



# Antes de Mis Padres

Using the Internet to Explore Hispanic History  
and Genealogy in New Mexico

**LEVEL I**

**The New Mexico Coalition for Literacy**

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## INTRODUCTION

Antes de Mis Padres (Before My Fathers) is a set of curriculum materials designed to assist readers of all levels in improving their reading comprehension skills. The content of the curriculum is the rich history of New Mexico and the history of common Hispanic family names.

The materials are presented in three levels of difficulty in two different formats: printed workbooks and in interactive format on the Internet at <http://www.literacynet.org/newmexico>. Both the workbooks and the Internet website include guided exercises using Internet resources to take the student beyond the basic text.

All three levels are designed to be most effective when used by tutors and students working together. Each level of difficulty contains a set of instructions for tutors.

### OBJECTIVES FOR STUDENTS:

These materials are designed to accomplish the following objectives:

- 1) improve a student's reading ability
- 2) provide information about basic events and personalities in New Mexico's history
- 3) provide instructions on how to construct a pedigree chart
- 4) provide information on how to use Internet resources to research family histories

While the primary focus of the materials is on raising reading levels of students, they can also be used as basic texts for teaching New Mexico history. Specific performance objectives, however, should be developed with students based on their individual learning goals.

### INSTRUCTIONS FOR LEVEL I:

Level I includes two sections. Part I: *New Mexico, the Land of My Fathers* contains six short reading segments each with review questions followed by an Internet exercise instructing the student to investigate a website devoted to New Mexico history. Part II: *New Mexico Family Names* includes two short reading segments with review questions followed by a written exercise on constructing a family tree and two Internet exercises using genealogy websites. For the Internet exercises on this level the student is instructed to consult websites to find answers to specific questions which he then records in his workbook.

### Instructions for tutors working with students:

- 1) Have two copies of the workbook on hand, one for yourself and one for your student.
- 2) Begin by introducing the content and highlights of the material about to be read. Try to engage the student in discussion around the subject, soliciting personal comparisons and ideas.
- 3) Read aloud as your student follows silently. Ask the student to identify words or content that are difficult and underline them in his workbook.
- 4) Make flashcards for the difficult words and go over them until the student appears to be able to pronounce and understand the meaning of each word. Have your student keep a list of these words with definitions in the *Word Review* section at the back of the workbook.
- 5) Read the entire passage aloud again for a third time and ask your student to read chorally with you. If your student is stumbling over the same words, stop the reading and work on the words again. Do not go back to reading during this session. Instead, concentrate on sentence structure using the word in different ways. If your student becomes fatigued, stop and discontinue the practice until the next session. Don't attempt more reading at this point.
- 6) At your next session, and at each subsequent session, review the content from the previous session as well as the homework assignment, if any. Review the flash cards from the previous session. Read out loud together the passage from the previous session; then have the student read the passage out loud alone. Discuss the material and any problem words and conduct a verbal, nonthreatening comprehension check. Begin the next section of the workbook.
- 7) Assist the student with any difficulties in accessing and navigating the Internet to find answers to the questions in Parts I and II and in constructing a family tree at the end of Part II.

## Part I: New Mexico, Land of My Fathers

The first people living in New Mexico were the Native Americans. Some Indians lived in Pueblos. Some did not. There were many different tribes.

In 1598 the Spaniards came to New Mexico to live. They came with their families. The families traveled in 83 wagons. They brought sheep, cows and many horses.



The names of some of the families were: Chavez, Jaramillo, Montoya, Martin, Romero and Archuleta. There were other Spanish names, too.

In the past the Spaniards, called *conquistadors*, came to New Mexico for a while and left. First they came from Spain, in Europe. They traveled all the way to a country named “New Spain.” Later that country was called Mexico. When they left New Mexico, they went back to New Spain.

\* \* \*

### *Review*

1. Who were the first people living in New Mexico? \_\_\_\_\_
2. When did the Spaniards come to New Mexico? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Is your name one of the Spanish names in the story? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Write the name of your father’s father. \_\_\_\_\_
5. Write the name of your mother’s father. \_\_\_\_\_
6. What was Mexico called by the Spaniards? \_\_\_\_\_

Most of the land in New Mexico was already occupied by Native Americans. The Spanish created a town for themselves. They didn't want to live where the Indians lived. They called the town *Santa Fe*.

Life was very hard for the Spanish families. Most of them were very poor. But life was harder for the Indians. Land was taken from them.

In the next 70 years there were many changes for Indians. It was because the Spanish came and took land. The Indians had to work in the Spaniard's fields. This made it hard for Indians to raise food. Their families had very little to eat. Most of the crops went to the Spaniards.

