

Golondrinas Explorer's Guide



EL RANCHO DE
LAS GOLONDRINAS
The Southwest's Premier Living History Museum



This booklet belongs to

Golondrinas Explorer's Guide

¡Bienvenidos! (Welcome) to El Rancho de Las Golondrinas, Explorers!

We are excited that you have come to travel back in time and explore history. El Rancho de Las Golondrinas was a **paraje** (*stopping or resting place*) along **El Camino Real** (*The Royal Road*), an ancient trail between Mexico City and Santa Fe, throughout the 1600s, 1700s, and 1800s. People who lived on the ranch raised or created almost all of the things they needed to survive.

They harvested both **maíz** (*corn*) and **trigo** (*wheat*) that were milled into flour. From their sheep, they obtained **wool** for cloth and clothing, as well as meat. The fields, where lots of native vegetables were planted, were watered by **acequias** (*irrigation ditches*) which are the same waterways you will see throughout the ranch today. When the Spanish settled the area they also introduced fruit trees, various domesticated animals, and metal weapons and tools.

As a Golondrinas Explorer, you will make your way through the ranch to see the ways that **Indigenous** communities (*the original inhabitants native to New Mexico*) and European settlers once lived. You will learn how families made their food, clothes, and tools. You will also learn which buildings were used for worship, crafts and trades, storage, and for living their daily lives. While exploring the museum, meet our **docents** (*guides or interpreters*), participate in hands-on history, and complete your explorer's booklet!

- ▶ *If you are 6 years of age or younger, complete at least 5 activities.*
- ▶ *If you are between the ages of 7-10, complete at least 10 activities.*
- ▶ *If you are 11 years of age or older, try to complete all of the activities.*

Guardians: This program is for all ages. Feel free to help your aspiring Golondrinas Explorer. We hope everyone learns and enjoys visiting Las Golondrinas! *It might be helpful to purchase a Museum Guidebook to accompany this activity booklet. If you are downloading this booklet, the accompanying Guidebook is also available for download at golondrinas.org.*

Prepare for Your Journey

Explorers should understand the area they are venturing into and be prepared before starting their adventure.

Protect & Respect

This activity is very important. Do it before you start your booklet so you understand how to navigate the site safely.

- ▶ Fill in the blanks with the words from the word bank.

Footprints Pictures Sunscreen Water Trash
Path Feed Shoes Lightning Hat
Indoors Artifacts Animals Step Enjoy

Take only _____ and leave only _____.

Throw _____ away in designated bins.

Please leave produce and flowers for others to _____.

Hydrate: Las Golondrinas is 200+ acres. Make sure to have _____ with you.

Heat & feet: Wear a _____, _____, and comfortable _____ for your trek.

Safety tip! _____ can strike several miles away from the storm.
When thunder roars, go _____ !

Look around: See any interesting _____ (*historic objects*)? Make sure that you leave them where you found them. Please do not touch or pick them up. This ensures that other Explorers have a chance to enjoy them as well. Please inform a **docent** (*a museum guide in historic clothing*) or staff of your discovery. The same courtesy applies to the objects inside historic buildings.

Beware: Watch out for low doorways and high steps.

Stay on the _____ and watch your _____.

If you see any _____, be respectful of their space and leave them alone.

Please do not _____ the farm animals. It's not healthy for them, and they bite!

Key Vocabulary/Palabras

(look for these terms in **bold**)

Acequia — an irrigation ditch that brings water to the fields

Adobe — sun-dried brick; a building material made of dirt, clay, straw, and water

Bulto — 3-dimensional statue, often wood, of a Saint or other devotional figure

Burro — a small donkey used as a pack animal

Camino — a road or path

Capilla — a medieval Spanish term for a chapel

Carreta — a wooden wagon or cart

Churro — a breed of sheep brought up by Spanish settlers along El Camino Real

Ciénelas — marshlands formed by natural springs

Colcha — Spanish patterned embroidery

Comal — a griddle made from stoneware, earthenware, or metal placed over an open fire

Docent — an interpretive guide to help visitors

Golondrina — an insect-eating bird called a swallow

Horno — an outdoor, earthen bee-hive-shaped oven

Indigenous — native to a place

Loom — a manual apparatus for making cloth or fabric by weaving yarn made from wool

Maíz — corn; a staple crop of New Mexico

Malacate — a Spanish drop spindle used to turn wool into yarn

Mano y Metate — a small, hand-held stone (mano), used with a large, flat grinding stone (metate) used to grind corn and other grains

