



**NEW MEXICO  
SPIRIT**  
1776 + 2026

# ACTIVITY OVERVIEW



## **Q4 • Historical Reflection & Progress • Elementary Upper**

### **Geography Exploration • Map Your Community**

**Theme:** Historical Reflection & Progress

**Time Required:** 2-3 class sessions

#### **Materials Needed:**

- Chart paper or drawing paper
- Rulers, pencils, markers, colored pencils
- Digital or printed maps of the local community
- Historical maps of New Mexico (available online or via the state archives)

#### **Activity Overview**

Students explore how geography, community, and culture are connected by mapping their local surroundings. They create hand-drawn or digital maps of their neighborhood or school area, identifying key landmarks, streets, and cultural features. By comparing their maps to historical versions of the same region, students discover how geography influences community identity and change over time.

#### **Learning Objectives**

- Identify geographic and cultural features within their community.
- Use map symbols, keys, and legends to communicate information.
- Compare present-day and historical maps to recognize change over time.
- Work collaboratively to create a class map representing shared spaces.

#### **Essential Questions**

- How does geography shape our community?
- What stories do maps tell about people and places?
- How has our community changed over time?
- What does our map say about who we are today?

#### **Inspired Conversation Topics**

- What are the most important places in your community?
- How does our map show both nature and human-made features?
- What surprises you when you compare an old map to a new one?