Another change was that the Indians had to pay taxes. The Spaniards made them pay by giving food or blankets. This was very difficult for the Indians.

The Indians could not have their own religion. That was the worst change.

\* \* \*

### *Review*

1. Why did the Spanish create Santa Fe? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. What were some of the changes for the Indians? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

The Spanish Catholic priests told Indians to stop. The Indians could not worship Kachina gods. Priests destroyed all religious things. Those things belonged to the Indians. Some Indians were punished. Some Indians were killed. It was all because of their religion.

The Spanish families were not like the priests. Some of them were kind and respectful of Indian people. Some would share food crops. Some Spanish families became friends with Indian people. But still, they took Indian land.

\* \* \*

### *Review*

1. What was the worst change for Indians? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Were all Spanish families like the priests? \_\_\_\_\_
3. How were families different than priests? \_\_\_\_\_

## **The Pueblo Uprising of 1680**

Finally the Indians had enough! Pueblo leaders planned a revolt. It was very difficult to make plans. The Indians spoke different languages. They would attack the Spaniards together. First they would attack the settlers around Santa Fe. Then they would attack Santa Fe. They would kill all the priests. But they would not kill

all the Spanish families. They only wanted them to be afraid. If they were afraid, they would leave New Mexico.

The plan worked. All the Spaniards left Santa Fe for 13 years!

\* \* \*

### *Review*

1. Why was it hard for Indians to make plans? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. How did they make the Spaniards go? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Assignment: Tell this story to someone you know.

## **The Return to New Mexico**

Don Diego de Vargas came to New Mexico. He was very famous. He understood why the Indians were so angry. He tried to convince them things would be different. He wanted Spanish settlers to come back in peace. Some Pueblo leaders agreed. Some leaders did not.

The Spanish settlers came back to Santa Fe. There were some conflicts with the Indians. But after three years there was peace. De Vargas allowed the Indians to keep their religion. He treated them more fairly. The Spaniards were still poor. The Indians were poor, too.



Spaniards were not the only invaders of New Mexico. In 1841 the Texans tried to take New Mexico land. They failed.

New Mexico became a U.S. territory in 1846. That's not the same as being a state. It meant that Americans would come. They came from the north and the east. They would start businesses. Americans would bring wealth to the poor Spaniards. They would also bring headaches. There was unhappiness as well as new security.

It was the beginning of a new life for many people.

\* \* \*

### *Review*

1. Why did things go better when the Spaniards came back? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Who else came to New Mexico? \_\_\_\_\_

New Mexico became involved in the Civil War. The Civil War was a war

between states. Important battles were fought in New Mexico.

New Mexicans served as soldiers in the war. Manuel Armijo Chavez was a hero. He led Union soldiers. He helped them attack the Confederates. He helped make them go back to Texas.

After the Civil war there were many problems. New Mexico was growing. The economy was developing. The “wild west” was a reality in New Mexico. There were many famous names from those days. “Billy the Kid,” Pat Garrett and others. One of the most famous was Elfego Baca. He was important in history.

In 1912 New Mexico became the 47th state of the Union.

\* \* \*

*Review of Part I*



1. Who had the hardest times when the Spaniards came? \_\_\_\_\_
  2. What was the worst thing that the Indians suffered? \_\_\_\_\_
  3. What happened when Don Diego de Vargas came? \_\_\_\_\_
  4. What was the name of the city Spaniards created? \_\_\_\_\_
  6. Make a list of all the Spanish names in Part I. \_\_\_\_\_
- 

**Exercise 1: The Rocks Tell A Story**

In this exercise you will explore an Internet site containing pictures of the gravesites and tombstones of some of the wild west's most interesting characters.

Go to this site on the Internet:

**<http://www.csn.net/~nulevich/graves.html>**

Roam around this site and discover what happened in 1849 in Springer, New Mexico. Write your answer below:

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## Part II: New Mexico Family Names

The history of New Mexico is your history, if you are Hispanic or Native American. You may have ancestors in our history books! Here are some examples:

**Martinez:** Your history may go back to Oñate. Hernan Martin Serrano was a Soldier. He was with Oñate's men. He was one of the first explorers in Texas.

**Romero:** Your family history may go all the way back to Bartolome Romero. He was Oñate's Captain of Artillery.

**Griego:** Your history may go back to Juan Griego. He was a Greek. He came with Oñate in 1598.

**Gonzales:** Sebastian Gonzales was a Portugese man. He came about the time Oñate came.

**Jaramillo:** Your family may trace back to Roque Jaramillo who came in De Vargas' time. Or you may trace back to Alonso Varela Jaramillo, who came from Spain in 1598.

