



**NEW MEXICO  
SPIRIT**  
1776 + 2026

# ACTIVITY CHECKLIST



## Q2 • Storytelling • Elementary Lower Storytelling Across Generations

### Before the Activity

- Review the Activity Overview for this activity.
- Gather needed materials: storybook (Grandfather's Journey or similar), question worksheet, permission form, memo to adults, thank-you note templates.
- Preview the book you will read aloud and note discussion points connected to oral history.
- Prepare the interview question sheet and space for students to add their own questions.
- Develop Memo to adults about the project and Permission form for sharing stories and images in line with your school's policies
- Make copies of:
  - Memo to adults
  - Interview Question Student Worksheet
  - Permission form

### During the Activity

#### 1. Introduction Oral History

- Explain that students will explore independence through stories and discussion.
- Ask students if they know any stories from when they were babies or very young.
- Have students share one story with a partner.
- Invite a few students to share with the class.
- Guide students to understand: Someone else had to tell them these stories.
- Explain that historians use oral history to learn about events they did not personally experience.



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## 2. Read Aloud & Discuss

- Read Grandfather's Journey (or similar) in class.
- Facilitate discussion:
  - What part of the story was most interesting?
  - What do you know about your own grandparents or grown-ups in your life?
  - What questions would you like to ask them about their childhood?
- Collect student ideas to build the interview question list.

## 3. Create Interview Questions

- Provide the question worksheet and add space for students' own questions.
- Include suggested questions:
  - When and where were you born?
  - What was life like when you were my age?
  - What important things happened in your life?
  - What was school like? What did you do for fun?
- Model asking questions and let students practice in pairs.

## 4. Send-Home Materials

- Send home:
  - Memo to adults explaining the project
  - Interview question form
  - Permission form allowing sharing of story/photo in class



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## After the Activity

### Oral History Interview

- Students ask a grown-up to tell them what life was like when they were a child.
- Students use their question sheet to guide the conversation.
- Ask the adult for a childhood photo OR a description of a memory.
- Students may:
  - Bring a copy of the photo
  - Draw the memory as described
  - Draw the location or scene if no photo exists

### Show & Share

- Students present their photo or drawing in class, small groups, or partners.
- Use reflection questions:
  - What is the same between then and now?
  - What is different?
  - What did you enjoy learning the most?

### Class Display & Thanks

- Create a class collage or bulletin board of student images.
- Students write thank-you notes to the adults they interviewed.
- Students hand-deliver or mail their notes.