

# LET'S TRAVEL TO... NEW MEXICO!

## NEW MEXICO STATE FLAG



The New Mexico flag is solid yellow with a red sun shape in the middle. The sun image is a Zia Sun symbol. It pays homage to New Mexico's indigenous and Hispanic heritage.

The yellow and red colors are similar to the colors of Spain's flag. New Mexico was part of the Spanish Empire for over 250 years.

This flag design was adopted on March 15, 1925.

Library Lesson—New Mexico ©MrsReaderParnts 2025

### RECOMMENDED READS

"New Mexico"

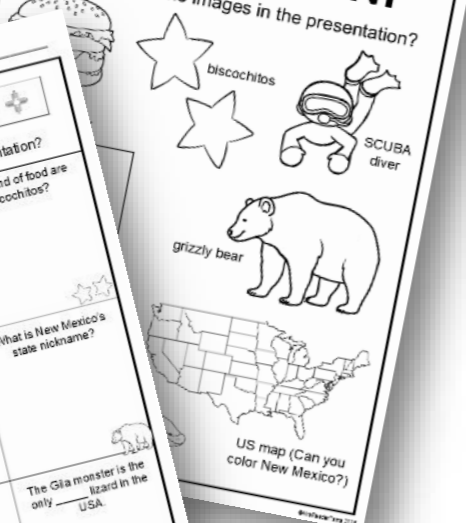
**FICTION PICTURE BOOKS**  
Southwest Sunrise (Grimes)  
Desert Song (Kemp)  
Abuelos (Mora)  
The Three Little Javelinas (Loy)  
Coyote: A Trickster Tale from Southwest (McDermott)

**NONFICTION PICTURE BOOKS**  
Finding My Dance (Thundercloud)  
The Water... (Mora)



### SCAVENGER HUNT

Can you find all the images in the presentation?



biscochitos

grizzly bear

SCUBA diver

US map (Can you color New Mexico?)

### SCAVENGER HUNT


Can you find all the images and information in the presentation?

What should you use a dictionary to find?

What kind of food are biscochitos?

What does sandia mean in Spanish?

What is New Mexico's state nickname?



Color New Mexico on this map of the USA

The Gila monster is the only \_\_\_\_\_ lizard in the USA.

What is the capital of New Mexico?

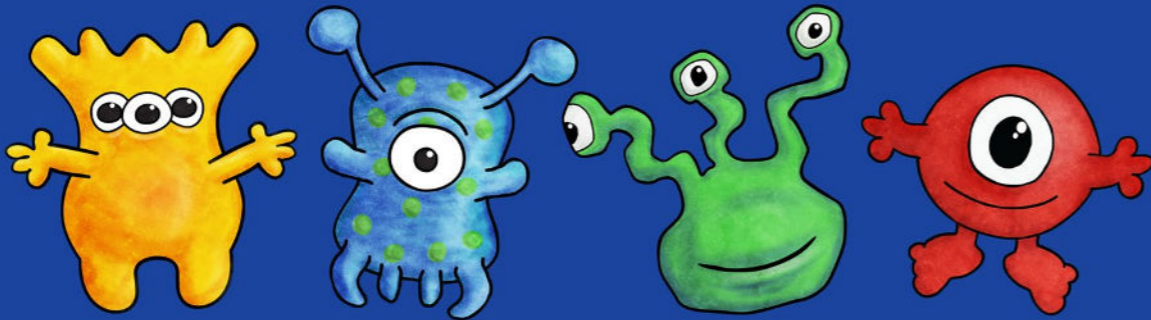
GRADES  
2-5

# DESIGNED FOR THE SPECIALS ROTATION

## WHAT IS NEW MEXICO KNOWN FOR?

New Mexico is known for many things:

- UFO sightings at Roswell, New Mexico
- White Sands National Park
- Carlsbad Caverns
- The Four Corners
- Albuquerque
- Natural beauty
- Indigenous cultures
- Mexican influence
- Mexican cuisine



## ALIENS AND AREA 51

- In 1947, something mysterious crashed in Roswell, New Mexico
- Some people thought it was a UFO or an alien spacecraft
- Some people also say that the US government hid the evidence of an alien encounter and kept it a secret
- Most people today consider this a hoax, but some say the aliens are still being hidden
- The place where people think the aliens are hidden is called Area 51

This New Mexico Library Lesson is designed for one 50-minute library class, or two 25-minute classes.

