



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.



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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.