



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.



EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES



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?