Parts I and II divide naturally, making it easy to stop and pick up the lesson next week.

# EDITABLE IN THREE FORMATS

Presentation is editable in PowerPoint and Google Slides.

Printables are editable in PowerPoint, Google Slides, and PDF formats.

## NEW MEXICO ANIMALS



American bison



San Andres Mountains

## 47<sup>th</sup> US STATE

- New Mexico is one of the last territories to become a US state.
- New Mexico was admitted to the union on January 6, 1912.
- Arizona became the 48<sup>th</sup> state only 38 days after New Mexico.
- Do you know which two states were #49 and #50?

# GUIDES YOUR LIBRARY TIME

## CHECKING OUT BOOKS TODAY!

Write in checkout reminders or procedures here.



coyote

## WHAT SHOULD WE DO NOW?

1



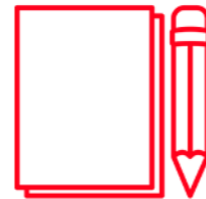
Choose your books.

2



Bring your books to  
the circulation desk.

3



Complete the  
Scavenger Hunt.

The presentation guides  
library time from start to finish!

Includes sign language video  
link, reminder slides, and a  
“What Should We Do Now?”  
slide. All editable!

# PART I - WHOLE-GROUP LESSON

Part I is a whole-group lesson.  
It is a librarian-led, guided discussion  
to introduce New Mexico.

Slides include: New Mexico state flag,  
state flower, state nickname, state  
bird, location on a map, and more!

## NEW MEXICO ON A MAP

New Mexico is a large US state.

Only Alaska, Texas, California, and  
Montana



## STATE FLOWER

New Mexico's state flower is the yucca.

The yucca plant grows well in New Mexico's  
climate. You can see yucca growing in  
the deserts and rocky areas.

The yucca plant is a symbol of strength  
and resilience. It grows well in harsh, dry  
conditions where most plants would not survive.

# PART II - SCROLLING SLIDES

**WHAT NEW MEXICO ANIMAL AM I?**

I am a reptile, but I am not a snake.

I am the only venomous lizard native to the USA.

My name starts with letter G, but it is pronounced like "Hee"

I am named for a river in Arizona and New Mexico.

Just try to find me! I hide very well in rocky areas or

**WORD OF THE WEEK**

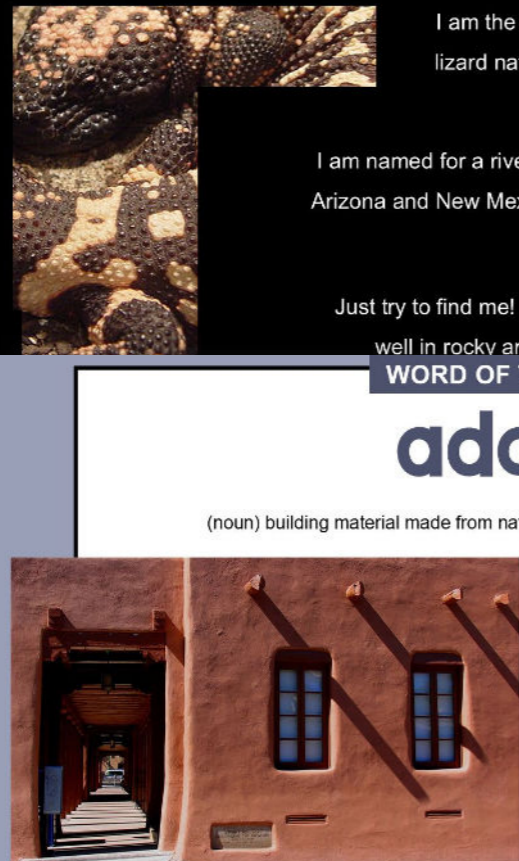
**adobe**

(noun) building material made from natural materials, such as mud and rocks

Adobe is Spanish for mudbrick. Many buildings in New Mexico are built with adobe.

