



**NEW MEXICO  
SPIRIT**  
1776 + 2026

# ACTIVITY CHECKLIST



## **Q4 • Historical Reflection & Progress • Elementary Upper Geography Exploration • Map Your Community**

### **Before the Activity**

- Review the Activity Overview for this activity.
- Review the five eras of New Mexico history to connect place and geography.
- Introduce the purpose of the activity: mapping your community.
- Gather community reference maps or online map images for teacher modeling.
- Prepare drawing materials and writing tools for students.
- Review map elements (title, legend, labels, compass rose).

### **Teacher Modeling**

- Display a community map (digital or printed).
- Identify key features: streets, buildings, parks, schools, landmarks.
- Demonstrate how to read cardinal directions on the map.
- Point out how labels help clarify locations.
- Show how a simple legend is used to represent buildings and natural features.

### **Student Map Activity**

- Students draw a map of their community or neighborhood.
- Include major streets or pathways they use regularly.
- Add important places (school, home, parks, stores, community buildings).
- Label each feature clearly.
- Add a legend with symbols for places or structures.
- Include a compass rose indicating cardinal directions.
- Encourage students to add additional meaningful landmarks from their daily routes.



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## Guiding Questions (During Map Creation)

- What important places help define your community?
- Which directions do you travel to get to school or other locations?
- Which landmarks help you know where you are?
- How does your map show the most important parts of your area?

## Sharing & Discussion

- Students share their maps with the class or in small groups.
- Encourage students to compare similarities and differences in their maps.
- Discuss how maps help people understand where they live.
- Connect to how communities change over time and across NM history.

## Optional Reflection

- Students write a short description of their map:
  - What they included
  - Why those places matter
  - What they learned about their community