8yxm9v2wZPPtW_P9D6XAsJ5zR7lt4tdcFmYxmhOPHy6m1mXKkpkzzQ_xgfjcTMr9XfeYgd4w8JQMFgiOhqnmWJR5OMFXTp-ymliRSN9WCg.n_swYwXPR_rpjrgB9PVaDQwviQejDzZsvlyzyr6VW4w&dib_tag=se&keywords=A+History+of+Us+Book+3&qid=1753125577&sprefix=a+history+of+us+book+3+%2Caps%2C731&sr=8-1)
* 🌐 Explore: [National Park Service article on Louisiana Purchase](https://www.nps.gov/articles/louisiana-purchase.htm)
* 📜 Activity: [Timeline entry for 1803 and 1821 (MO statehood)](https://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/history/timeline/1)

**Day 5: Statehood and Early Settlers**

* 📖 Read: [*Ross Malone’s Missouri: Weird, Wonderful & Wacky*](https://www.amazon.com/Missouri-Weird-Wonderful-Amanda-Doyle/dp/1681064820) stories (choose 1-2)
* 🧑‍🌾 Activity: Pioneer Life Day—make cornbread, write a diary entry, or churn butter
* Optional video: [Liberty’s Kids Episode on Louisiana Purchase (YouTube)]

**🏛 Week 2: Famous Missourians, Landmarks, and Living History**

**Day 6: Famous Missourian - Mark Twain**

* 📖 Read: [*Who Was Mark Twain?*](https://www.amazon.com/Mark-Twain-April-Jones-Prince/dp/0448433192)
* 🌐 Explore: [Mark Twain Boyhood Home Virtual Tour](https://marktwainmuseum.org/plan-your-visit/interactive-map/)
* 🎭 Activity: Write a funny short story or tall tale in Twain’s style

**Day 7: Civil War & Missouri’s Divided Loyalties**

* 📖 Read: [*If You Lived at the Time of the Civil War*](https://www.amazon.com/You-Lived-Time-Civil-War/dp/0590454226/ref%3Dsr_1_1?crid=6M8IPMK9BC9B&dib=eyJ2IjoiMSJ9.1h3lzGNDDpa9J6jaIHk4cpPB95R9DM0iLJzAHH8R_oO4mgoqf11qbThdZTR8xovEQoXryzgtuCDRi4k-WU-kiO7V92lxr_ICIOPydq5PVwK-Tx8IqF2d0h7dZ8Ld7A9q.7fxV_F9QPIK_meqh8xmBDLyYQdz0sLvRZlxVOoeL4RE&dib_tag=se&keywords=If+You+Lived+at+the+Time+of+the+Civil+War&qid=1753125797&s=books&sprefix=if+you+lived+at+the+time+of+the+civil+war+%2Cstripbooks%2C356&sr=1-1) (select MO-relevant pages)
* 🌐 Explore: [Battle of Wilson’s Creek - NPS](https://www.nps.gov/wicr/index.htm)
* 🗺️ Activity: [Map Civil War battle sites in Missouri](https://www.battlefields.org/learn/maps/historical-map-missouri)

**Day 8: Gateway Arch and St. Louis History**

* 📖 Read: [*The Gateway Arch* (Landmarks series)](https://www.amazon.com/Exploring-Gateway-Travel-Americas-Landmarks/dp/1641857862/ref%3Dsr_1_2?crid=36FGCEXC38QG5&dib=eyJ2IjoiMSJ9.FcFGbqHLUeeJ0-HJoypiotcLLYrPKiO30mDCS6T7BHh0wgTqDjp3asNc9OWEnh3rYPY0Icb8eqc9V49JzPCU7Q.X1a96iwvlobAmGJrFsXHeZHGJudM3rIXvoTHR6jG4fw&dib_tag=se&keywords=The+Gateway+Arch+%28Landmarks+series%29&qid=1753125871&s=books&sprefix=the+gateway+arch+landmarks+series+%2Cstripbooks%2C521&sr=1-2)
* 🌐 Explore: [NPS Gateway Arch Virtual Tour](https://www.nps.gov/jeff/learn/photosmultimedia/virtualtour.htm)
* 🏗 Activity: Build a mini Arch from pipe cleaners, foil, or LEGOs

**Day 9: More Missouri Trailblazers**

* 📖 Read: Bios from *Great Americans in Missouri History* (library or online)
* 👥 Activity: Living History Interview—dress up and act as Harry Truman, Sacagawea, or Laura Ingalls
* 📹 Bonus: Record a short “interview” as that character

**Day 10: Wrap-Up Project & Missouri Memory Box**

* 📦 Activity: Create a Missouri Memory Box (decorate a shoebox with symbols, maps, and mini artifacts from the unit)
* 🗣 Present: Share favorite activity or fact learned from the study
* 🎓 Optional: Missouri History Certificate of Completion