Adobe helps keep buildings cool in summer and warm during winter.

Adobe building in Santa Fe, New Mexico



The slides in Part II need to be set on a timer (instructions with visuals included).

The scrolling slides include fun facts about the New Mexico, vocabulary, Would-You-Rathers, library skills review, landmarks, foods, and statehood.

Students watch the slideshow to find the images and information included in the differentiated Scavenger Hunt activities.

# ON THE SPECIALS ROTATION?

Move the slides around within the presentation to differentiate lessons for grade levels.

This helps keep the lesson interesting for you if you are a Specials rotation librarian teaching the same lesson multiple times during the week.

## TRIVIA QUESTION

All US states have at least one state nickname. What is New Mexico's state nickname?

- a. The Land of Enchantment
- b. The Grand Canyon State
- c. The Sun
- d. The Lone

Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad



## TRIVIA ANSWER

What is New Mexico's state nickname?

**ANSWER: A. The Land of Enchantment**



Bisti/De-Na-Zin Wilderness has lots of strange rock formations.

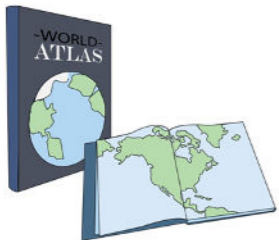
This nickname is all about New Mexico's natural beauty, unique landscapes, and cultural history.

From colorful deserts to towering mountains, to ancient pueblos, New Mexico has something for everyone!

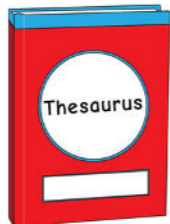
# EASY-TO-READ FONTS

## LIBRARY REVIEW

You're reading a book about New Mexico's desert animals and see a word you don't know.  
Which library resource can help you find the meaning?



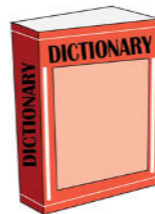
atlas



thesaurus



encyclopedia



dictionary

(answer on next slide)

All my resources are designed to maximize readability and accessibility for all students.

Only two fonts are used in all parts of this resource: Arial (body text, recommended by the British Dyslexia Association) and KG Blank Space Solid (headers).

There is no cursive, no fancy fonts, and no random capitalizations.

Lines of text are spaced at 1.5 throughout the slide presentation.



# CLEAN BACKGROUNDS AND FONT COLORS

## WHAT TO EAT IN NEW MEXICO



Try a green chile cheeseburger!

New Mexico is famous for its Hatch green chiles, which grow in the Hatch Valley along the Rio Grande River.

Hatch green chiles are somewhat hot.  
If you do not like spicy chiles,  
you might like Anaheim chiles instead.

Bold header  
text

Backgrounds  
that include main  
text are white.

All body  
text is black.

These design choices help ensure the text is as clean and clear as possible for students with dyslexia or vision challenges.

# PRESENTATION IMAGES

NEW MEXICO

## WHAT IS NEW MEXICO KNOWN FOR?

New Mexico is known for many things:

- UFO sightings at Roswell, New Mexico
- White Sands National Park
- Carlsbad Caverns
- The Four Corners
- Albuquerque Hot Air Balloon Festival
- Natural beauty and wildlife
- Indigenous heritage and culture
- Mexican and Spanish heritage – New Mexico was once part of Mexico!

Cave formations at Carlsbad Caverns

Photo By Eric Guinther, User:Marshman - Uploaded to the English Wikipedia August 2003 (deleted page), CC BY-SA 3.0, [https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?title=File:Carlsbad\\_Caverns.jpg&oldid=64449](https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?title=File:Carlsbad_Caverns.jpg&oldid=64449)

Every slide in this Library Lesson includes at least one large, high-quality image that **complements** the text on that slide.