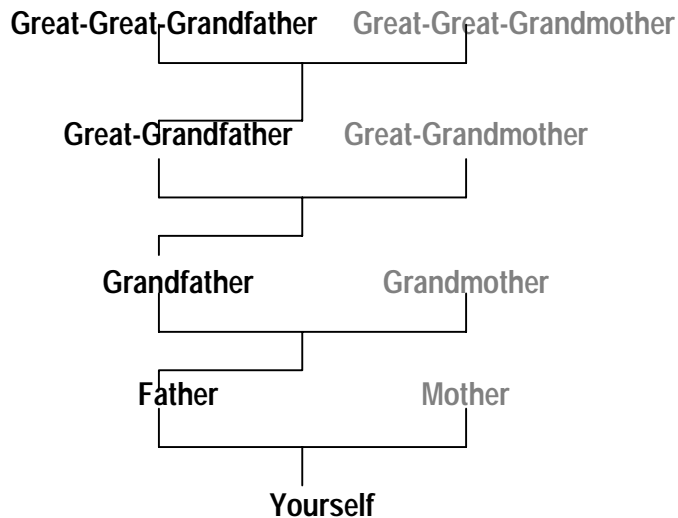
New Mexican Hispanics can trace history through the *Catholic Church*. They've kept records since the 1500's. The church recorded marriages and births. They recorded deaths and burials.

Other ways to search are through the *census*. You can look at *military*

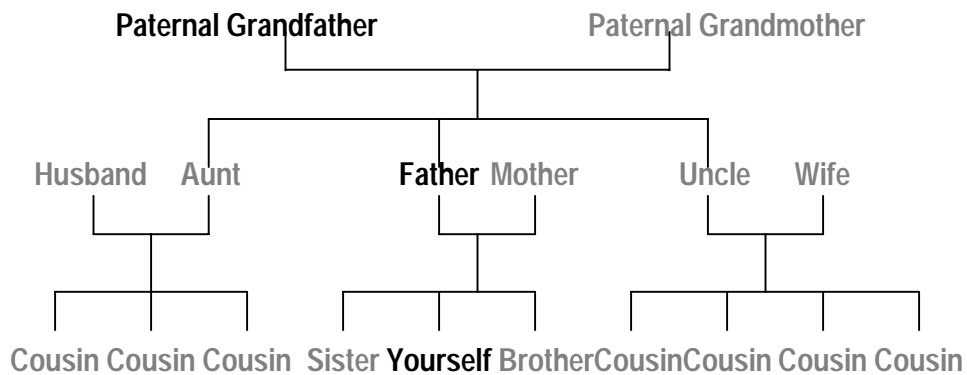
*records. Family wills and land grants are helpful.*

You need to build a “family tree.” It will show you and your family. It will also show your ancestors. There are different kinds of family trees:

**The basic family tree shows male-line ancestors along with wives, brothers, and sisters.**



**The extended family tree shows your male-line ancestors and all their descendants.**



\* \* \*

## *Review*

1. Is your name listed among the seven on page 8? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Why is New Mexico history important to Hispanics in this state? \_\_\_\_\_

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3. List five places you can trace family history.

1) \_\_\_\_\_

2) \_\_\_\_\_

3) \_\_\_\_\_

4) \_\_\_\_\_

5) \_\_\_\_\_

### How to Get Started

You should have a loose leaf notebook. You will have to be a detective. You will look for clues. This project is like a puzzle. Write everything down. Here is how you can make a family tree for your family.

To begin, you need to ask questions. Write down your own information. Write down your date of birth and marriage date if you are married. Write down the same information about your wife or husband. If you write information about a wife, use her maiden name.

Then go to your parents. Write their names, dates of birth, places of birth and

their marriage date. Also write the date of death if they have passed away.

Continue on to your grandparents. Then go on to your great-grandparents. Go as far back as you can. Include their full names, not initials. If someone was a doctor, write “Doctor” and the name. Write any formal titles with the names. Write details and clues in your notebook.

Don’t be afraid to ask questions. But be careful not to embarrass your family. There may be sensitive issues. Sometimes aunts and uncles will tell you things that your mother or father don’t remember.

