



**NEW MEXICO
SPIRIT**
1776 + 2026

ACTIVITY OVERVIEW



Q4 • Historical Reflection & Progress • Elementary Lower

Geography Exploration Map School & Draw Favorite Place

Theme: Histories of Independence

Time Required: 1-2 class sessions

Materials Needed:

- Paper and drawing tools (pencils, crayons, markers)
- Clipboards or hard writing surfaces for outdoor exploration
- Compass or labeled classroom direction chart
- Example classroom/school maps

Activity Overview

Students explore geography through familiar spaces, learning how to navigate their classroom, school, and nearby surroundings. Using simple mapping skills, they draw a map of their school and mark their favorite location. This lesson builds spatial awareness, visual observation, and understanding of directions, while connecting geography to daily life and community.

Learning Objectives

- Learn and use basic mapping symbols.
- Identify and describe familiar places using cardinal directions.
- Create a simple labeled map of their school.
- Communicate ideas about location and space clearly.

Essential Questions

- How do maps help us understand where things are?
- What places are special or important to us at school?
- How can we describe where things are using directions?

Inspired Conversation Topics

- What makes your favorite place in school special?
- How do you know how to get from your classroom to another room?
- How do maps show us information?