**image credits are in the slide notes of each slide**

# ALL TEXT IS EDITABLE

Images  
are not  
editable

## FOODS TO TRY IN NEW MEXICO



These are biscochitos! They are thin butter cookies seasoned with cinnamon, sugar, orange zest, and anise.

Anise tastes a little like licorice.

Biscochitos are served on special occasions, especially during Christmas or at weddings.

Library Lesson—New Mexico ©MrsReaderParits 2025

Editable  
headers,  
captions,  
and  
body text

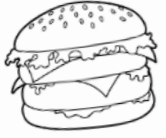
Images have been locked to protect copyright.

# DIFFERENTIATED SCAVENGER HUNTS


Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

## SCAVENGER HUNT


Can you find all the images in the presentation?



green c  
cheeseb




biscochitos

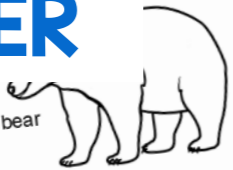


SCUBA  
diver


### EASIER




New Mexico flag




grizzly bear



hot air  
balloon



US map (Can you  
color New Mexico?)




Gila monster

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_


## SCAVENGER HUNT

Can you find all the images and information in the presentation?


What should you use a dictionary to find? 

What kind of food are biscochitos?

### HARDER




What is New Mexico's state nickname?



Color New Mexico on this map of the USA

States that begin with Letter N - Write as many as you can!

The Gila monster is the only \_\_\_\_\_ lizard in the USA.




What is the capital of New Mexico?

Name: **ANSWER KEY** Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

## SCAVENGER HUNT


Can you find all the images and information in the presentation?

What should you use a dictionary to find? 


What kind of food are biscochitos?

Word **watermelon** **cookies**

### ANSWER KEY



exico's me?



Color New Mexico on this map of the USA

States that begin with Letter N - Write as many as you can!

**New York  
New Hampshire  
New Jersey  
Nevada  
North Carolina  
Nebraska**

**Santa Fe**

The Gila monster is the only \_\_\_\_\_ lizard in the USA.

**venomous**

What is the capital of New Mexico?

Keep students engaged during checkout! All images and answers to the questions appear in Part II of the presentation. Two differentiated versions! All text is editable.

# BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS

## RECOMMENDED READS



“New Mexico”

### FICTION PICTURE BOOKS

*Southwest Sunrise* (Grimes)  
*Desert Song* (Kemp)  
*Abuelos* (Mora)  
*The Three Little Javelinas* (Lowell)  
*Coyote: A Trickster Tale from the American Southwest* (McDermott)

### NONFICTION PICTURE BOOKS

*Finding My Dance* (Thundercloud)  
*The Water Lady: How Darlene Arviso Helps a Thirsty Navajo Nation* (McGinty)  
*Gifts from Georgia's Garden* (Robinson)  
*Hot Air: The Mostly True Story of the First Hot-Air Balloon Ride* (Priceman)

