

New Mexico



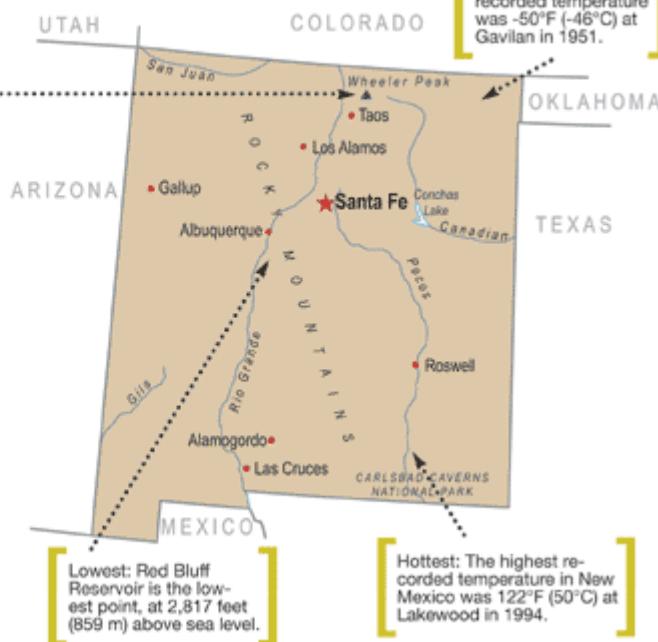
**The Land of
Enchantment**

Established 1912

47th State

EXTREMES

Highest: Wheeler Peak is the highest point in the state, at 13,161 feet (4,011 m) above sea level.



Did You Know?

- Smokey Bear, the U.S. Forest Service mascot, came from New Mexico.
- More people are killed by lightning in New Mexico than in any other state.
- At 7,000 feet (2,134 m) above sea level, Santa Fe is the highest capital city in the United States.
- The world's largest international hot air balloon festival takes place in Albuquerque.
- One out of three families in New Mexico speaks Spanish at home.
- Founded in 1610, Santa Fe is the oldest capital city in the United States.
- New Mexico has far more sheep and cattle than people.
- Since New Mexico's climate is so dry, three-fourths of the roads are left unpaved. These roads don't wash away.
- The largest chamber of Carlsbad Caverns is more than 10 football fields long and about 22 stories high.

The Place

Climate

The climate in New Mexico is generally sunny, dry, and mild. Most areas in the state receive around 10 to 20 inches (20–50 cm) of rain or snow each year. The average July temperature is 74°F (23°C) and the average January temperature is 34°F (1°C). But temperatures and precipitation vary greatly depending on the season and elevation. The thermometer can often climb above 100°F (38°C) on summer days in southern New Mexico. Mountain areas are generally colder and wetter.

Geography

New Mexico is the fifth largest state, with an area of 121,598 square miles (314,937 sq km). The state has four main regions. The Rocky Mountains extend from Alaska clear down into northern New Mexico. A part of the Rockies, the Sangre de Cristo Mountains are the highest mountain range in the state. In northwestern New Mexico lies the Colorado Plateau. This region is made up of layers of sandstone, limestone, and shale. Wind and water have carved through the rock to create high cliffs, flat highlands, and deep canyons. The Basin and Range Province, which includes mountains and desert valleys, spans the central and southern parts of the state. This is where most New Mexicans live. The Great Plains are in eastern New Mexico. Much of the landscape in this region is flat and perfect for raising cattle. The state's main river is the Rio Grande, which flows southward across the state.

Resources and Economy

A large percentage of New Mexicans are employed in service jobs. They may work in the military, study nuclear energy, or protect the environment. Many work for the U.S. government. Mining is also important to the state's economy because of New Mexico's mineral resources. Oil, coal, natural gas, and copper are found in the state. Despite the dry climate, farmers raise chili peppers, onions, grapes, apples, and pecans. But beef cattle are New Mexico's most important agricultural product. Albuquerque is a leading manufacturing center. Computer parts, electronic equipment, and food products are just some of the items produced in the state. Also, an international balloon festival, Native American sites, art galleries, and beautiful scenery help draw tourists to New Mexico.



