



ACTIVITY OVERVIEW



Q3 • Cultural Festival

High School • All School

Activity Overview

In 1776, New Mexico was already shaped by multiple cultures contributing to the region's identity. Over time, additional communities from across the nation and around the world have enriched the state's cultural landscape. The All-School Cultural Festival provides high school students with an opportunity to examine the histories, traditions, and lived experiences that continue to define New Mexico.

Through research, preparation, and active engagement during the festival, students analyze how culture shapes identity, strengthens community connections, and contributes to both state and national narratives. The experience encourages thoughtful dialogue, respect for diverse perspectives, and deeper civic awareness.

Before the Activity

School leaders establish a planning team and confirm the festival's logistics, including date, location, and community partnerships. Staff review the purpose of the Cultural Festival:

- Celebrate New Mexico's unique history and cultures
- Showcase student learning from Q3 grade-level activities
- Encourage cross-grade interaction and community engagement

Families are informed and invited to participate where appropriate. Classrooms prepare collective displays that reflect the cultures represented within the class community or researched through Q3 classroom activities. Teachers preview expectations for respectful dialogue, thoughtful inquiry, and responsible participation.

During the Activity

Students gather for a structured, schoolwide experience.

- Student ambassadors or greeters welcome participants.
- Classes rotate through exhibits and community booths according to a schedule.
- Teachers facilitate meaningful discussion and model respectful engagement.
- Students observe, question, and reflect on cultural themes and contributions.

The festival emphasizes inquiry, dialogue, and cultural literacy.



After the Activity

Classroom reflection deepens analysis and synthesis. Educators may guide discussion using questions such as:

- What themes or patterns did you notice across cultures?
- How do different communities contribute to New Mexico's identity?
- How does understanding local culture expand our understanding of American history?

Students express gratitude to organizers, volunteers, and participating cultural organizations, reinforcing appreciation for community collaboration.

Educator Notes

This activity is adaptable to various school sizes and partnership opportunities. High school implementation may emphasize research depth, analytical discussion, and connections to broader historical and civic themes.

The goal is cultural understanding, informed dialogue, and reflective engagement, not performance or competition.

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

Connection to Statewide Theme

The Cultural Festival highlights New Mexico's Contribution by examining the diverse communities that shape the state's past and present. Through research, dialogue, and community engagement, students gain a broader understanding of how local identities and traditions contribute to the larger American story.