



ACTIVITY OVERVIEW



Q3 • Cultural Festival Elementary School • All School

Activity Overview

In 1776, New Mexico was already home to multiple cultures that shaped the unique character of the region. Since then, people from all over the world have come to call New Mexico home. The All-School Cultural Festival provides elementary students with an opportunity to celebrate this diversity and explore the rich histories, traditions, and cultural contributions present in their school community and across the state.

Before the Activity

Educators and school leaders form a planning team and establish the festival's date, time, and location. Communication is sent to families explaining the purpose of the event and inviting participation through classroom displays or cultural demonstrations. Schools may partner with local organizations to broaden representation.

Each classroom prepares a collective display that reflects the cultures represented within the class community. Displays include grade, class, and school name and may incorporate visual art, short written explanations, and optional simple demonstrations. Teachers preview expectations with students for respectful interactions and meaningful engagement during the festival.

During the Activity

Students gather for a shared All-School experience.

- Selected student greeters welcome attendees and direct them to a central welcome area.
- Classes rotate through displays and community booths according to a schedule.
- Teachers model respectful interaction, curiosity, and appreciation.
- Students observe demonstrations, ask questions, and engage thoughtfully with presenters.
- The festival atmosphere emphasizes celebration, learning, and community pride.



After the Activity

Classroom reflection allows students to process their experience. Educators may guide discussion using questions such as:

- What did you notice during the festival?
- What tradition or display stood out to you?
- What did you learn about our community?

Students and staff express gratitude to event organizers, local organizations, and parent volunteers. Thank-you notes may be created collectively or individually to reinforce appreciation and community partnership.

Educator Notes

This activity is intentionally flexible and may be adapted to fit school size, resources, and scheduling needs. Schools may choose to host a small-scale internal festival or a larger event with community partnerships.

The goal is cultural appreciation, community connection, and student reflection — not performance or content mastery.

Additional cultural organizations, community contacts, and classroom resources are available in the Educator Resources document.

Connection to Statewide Theme

The Cultural Festival highlights New Mexico's Contribution by honoring the diverse communities that have shaped the state's identity from 1776 to the present. By exploring the cultures within their own classrooms and communities, students gain a deeper understanding of how local histories and traditions contribute to the broader story of New Mexico and the nation. The Cultural Festival highlights New Mexico's Contribution by honoring the diverse communities that have shaped the state's identity from 1776 to the present. By exploring the cultures within their own classrooms and communities, students gain a deeper understanding of how local histories and traditions contribute to the broader story of New Mexico and the nation.