Placita — a small central plaza; a communal, protective space surrounded by buildings used for living and working

Paraje — a good location to stop and rest along a long-distance trail

Retablo — a small devotional painting, usually on wood

Ristra — chile strung together with string or twine to be hung and dried

Sacristía — sacristy, or vestry, where religious items were stored and priests hung and changed into vestments

Tin — a soft, silvery-colored metal easily bent or cut, popular in New Mexico artwork

Torreón — a tower; a fortified defensive structure

Trigo — wheat, a crop introduced to New Mexico by Spanish settlers. Sonora White Wheat was the first crop planted in 1599

Wool — the fleece of sheep, sheared and used in weaving

Zaguán — covered entryway

Historic Placitas

Learn about life in New Mexico during the 18th and 19th centuries.



Entering the Zaguán: Trade and Commerce Along El Camino Real

El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro (*The Royal Road to the Interior*) was a 1500-mile-long trade route from Mexico City to Santa Fe and was used by the first Spanish colonists in 1598. Native Americans used the trails thousands of years before that to exchange trade items, foods, and cultural heritage. Can you spot the vehicles used to carry goods along the trail?

Visit **El Cuarto de Recibo** (*the receiving room*).

- *What were some items traded by the people of Las Golondrinas to merchants coming up the trail?*



Welcome to **El Cuarto de Familia** (*the family room*). Look around.

- *Can you spot the differences between the family room in your home and this one? What are some of the differences? How are they similar?*

The Chapel and Sacristy

The peaked-roof structure with stone walls is the **Capilla** (chapel) and **Sacristía** (sacristy). Built in the 18th century (1700s), this is one of the oldest buildings at Las Golondrinas. It was a barn that was transformed to represent a New Mexican Hispanic chapel as used in the 19th to early 20th centuries.

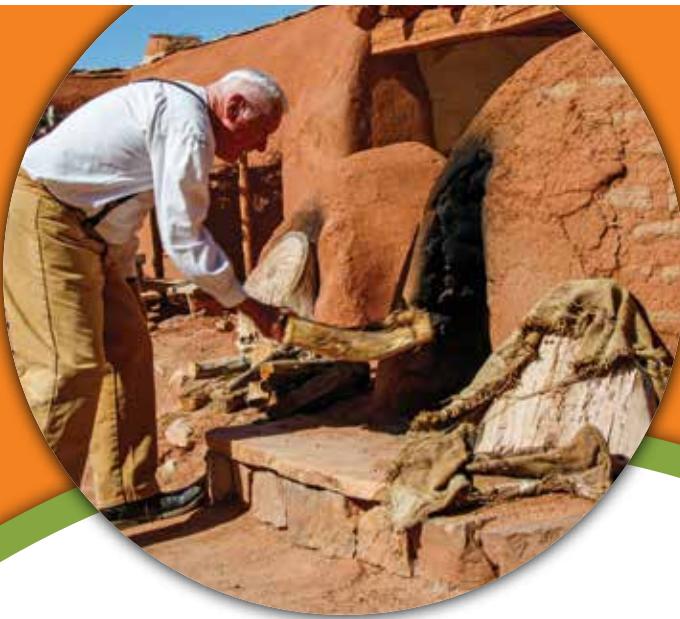


- ▶ *Can you identify the adopted patron saint of Las Golondrinas?*

- ▶ *Can you identify 3 different types of artwork displayed in this building?*

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____





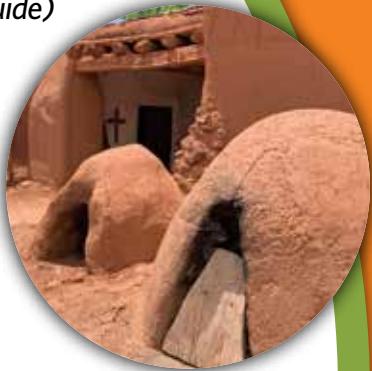
Outdoor Cooking

Do you have an oven in your home? Is it electric or gas-powered and plugged into the wall? In the 1700s (over 300 years ago!), this **placita**, (*little plaza*), did not have electricity or gas. The people that lived here would have used an **horno** (earthen oven), to cook and bake their food outdoors. Can you find an horno in the Golondrinas Placita? Find a **docent** (*interpretive guide*) to discover what can be made in the Horno.

