

NEW MEXICO

HISTORY

Pueblo farmers, Spanish settlers, Navajo and Apache herders, Mexican traders and American ranchers all helped build New Mexico.



The First Peoples

People have lived in New Mexico for thousands of years. The Ancestral Pueblo people built the great houses of Chaco Canyon. Their descendants settled along the Rio Grande and at places such as Acoma and Zuni. They grew corn, beans and squash. They built villages of stone and adobe, or mud brick. Later the Navajo and Apache came from the north. They hunted, farmed, traded with the villages and sometimes raided them.

Spain Comes North

In 1540, the Spanish explorer Coronado came looking for cities of gold. He found farm villages. The Spanish called them **pueblos**, their word for towns. In 1598, Juan de Oñate led settlers up the Rio Grande. They brought horses, sheep, wheat and iron tools. Santa Fe was founded in 1610. Priests built churches in the pueblos. Spanish leaders made Pueblo people pay in corn and labor and banned their ceremonies.

The Pueblo Revolt

In 1680, a leader named Popé planned a **revolt**. Runners carried knotted cords to count down the days. Pueblo fighters rose together, killed about 400 settlers and priests, and drove the rest south to El Paso. The Pueblos ruled themselves for 12 years. In 1692, Diego de Vargas led the Spanish back. After that the Pueblos kept their villages and their ceremonies. Albuquerque was founded in 1706.

Mexico and the United States

Mexico won its freedom from Spain in 1821. That year traders opened the Santa Fe Trail, a wagon road from Missouri. In 1846, during a war with Mexico, an American army took Santa Fe without a battle. Mexico gave up the land in an 1848 **treaty**. New Mexico became a **territory** in 1850. In 1862, Confederate soldiers from Texas invaded. Union soldiers wrecked their supply wagons at Glorieta Pass, and the Confederates went home.

The Navajo and Apache Wars

Navajo and Apache bands raided ranches and villages for sheep and horses. Settlers and soldiers raided them back. Both sides took captives and kept them as servants, until Congress outlawed it in the 1860s. In 1864, the Army burned Navajo crops and marched more than 8,000 Navajo hundreds of miles to Fort Sumner. An 1868 treaty let them go home to a reservation. Apache bands fought on until 1886. Today 19 Pueblos, the Navajo Nation and Apache tribes have their governments in New Mexico.



Building New Mexico

Railroads arrived around 1880. Ranchers shipped cattle and wool, and miners dug coal and copper. New Mexico became the 47th state on January 6, 1912. In World War II, Navajo code talkers sent radio messages the enemy could not read. Scientists at Los Alamos built the first atomic bomb and tested it here in 1945.

NEW MEXICO THROUGH TIME



PEOPLE TO KNOW

Popé	Pueblo leader of the 1680 revolt
Manuelito	Navajo leader who signed the 1868 treaty
Maria Martinez	Potter from San Ildefonso Pueblo
Georgia O'Keeffe	Painter of New Mexico's hills and sky
Robert Goddard	Tested early rockets near Roswell

WORDS TO KNOW

pueblo	a Native village of stone or adobe homes
revolt	a fight to throw out the rulers
treaty	a written agreement between nations
territory	U.S. land that is not yet a state