\* \* \*

### *Review*

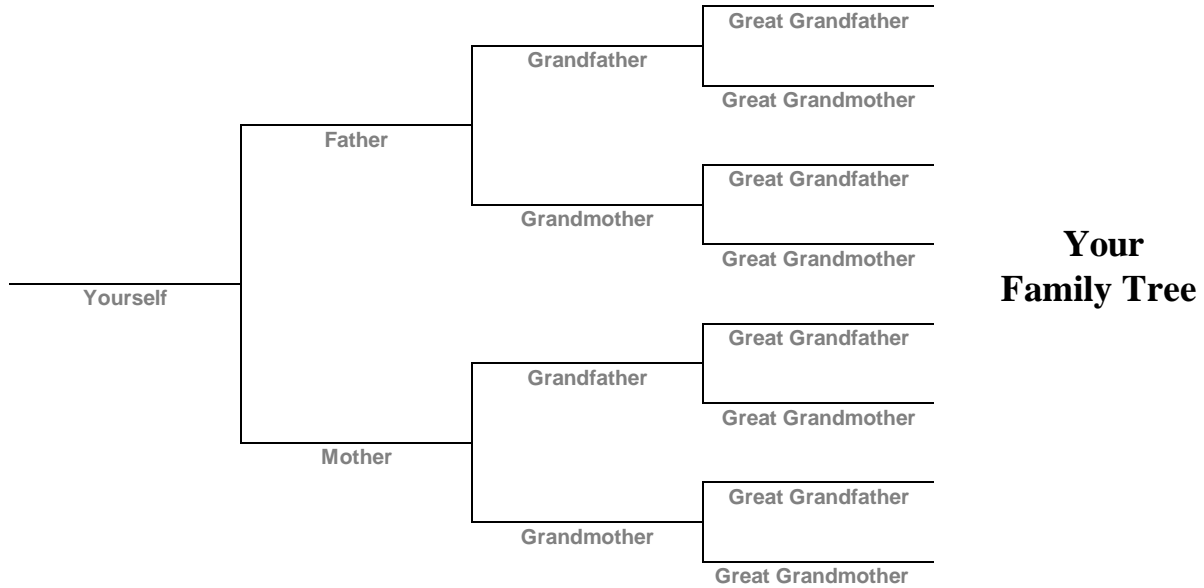
1. Why will you be like a detective? \_\_\_\_\_

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2. List the names of family members you should talk to below.

## Exercise 2: Make Your Family Tree

Fill in the blanks in the chart below with your family. Start with yourself. Next, fill in your parents. Try to go back as far as you can.



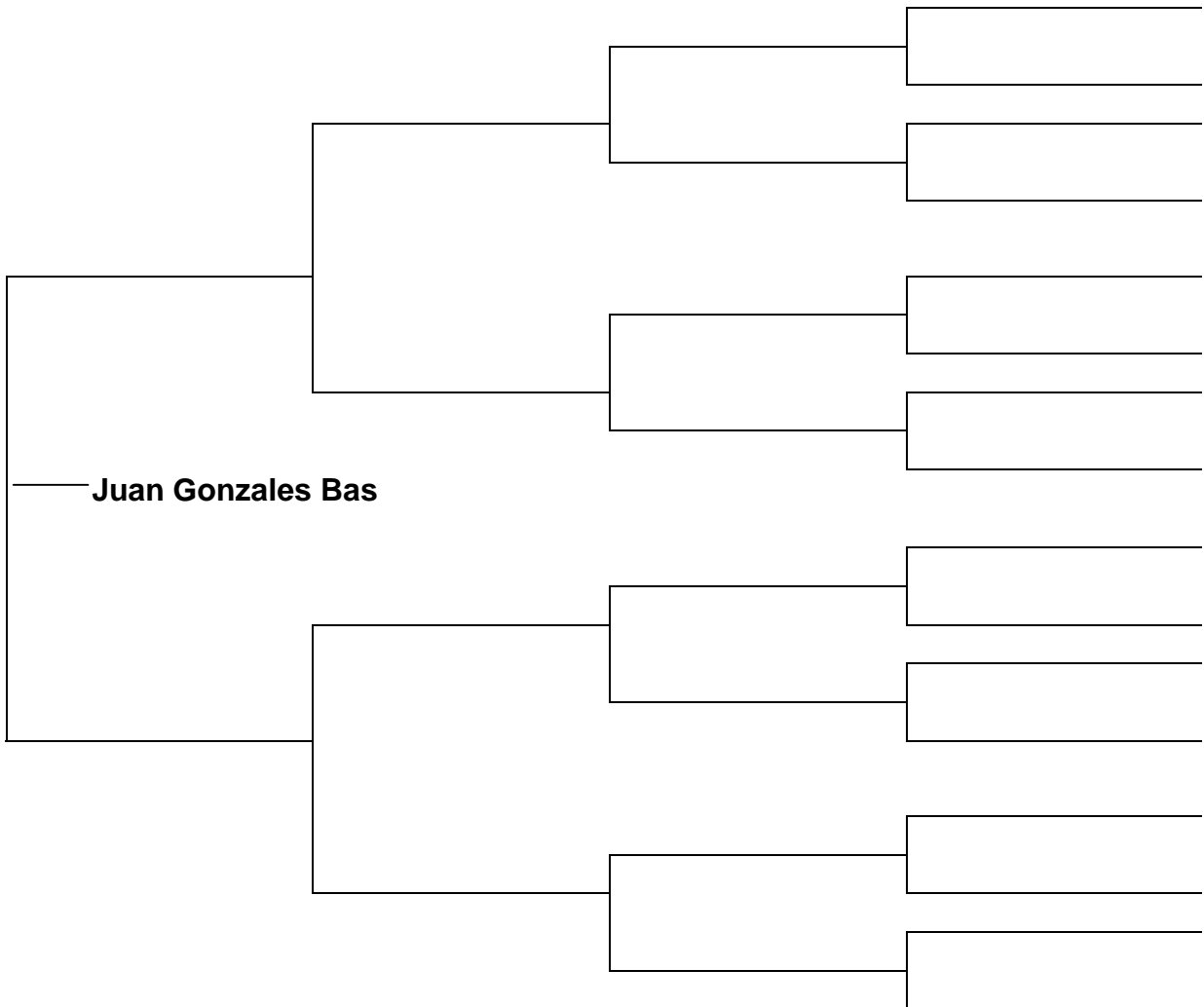
**Now fill in the dates of birth below**

