



Q4 • Historical Reflection & Progress • Middle School

Geography Exploration • Maps Over Time

Theme: Historical Reflection & Progress

Links

- [2020 Census Results for New Mexico](#)
- [Library of Congress – Maps of North America and the Southwest](#)
- [New Mexico History Museum – Historic Maps Collection](#)
- [National Archives – Cartographic Records of the United States](#)
- [National Geographic Education – Surveying the United States](#)

Book List

- [Maps That Changed the World by John O. E. Clark](#)
- [Merriam-Webster’s Student Atlas - Features Full-Color Physical, Political, & Thematic Maps](#)
- [New Mexico Then and Now – Allen Boyer, all grades](#)

Optional Family Extension Activity

Invite students to ask an older family member how their community has changed over time, new buildings, renamed streets, or shifting boundaries and locate those changes on a map.

Educator Note

Encourage curiosity about how maps are shaped by human perspective. Remind students that every map tells a story and no map is completely neutral.

Local resources to gather:

- Brochures and local history materials from town hall or visitors center.
- Local libraries for maps and topic-specific history.
- Local college departments (history, geography, language).
- Cultural centers with historical and geographic information



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?