



## **Q3 • Cultural Festival**

### **Middle School• All School**

#### **Activity Overview**

New Mexico's cultural landscape has evolved from its early foundations in 1776 to a vibrant and diverse present-day community. The All-School Cultural Festival invites middle school students to examine the histories, traditions, and identities that contribute to the state's character.

Through preparation, participation, and reflection, students explore how culture influences identity, strengthens community connections, and contributes to New Mexico's ongoing story.

#### **Before the Activity**

Educators review the purpose of the Cultural Festival, form a planning team, and establish event logistics. Families are informed and invited to contribute. Classrooms prepare collective displays and review expectations for respectful interaction.

#### **During the Activity**

Students gather for a structured, shared experience.

- Student ambassadors greet attendees and guide participants.
- Classes rotate through exhibits and community booths.
- Teachers support meaningful dialogue and model respectful engagement.

Students are encouraged to ask questions, observe thoughtfully, and reflect on what they have learned.

#### **After the Activity**

Classroom reflection deepens understanding. Educators may guide discussion using questions such as:

- What themes did you notice across different cultures?
- What traditions or stories stood out?
- How do these cultures contribute to our community?

Students express gratitude to organizers and participating organizations.



## **Educator Notes**

This activity is adaptable to different school settings and community partnerships. The emphasis is on cultural understanding, respectful engagement, and thoughtful reflection.

## **Connection to Statewide Theme**

The Cultural Festival underscores New Mexico's contributions by highlighting the diverse communities that shape the state. By examining culture through research and community interaction, students gain a broader understanding of how local identities enrich the American experience.