

Veterans Legacy Grant Program

Santa Fe Community College

7th Grade New Mexico History Unit: New Mexico Cultural Heritage

VLGP Artifact Analysis

Lesson 6: Connecting Symbols to Our Historical Past

Compelling Unit Question: How do I research and analyze reliable sources?

Guiding Lesson Question: How does New Mexico's state seal represent the journey to statehood for the New Mexico territory?

Supporting Question(s): How does the history of the US military factor into New Mexico's fit into the USA's larger pattern of land acquisition and expansion?

Lesson Rationale

Students will analyze imagery of the state of New Mexico and connect symbols to our historical past.

Priority Standards

-7.66. Analyze US policies on expansion into the Southwest, including how they reflected US civic ideals of the time and conflicted with those that resided in New Mexico already and had historically made their home here.
7.70. Categorize causes and consequences of the U.S. military invasion of Mexico and New Mexico

Learning Objectives

Students will analyze the New Mexico state seal and debate how the imagery represents the history of the state and the country of which it became a part.

Language Objectives

Students will hypothesize about the symbolism of the state seal of New Mexico and compare their answers with others.

**Key Vocabulary
& Disciplinary
Phrases**

State seal
State motto
Expansionism

**Pacing
Suggestion**

55 minute class period

**Materials
Needed**

[Slides for introduction](#)
[Handout](#)
Art supplies

Steps	Suggested Pacing	Step by Step Instructions
1 Warm Up	10 minutes	Display the writing prompts. Have students brainstorm ideas independently, then share out: What is a state seal? Why do you think we have state seals? What do you know about the New Mexico state seal? Introduce the topic for the day, activating prior knowledge from other New Mexico history lessons and/or units.

2

Lesson

30 minutes

Show the students the slides for context. Since there are likely other units that delve into Mexican American War history, keep this part brief and stick to the primary shifts in land occupation and the basics in the slides.

- Provide some basic information about military involvement, contained in the notes sections in the slides.
- Provide the handout to the students.
- Give the students time to draw the New Mexico State Seal. Provide art supplies if necessary, and show the picture of the state seal on the floor of the Roundhouse. Be sure to point it out if a field trip to the legislature occurs.

3

Discussion
and Closing**10 minutes**

- Explain to the students the state motto - "crescit eundo" which means "it grows as it goes". Ask them to think-pair-share about how that motto might be related to the state seal, and what it might mean.
- Ask them to think-pair-share about the symbolism of the state seal on the floor of the legislature. Have willing students share their thoughts aloud.

Formative Assessments

Handout

Summative
Assessments

Future Summative Assessment:

Formative assessments throughout the unit can help students perform successfully the final project suggested for the Unit: *Artifact Analysis - Final Expository paragraph/essay*