History

Time Line

Native American tribes inhabit present-day New Mexico thousands of years before the arrival of European explorers and settlers	
A.D. 1500	
A.D. 1540	Coronado looks for the Seven Cities of Cibola
1598 Juan de Oñate establishes the first European colony	
	
1600	
1610	Santa Fe is founded
1680	The Pueblo Revolt takes place
1800	
1821	Mexico gains independence from Spain, so New Mexico becomes part of Mexico; the Santa Fe Trail opens
	
1846–8	The Mexican-American War occurs
1848	New Mexico becomes part of the United States
1853	The Gadsden Purchase increases New Mexico's size
1862 The Battle of Glorieta Pass takes place	

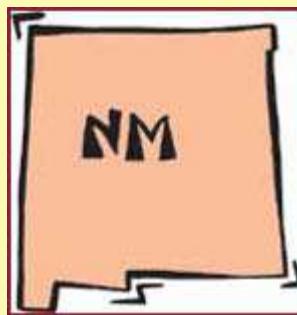


1876 Ranchers and others are involved in the Lincoln County War

1886 The Apache War ends with Geronimo's surrender

1900

1912 New Mexico becomes a state



1930 Carlsbad Caverns National Park opens



1945 The first atomic bomb is exploded near Alamogordo



1950 Uranium is discovered in New Mexico

PRESENT

Anasazi

The *Anasazi* (a Navajo word meaning "ancient ones") were one of the first groups to settle in the southwest. The Anasazi built homes of dried mud and stone in places like Chaco Canyon. These homes were like apartment



buildings, with multiple levels and rooms. Thousands of people might have lived in a single settlement. The Anasazi grew corn and beans and made pottery and jewelry. The Pueblo are descendants of the Anasazi.

Pueblo Revolt

In the 1500s, Spanish soldiers came north from Mexico to look for gold. They claimed the area for Spain, calling it New Mexico. Later, missionaries were sent to the region to seek converts among the Pueblo. However, the efforts of these missionaries often harmed the Native Americans instead of helping them. The Spanish outlawed the religions of the Pueblo, forced them to pay taxes, and made them work on Spanish farms. On 10 August 1680, the Pueblo revolted, killing more than four hundred Spaniards and chasing the rest out of the area. Although Spain later returned to conquer New Mexico, Pueblo culture and religion continued to survive.

Santa Fe Trail

When Spain controlled New Mexico, it didn't allow New Mexicans to trade with the United States because it thought that U.S. influence might become too strong. But in 1821, Mexico gained its independence from Spain, and New Mexico was then governed by Mexico. New Mexicans were given the freedom to trade with their northern neighbors. A U.S. explorer named William Bucknell saw an opportunity to do business by opening a trade route in 1821 from Missouri to New Mexico. The route became known as the Santa Fe Trail. New Mexico now had easier access to such things as medicine, cloth, pans, books, and paint. Settlers also came to the area via the Santa Fe Trail.

Civil War in New Mexico

The U.S. Civil War began in 1861 as a result of conflicts over slavery and states' rights. In July of 1861, Confederate soldiers from Texas captured much of New Mexico territory and later gained control of Santa Fe and Albuquerque. The Confederates wanted to use gold and silver from the West to help pay for the war. But in 1862, with the help of Union forces from Colorado, the Texans were defeated at the Battle of Glorieta Pass. By August of that year, the fighting in New Mexico had ended.

Lincoln County Wars

In 1876, conflict erupted between cattle ranchers, sheepherders, and lawmen in Lincoln County. Competition for grazing land and cattle markets was intense, and sometimes the competition resulted in theft or violence. Some of the



ranchers hired gunslingers to threaten others and to protect themselves. Billy the Kid (William H. Bonney) was one of the gunmen hired by the ranchers. The ongoing feuds between ranchers and others lasted until 1878. Billy the Kid, later a famous outlaw, was shot by Pat Garrett in 1881.

