



ACTIVITY CHECKLIST



Q2 • Storytelling • Elementary • All School

Storytelling Across Generations

Overview

Mainstream ideas of history often only include written documents explaining the past. However, New Mexico's cultures have diverse ways of remembering the past, particularly oral cultural traditions. These are valid ways of learning about and understanding New Mexico's roots in Native, Puebloan, Spanish, and Mexican cultures and their contribution to United States history and culture. The experience of a recognized storyteller sharing a story can have a profound impact on students' sense of the validity of different cultural perspectives.

Before the Activity

Determine whether to engage a professional New Mexico Storyteller or choose someone from your school community to be a storyteller and tell a story from or select a story from the book Old Father Storyteller

Find a Professional Storyteller

- ☐ Use [New Mexico Storytellers Directory](#)
- ☐ Find other storytellers through local resources: libraries, museums, civic clubs

Does the storyteller specifically tell stories about:

- ☐ New Mexico or the Southwest
- ☐ The American Revolution
- ☐ Cultures present in New Mexico

Discuss the event with the storyteller

- ☐ New Mexico Spirit - 1776 Commemoration
- ☐ When, where, who

Stipend Considerations

- ☐ What is the storyteller's usual rate?
- ☐ Are they local or do they need to travel?

Ask teachers to develop reflection questions based on the chosen story. In classes:

- ☐ Introduce oral storytelling as a cultural practice
 - ☐ Show [NMPBS ¡COLORES!: Cochiti Pueblo Potter Helen Cordero](#)
- ☐ Review General Audience Etiquette
 - ☐ Show [Audience Etiquette by PBS](#)
 - ☐ Discuss how different cultures have different ideas of what is respectful



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During the Activity

1. Introduction

- ☐ Explain cultural significance of storytelling in NM
- ☐ Introduce Storyteller

2. Activity

- ☐ Storyteller shares their audience rules
- ☐ Storyteller tells their story or stories
- ☐ Students listen to the storyteller
- ☐ Teachers model audience etiquette and remind students as needed

3. Closing

- ☐ Short Q&A if okay with Storyteller
- ☐ Thank students for their excellent audience etiquette

After the Activity

Thank you notes to storyteller(s)

- ☐ Teachers explain that thank yous are an important part of etiquette, especially if someone has volunteered, costing their time and resources
- ☐ Each class collectively or individually create thank you notes to the story tellers
- ☐ Collect thank you notes
- ☐ Send as a packet from the whole school.