



**NEW MEXICO
SPIRIT**
1776 + 2026

STUDENT WORKSHEET



Q4 • Historical Reflection & Progress • High School

Geography Evolution • Maps Over Time

Name: _____ Date: _____

In this activity, you will explore how geography helps shape New Mexico's history by studying maps from different eras. You'll compare what changed, what stayed the same, and why those shifts matter.

1. Choosing a Focus Topic

Select one topic to explore through maps of New Mexico over time.

Examples: *Comancheria, Taos Fair and Trade Routes, Geology and Land Use, Territorial Borders, or Language and Place Names.*

My topic and why I chose it: _____

2. Research Plan

You will analyze four maps: one from each of the following eras:

1. 1700s (early exploration or Indigenous era)
2. 1800s (territorial or early statehood)
3. 1900s (modernization)
4. 2000s (modern or digital GIS map)

List where you'll find your maps and sources:



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3. Analysis Notes

For each map, describe what you notice; boundaries, place names, symbols, or focus areas.

4. Essay Outline

Your paper should include:

- Introduction explaining your topic and why it matters
- Four map analyses describing changes and what they represent
- Discussion of how geography connects to identity, culture, or politics
- Reflection on how geography might shape the future of New Mexico

Outline or bullet your plan below:

5. Reflection

What does geography teach us about who we are and how we change?