Atomic Bomb



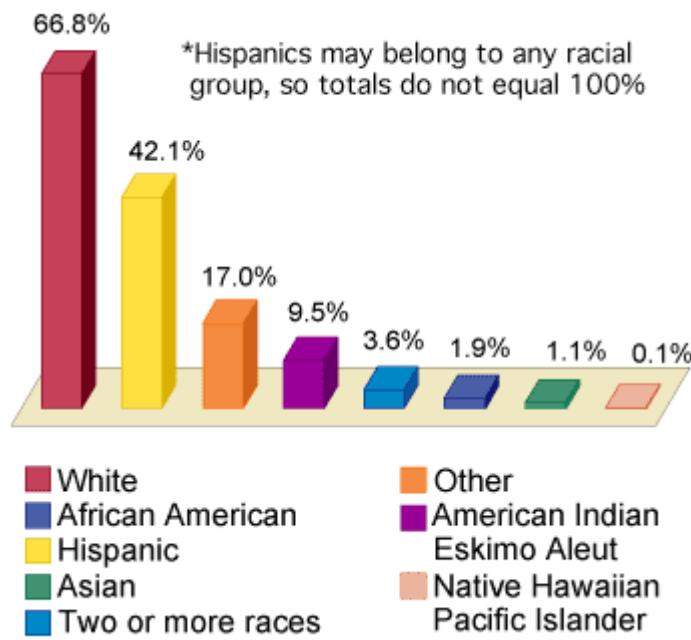
In 1943, the U.S. government created a nuclear research laboratory in Los Alamos near Santa Fe. Scientists there secretly worked to develop an atomic bomb as a possible weapon in World War II. This bomb was first tested in the desert near Alamogordo on 10 July 1945. The explosion, followed by a flash of light and a huge fireball, created a mushroom-shaped cloud that spread 40,000 feet (12,192 m). Later, two of these atomic bombs were dropped on Japan, forcing the Japanese to surrender and bringing an end to World War II.

The People

Population

New Mexico has a diverse population that combines Hispanic, Native American, and Anglo cultures. Until the 1940s, Hispanics were in the majority in New Mexico, and the state still has one of the largest Hispanic populations in the country. It also has a large population of Native Americans, including the Navajo, Apache, Ute, and Pueblo. Many Native Americans live on reservations or in *pueblos* (towns). New Mexico's population is very spread out with only 15 people per square mile (6 per sq km).

Total Population: 1,874,614



Government

Capital: Santa Fe

U.S. Senators: 2

U.S. Representatives: 3

Counties: 33

- All laws passed by the state legislature must be published in both English and Spanish.
- Each Native American tribe in New Mexico elects a tribal council. The tribal councils govern in tribal matters and negotiate with federal and state governments.

Famous People

- *Al Unser* — Race-car driver
- *Billy the Kid* — Outlaw
- *Bobby Unser* — Race-car driver
- *Conrad Hilton* — Founder of Hilton Hotels Corporation
- *Demi Moore* — Actress
- *Georgia O'Keeffe* — Painter
- *Joseph Montoya* — Latino politician
- *Judy Blume* — Author
- *Kim Stanley* — Actress
- *Kit Carson* — Soldier and explorer
- *Nancy Lopez* — Golfer
- *Pablita Velarde* — Painter

- *Peter Hurd* — Artist
- *Popé* — Native American leader

Fun Facts & Contacts

State Symbols

State Animal

Black bear—The black bear was chosen as the state animal in 1963.



State Bird

Roadrunner—This member of the cuckoo family lives in the desert and is a better runner than flier.



State Flower

Yucca—New Mexico's state flower is sometimes called "Spanish bayonet" for its long, sharp leaves.

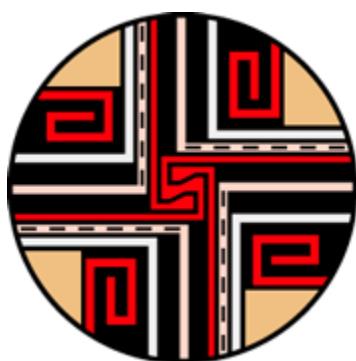


State Tree

Piñon—Pine nuts, the seeds of the piñon tree, are used in New Mexican cooking.



Cultural Note



New Mexico has a rich artistic heritage. The state has not only fine art, such as the Santa Fe Opera or the New Mexico Symphony Orchestra, but traditional art as well. Native American art, for example, comes in a variety of forms. The Pueblo make pottery. The Navajo weave rugs and create jewelry from silver and turquoise. Also, some popular Hispanic art forms include wood carving and tile painting. The New Mexico landscape has provided inspiration to artists from a variety of cultures, including Georgia O'Keeffe, Ansel Adams, Leslie Marmon Silko, and Willa Cather. Museums in Santa Fe, Albuquerque, and other cities provide showplaces for many artists.

For More Information

See www.state.nm.us or contact the New Mexico Department of Tourism, 491 Old Santa Fe Trail, Santa Fe, NM 87501; phone (800) SEE-NEWM; web site www.newmexico.org.



ProQuest Information and Learning Company
333 South 520 West, Suite 360
Lindon, Utah 84042 USA
1.800.528.6279
fax 801.847.0127
www.culturegrams.com



© 2004 ProQuest Information and Learning Company and Brigham Young University. It is against the law to copy, reprint, store, or transmit any part of this publication in any form by any means without written permission from ProQuest.