	Yourself	_____
	Father	_____
	Mother	_____
Father's Side	Grandfather	_____
	Grandmother	_____
	Great-Grandfather	_____
	Great-Grandfather	_____
Mother's Side	Grandfather	_____
	Grandmother	_____
	Great-Grandfather	_____
	Great-Grandfather	_____

### Exercise 3: Meet Juan Gonzales Bas

Now you will go to a website on the internet and find out about one of the early Gonzales families of New Mexico. This will help you to do research on the *net*.

1. Go to the web site at this address: <http://www.hgrc-nm.org>.
2. On the HGRC main page find and double-click on ● Great New Mexico Pedigree Database.
3. Go down the page and double-click on GNMPD.html\surnames.html.
4. On the **Index of Surnames** page find and double-click on GONZALES BAS.
5. On the **Index of Persons** page find and double-click on Juan GONZALES BAS (I).
6. Go down the page and find the pedigree chart with Juan GONZALES BAS.
7. Fill in the blanks with his family.



## Exercise 4: How Old Are You Really?

Now you will go to the same website on the Internet and see if you can find your family's name. Then you will look for the first person in New Mexico with that name. If your name is not Hispanic in origin, try this exercise with the name "Martinez" or another that interests you.

1. Go to the web site at this address: **<http://www.hgrc-nm.org>**.
2. On the HGRC main page find and double-click on ● **Great New Mexico Pedigree Database**.
3. Go down the page and double-click on [GNMPD.html\surnames.html](#).
4. On the **Index of Surnames** page, try to find your last name in the list.
5. If you find your last name, double-click on it.
6. On the **Index of Persons** page find a person with your last name that lived in the 1600s.

### Example:

[Fernando GONZALES BAS \(1736 - \)](#)  
[Gaspar GONZALES BAS \( - \)](#)  
[Gregoria GONZALES BAS \(1713 - \)](#)  
[Jose Nerio GONZALES BAS \(12 MAY 1759 - \)](#)  
[Juan GONZALES BAS \(I\) \(1643 - 1678\)](#) ←  
[Juan GONZALES BAS \(III\) \(10 JAN 1710 - \)](#)  
[Juan GONZALES BAS \(II\) \(1668 - 14 NOV 1743\)](#)  
[Juan Angel GONZALES BAS \( - 6 APR 1741\)](#)  
[Juana GONZALES BAS \(30 JUL 1701 - \)](#)

***Notice that in this list,  
Juan GONZALES BAS I  
lived in the 1600s***

7. Double-Click on that person.
8. Go down the page and find the pedigree chart for that person with your last name.
9. Find that person's oldest ancestor and double-click on them.
10. Repeat step 7 for that person.
11. Keep double-clicking on the oldest ancestor with your name until you find the oldest of all.

Write the oldest ancestor in the space below.

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## WORD REVIEW

On this page keep a list of the words that are difficult for you. Write down the word and its definition along with a sentence using the word:

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