

Celebrating New Mexico Statehood
Lesson Plan 1
Exploring an Era:
The Social, Political, and Economic History of New Mexico's Struggle for Statehood

Developed by staff of the Center for Southwest Research, UNM University Libraries

Lesson Plan: Choose a time-period and describe the changes which took place during that era (including social, political, economic, tourism, etc . . .). Place a special relevance on issues pertaining to the struggle for statehood.

Overview

This small group activity will utilize social studies, technology, and public speaking skills by having the students prepare and present reports, from a particular time-period, relating to the social, political, economic, and tourism issues concerned with the struggle for statehood. Students will use primary source documents to conduct their research.

Recommended Grade Level

Grade 7-8, with modifications could be used for other grades.

Time Required

This lesson should take approximately five 45 minute class periods.

Objectives

- Students will explore the Celebrating New Mexico Statehood website (<http://nmstatehood.unm.edu>) and take notes on relevant materials.
- Students will formulate a rough draft of a written report based upon digitized historic documents available online and in the library.
- Students will use primary and secondary sources to fill in any missing information.
- Students will create a final draft of their reports.
- Students will create an oral report and present it to their classmates.

Materials/Teacher Preparation

- Paper for taking notes.
- Computers with internet and word processing.
- Other materials may be needed for the oral presentations.

Curriculum Standards

This lesson will meet several standards and benchmarks for the New Mexico Public Education Department – Check for current standards.

Suggested Procedures

1. The lesson will begin with the teacher asking students to define primary sources.
2. Once a definition has been established, students will brainstorm different types of primary resources.

3. The teacher will ask students to describe their understanding of New Mexico's quest for statehood and clarify any misunderstanding as he/she introduces the lesson and objectives.
4. The teacher will read through the instructions and explain the project in detail answering questions when necessary.
5. The teacher will divide the class into groups, assign each group a time-period, and assign cooperative group roles within each group. The teacher may decide how many groups to split the class into based upon class size. Possible divisions include:

Four Groups

- A. 1840-1865
- B. 1866-1890
- C. 1891-1915
- D. 1916-1940

Five Groups

- A. 1840-1860
- B. 1860-1880
- C. 1880-1900
- D. 1900-1920
- E. 1920-1940

Eight Groups

- | | |
|--------------|--------------|
| A. 1840-1850 | E. 1890-1900 |
| B. 1850-1860 | F. 1900-1910 |
| C. 1870-1880 | G. 1910-1920 |
| D. 1880-1890 | H. 1920-1930 |

Cooperative group roles

Leader: Keeps group on task; makes decisions with consent and affirmation of the group.

Recorder: Records the written information generated by the group.

Reporter: If needed, this person will make the presentation to the class; otherwise, this task falls on the Leader.

Timer/Illustrator: Keeps track of time elapsed/time remaining and provides drawings and illustrations as part of the group's presentation.

6. The teacher will explore the statehood website with the students. For best results try searching for each individual date within the era (for example: 1840, 1841, 1842, etc. . .).
7. Students will explore the Celebrating New Mexico Statehood website with their groups and take notes on relevant materials.

8. Students will formulate a rough draft of a written report based upon the digitized historic documents.
9. Students will use the website and other relevant websites to fill in any missing information.
10. Students will create a final draft of their reports.
11. Students will create an oral report and present it to their classmates.

New Mexico History Resources Online:

Celebrating New Mexico Statehood

<http://nmstatehood.unm.edu>

American Memory (Library of Congress)

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/index.html>

New Mexico Centennial (Official Web Site)

<http://www.nmcentennial.org/>

New Mexico Office of the State Historian

<http://www.newmexicohistory.org/>

New Mexico Secretary of State Blue Book

<http://www.sos.state.nm.us/sos-bluebook.html>

New Mexico Tourism Department

<http://www.newmexico.org/>