► *Name three food items that were cooked in an horno.*

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

► *Why was cooking done mostly outdoors?*



La Cocina (the kitchen)

Welcome to the Golondrinas Placita Kitchen! What do you see? Or maybe the better question is, what don't you see? The kitchen was a hub of activity for the women and children of Las Golondrinas. While most cooking was done outdoors, small meals were prepared here, herbs and **ristras** (*a string or arrangement of chiles*) were prepared and hung to dry, and grains were ground in preparation for baking. Food prepared at the Golondrinas Placita was a delicious blend of Native and Spanish cuisine.

► *What are some differences between your kitchen at home and this kitchen?*

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Look on the floor of the kitchen... do you see big and small stones next to each other? These tools are called a **mano y metate** (*grinding stones*). The **mano y metate** would be used to grind **maíz** (*dried corn kernels*), herbs, and other grains. Kneel on the floor and give it a try! Place the kernels on the bigger stone and use the smaller stone to press and rub the corn kernels into the bigger stone. Watch your fingers! This ground corn is used to make foods like tortillas or tamales. You can mix the ground corn with water and salt; after you cook the dough on a **comal** (*griddle*) you will have a tortilla! Mmm!

► *Often, it was children who ground cornmeal. What did you think about using a mano y metate?*



Always On the Lookout

Life in Spanish Colonial New Mexico (1598–1821) differed greatly from our modern lives. People had to grow and store their food, build their own homes, and sometimes, had to defend their homes and supplies. Before security cameras, people in New Mexico had to rely on people keeping watch from a high point. Can you find the highest point at the Golondrinas Placita? Venture inside and see what you can find.

- ▶ *Draw a picture of one of the items you see.*

- ▶ *What was the **Torreón** (tower) used for? (circle two)*

As a lookout for visitors and raiders

As the children's bedrooms

As a place of worship

As a place to store food and other items





Spinning wool on a malacate (drop spindle)

People from New Mexico's past needed to make their clothes, blankets, rugs, and more. Their main fiber was **wool**. Once their sheep were shorn (*think haircut*), the wool was washed with yucca, carded (*brushed*), and spun into yarn that could then be dyed and spun into clothing and other things. Today, if we want to sew, we can purchase fabric, yarn, and thread that's ready to be used. Imagine having to make your own! If weavers are present, try to card wool or spin wool into yarn on a **malacate** (*spindle*)!

- ▶ *Why was wool carded before being spun?*

Weaving with a Loom

Looms were used to make rugs, blankets, and clothing.

These woven goods and sheep were the most important commodity exported from New Mexico. Our weavers carry on the tradition today!

Looms were multiple harness “walking” beam looms, meaning the weaver stood while weaving and operating the treadles. Weaving was done mostly by men, while carding and spinning was done by women.

► *Imagine you wove a wool rug with a beautiful, patterned design. Draw a picture of it here.*

► *What was a **loom** used for?*

Making cheese

Tanning a hide

Weaving textiles from wool

Making candles





Visiting the Churro Sheep

"BAAAAAA" is what a sheep says. This is called "bleating" and the **Churro** Sheep at Las Golondrinas love to bleat when they are excited to see Las Golondrinas Explorers. Look through the fence. What colors do you see? The Churro breed of sheep comes in shades of white, brown, gray, and black, and both males and females grow horns. Their fleece is called **wool**, not hair or fur like other animals.

► *Why were Churro sheep important to the ranch here at Las Golondrinas?
(circle all that apply)*

They were cute and cuddly pets

They could be sold/traded for other goods

Their wool was used to make clothing

They helped pull wagons and freight

Their meat provided sustenance for settlers

They were saddled and ridden

Their milk could be made into cheese

They protected the settlement





The Art of Tin Stamping

Tin-stamped art was one of the first forms of recycling in New Mexico. In the 1800s, New Mexican silversmiths, lacking silver, began using discarded **tin** cans that once held oil and food products to make amazing works of art. Stop by the Tin Shop to see the different objects made from tin.

- *List three different tin-stamped objects you see!*

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

- *If a docent is available, ask if you can make your very own tin medallion to take home!*





Shopping at the General Store

Eggs, milk, candy, and meats are all things we can find in our grocery stores today. However, in the late 1800s, not only were stores scarce, but they lacked many of the items we shop for today. Look in **La Tiendita** (General Store), do you see items that you would want to buy?

If a **docent** is available, try your hand at trade and barter. During the 1800s there wasn't a lot of money in circulation, especially in New Mexico, so people traded goods or services for items they needed.

- ▶ *Can you think of what items would have been traded?*

Trades Row

See mills, hide tanners, a blacksmith and carpenter, along with historic crops and the 300-year-old acequia that brings water to the fields.