### FICTION NOVELS

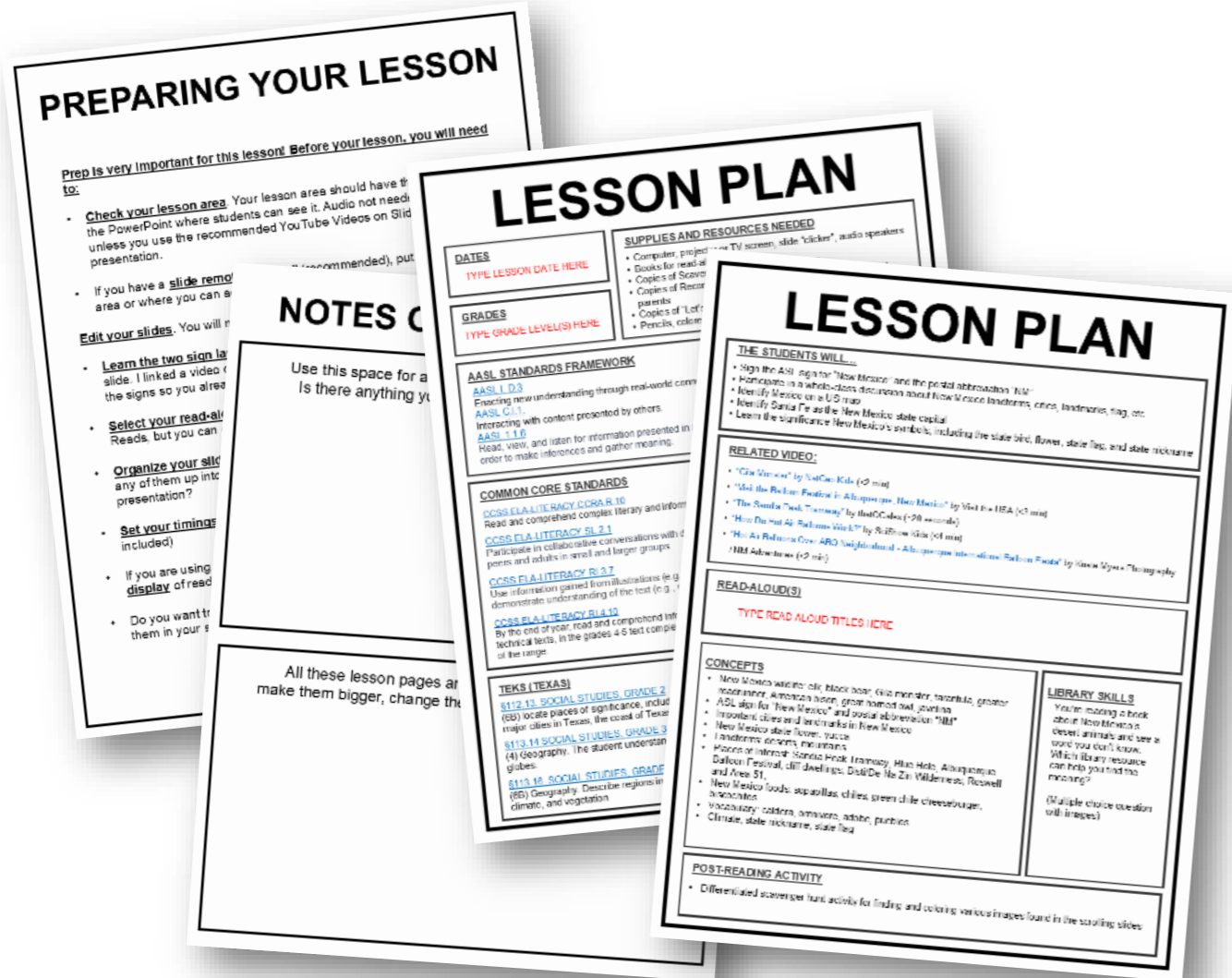
*The Storyteller* (Hobson)  
*Tumble* (Pérez)  
*Roswell Johnson Saves the World!* (Colfer)  
*ChupaCarter and the Haunted Piñata* (Lopez)  
*The Ghosts of Rancho Espanto* (Cuevas)

Includes a printable list of New Mexico-themed picture books, fiction books, and informational books.

This list is great for student reference, for teachers, or to send home to parents.

All text is editable.

# EDITABLE LESSON PLAN



Includes pre-filled lesson plan with AASL, CCSS, and TEKS standards for Grades 2-5.

The Notes page is a place where you can make notes to yourself for next year, or whenever you teach this lesson again.

100% editable to make it as easy and useful as possible!

# MORE US STATE LIBRARY LESSONS

Love this Library Lesson? I have a lot more! All follow the same format as this Hawaii Library Lesson. The lessons below are all designed for 50-minute classes or two 25-minute classes.

INCLUDES GOOGLE™ SLIDES

## LET'S TRAVEL TO... HAWAII




GRADES 2-5

Library Lesson + Activity




INCLUDES GOOGLE™ SLIDES

## LET'S TRAVEL TO... COLORADO



GRADES 2-5

Library Lesson + Activity



INCLUDES GOOGLE™ SLIDES

## LET'S TRAVEL TO... MICHIGAN



GRADES 2-5

Library Lesson + Activity

