



**NEW MEXICO  
SPIRIT**  
1776 + 2026

# EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES



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

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

**Theme:** Historical Reflection & Progress

#### **Links**

- [PBS LearningMedia – Map Skills and Geographic Thinking](#)
- [New Mexico History Museum – Historical Maps of New Mexico](#)
- [U.S. Geological Survey – The National Map Viewer](#)
- [Library of Congress – Historical Maps Collection](#)

#### **Book List**

- [The Map Trap by Andrew Clements](#)
- [Mapmakers and the Lost Magic by Cameron Chittock and Amanda Castillo,](#)
- [The Once Upon a Time Map Book by B.G. Hennessy](#)

#### **Optional Family Extension Activity**

Encourage students to take a family walk around their neighborhood and sketch a “Family Map.” They can add places like their home, local shops, favorite parks, and landmarks, then compare their maps to their classmates’ versions.

#### **Teacher Note**

Support creativity while emphasizing accuracy and detail. Encourage students to notice natural features, community landmarks, and symbols of culture or heritage.

#### **Technical Tip**

If students use digital mapping tools, such as Google Maps or My Maps, teach them how to add custom pins, labels, and legends safely.



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## Geography Exploration: Your Town

1. Mapping the past
  - a. Find your town or region on a map from the 1700s era, like the Map of central New Mexico in 1770s, by Don Bernardo Miera y Pacheco following the 1776 Dominguez-Escalante Expedition
    - i. [1688 Map of 'Mexico Nouveau'](#)
    - ii. [1719 Map](#)
    - iii. [1776 Dominguez-Escalante Expedition](#)
    - iv. [The Spanish Archives of New Mexico 1779 Map p 264](#)
    - v. [1786 Map 1](#)
    - vi. [1786 Map 2](#)
    - vii. [Indigenous New Mexico Map](#)
    - viii. [1820 Map with the 1803 Louisiana Purchase](#)
2. Lived realities
  - a. What was your current location like in 1776?
    - i. Did it exist? If it existed, what documents demonstrate that? Who lived there?
    - ii. If not, what was the landscape like in 1776? When was it founded, and who lived there?
  - b. What's the oldest map that shows your town? What kinds of dwellings did people live in? Which one do you think was the most pleasant?
    - i. What kinds of plants and animals lived there? Do they still live there now?
    - ii. What did people eat?
    - iii. What did people do if they were sick or injured?
3. Changes
  - a. Visualize
    - i. Draw what the view from your bedroom window might have been like in 1776
    - ii. Compare the 1786 map with the map of 1719. What are some differences you notice between the two? What places are not on either map?