



**NEW MEXICO  
SPIRIT**  
1776 + 2026

# ACTIVITY CHECKLIST



## Q4 • Historical Reflection & Progress • High School

### Geography Evolution • Maps Over Time

#### Before the Activity

- Review the Activity Overview for this activity.
- Introduce the concept that geographic changes over time reflect difference, not “progress.”
- Discuss how language shifts, treaties, conquests, and community changes influence place names.
- Explain why interpreting change as “progress” can reinforce colonial bias.
- Provide the “Your Town” resource for exploring 1700s geography.

#### Map Comparison (1719, 1779, 1786)

- Review the three maps with students (before, during, after the American Revolution).
- Ask: What noticeable points stayed the same?
- Ask: What were the biggest differences?
- Ask: How did the shape of “New Mexico” change?
- Ask: What do these maps show about the impact of wars and treaties in the 1700s?

#### Research Paper Requirements (5–10 Pages)

- Students choose one geographic topic below.
- Paper must answer the questions listed under the chosen topic.
- Paper must include citations and a bibliography.
- Use A Forgotten Kingdom: The Spanish Frontier in Colorado and New Mexico, 1540–1821 as a starting point.
- Encourage use of primary sources when available.
- Encourage contacting librarians or academics for topic-specific expertise.



# ACTIVITY CHECKLIST



## Topic Option 1: Comancheria

- Explain what Comancheria was and how it influenced New Mexico's history.
- Describe what happened to the inhabitants of Comancheria.
- Analyze how Comancheria shaped European perceptions of Indigenous people.
- Address Indigenous traditions, power, movement, and responses to colonialism.

## Topic Option 2: Taos Fair

- Define the Taos Fair and the economic systems linked to it.
- Explain how economic connections reinforced or challenged forms of government.
- Identify who benefitted most and whether anyone was negatively impacted.
- Describe the long-term impact of the Taos Fair on the region.

## Topic Option 3: Geology

- Select one major NM geological feature (e.g., White Sands, Shiprock, Rockies, Rio Grande, Permian Basin).
- Provide scientific background about the feature.
- Explain how it has impacted NM history culturally or economically.
- Identify whether information exists about the feature in the 1700s.
- Dedicate two paragraphs to: How do geology or geography themes impact NM and the region today?

## Optional Extension: Presentations

- Groups prepare presentations on their research topic.
- Limit presentations to 10 minutes.
- Include visual aids (slides, props, or artifacts).
- Group students with the same or similar topics.
- Ensure each group member has a meaningful speaking role.