



Q2 • Story Telling • Elementary School • ALL School

Storytelling Across Generations

Activity Overview

This All School activity introduces elementary students to storytelling as a meaningful way of understanding history, culture, and community. Students experience how stories have long been used in New Mexico to remember the past, share values, and pass knowledge across generations, particularly through oral traditions rooted in Native, Puebloan, Spanish, and Mexican cultures.

This activity is designed to be age-appropriate, reflective, and culturally grounded, offering a shared experience that can be explored further through classroom discussion and creative response.

Activity Options:

Option A: Professional New Mexico Storyteller

Students collaborate across classes to create a montage-style video that presents Students listen to a professional New Mexico storyteller share stories connected to place, culture, or history. This option emphasizes oral tradition, attentive listening, and respect for cultural knowledge.

Option B: School or Community Storyteller

A member of the school or local community serves as the storyteller, sharing a selected story that reflects New Mexico's cultural traditions. This option highlights community voices and local connections.

Before the Activity

Educators determine the storyteller and prepare for the assembly as outlined in the Checklist. Teachers may introduce oral storytelling as a cultural practice, review audience etiquette, and provide context for students in advance.



During the Activity

Students gather for a shared All School experience.

- The storyteller is introduced and shares expectations for the audience.
- Students listen as the storyteller presents one or more stories.
- Teachers model respectful audience behavior and support student engagement.

After the Activity

Classroom conversations allow students to reflect on the story and the experience of oral storytelling. Classes may collectively or individually create thank-you notes to honor the storyteller and acknowledge the importance of gratitude and etiquette.

Educator Notes

This activity is intentionally flexible and may be adapted to fit different school settings and schedules.

Follow-up reflections may be brief or extended.

Additional guidance on storytellers, etiquette, and cultural context is available in the Educator Resources document.

The goal is appreciation, listening, and cultural understanding, not content mastery.

Connection to Statewide Theme

The Storytelling Across Generations activity highlights New Mexico's contributions to the nation through its diverse cultural traditions and ways of remembering history. Educators may choose to share student reflections, artwork, or thank-you notes during assemblies or schoolwide celebrations.