Visiting the Hide Tanning Area

Do you have anything made from leather? What about a belt, shoes, jacket, or purse? Hides were used to make pants, moccasins, jackets, shirts, blankets, saddles and more. Leather was a major trade item between the Spanish and Native groups.

There are four steps to tanning a hide:

1. Scrape the hide to remove tissues and fur.
2. Apply animal brains (yes brains!) or plant matter to soften the hide.
3. Stretch the hide to break down and soften the fibers.
4. Hang the hide over a smokey fire. This step makes the hide water-resistant and changes the hide's color. Did you know that different types of wood create different colored leather goods?

► *How many animal hides or pelts can you identify? (dependent on docent availability)*

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____



¡El Agua es Vida!: The Acequia Madre

Water is life! Here in the high desert, water can be scarce, however, at El Rancho de Las Golondrinas, water is abundant—we have lots of it! La **Ciénega**, the historic valley community where Las Golondrinas is located, is a marshland with natural springs. Over 300 years ago, this **acequia madre** (*mother irrigation ditch*), was built to move water through the surrounding communities and, as you can see, is still used today! Do you see the field of crops near the acequia? Those crops are watered with the help of this important irrigation system. (seasonal)



► *What does “El Agua es Vida/Water is Life” mean to you? What would happen if we did not have it at Las Golondrinas?*

► *How many vegetables can you identify growing in our fields? (seasonal)*



The Carpenter and Blacksmith Shops

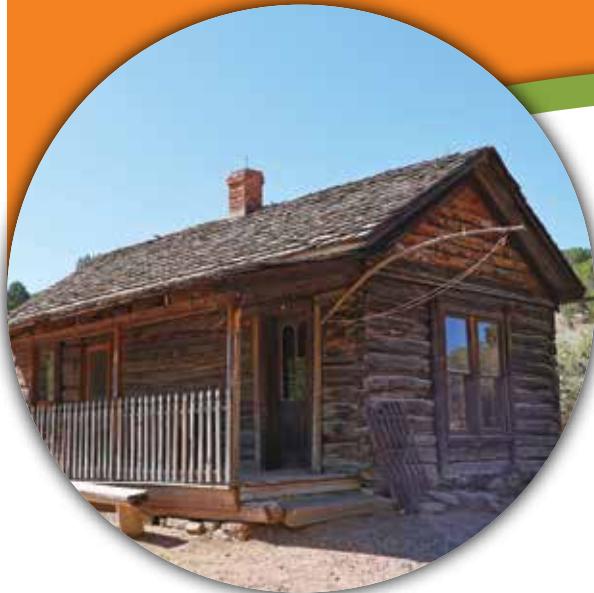
Carpenters and Blacksmiths were highly skilled craftsmen. Carpenters specialized in making and repairing furniture and other items made from wood, such as wagons and tools. Blacksmiths made iron tools, often recycling old, broken objects into new items using a forge, anvil, and hammer. Both were well-trained, serving for many years as an apprentice (*student*) before becoming a master (*someone highly skilled in their craft who could teach others*).

- As you explore the rest of the museum, keep an eye out for items that would have been made by the carpenter (woodworker) and blacksmith (metal worker). List those you find below.



La Loma

Visit an 1800s schoolhouse.



Learn at The Ratón Schoolhouse

This log schoolhouse was built in 1878 in Ratón, New Mexico. If students were not able to go to a schoolhouse like this, they were often taught at home or even in their local church.

- ▶ *If the school teacher is present, see if you can find out the answers to any of these questions.*
 1. *What subjects did students learn?*
 2. *What did the students use to write their work on?*
 3. *What was a typical school day like?*

- ▶ *What are some differences between your school and this one?*

Sierra Homestead

Learn about life in the New Mexico mountains during the 19th and early 20th centuries.

The Sierra Homestead

While these buildings and cabins are not original to the ranch, they model life in a New Mexican mountain homestead in the mid to late 1800s. A homestead is a farmhouse and outbuildings on an agricultural holding such as a ranch; land claimed by settlers under the Homestead Act of 1862. You'll notice an **horno** (earthen oven), multiple wooden houses, corrals, and an herb garden (seasonal).

- ▶ *Can you identify any herbs and what they might have been used for?*



You'll also notice a difference in furniture. Before, in the Las Golondrinas Placita, beds were on the floor and now, in the Sierra Homestead, there is a bed frame, and the bed is off the ground. You'll notice more colors in the fabric and different tools. Why do you think there are different tools and luxuries? How did those luxuries reach New Mexico? (we'll give you a hint...CHOO CHOO!!)

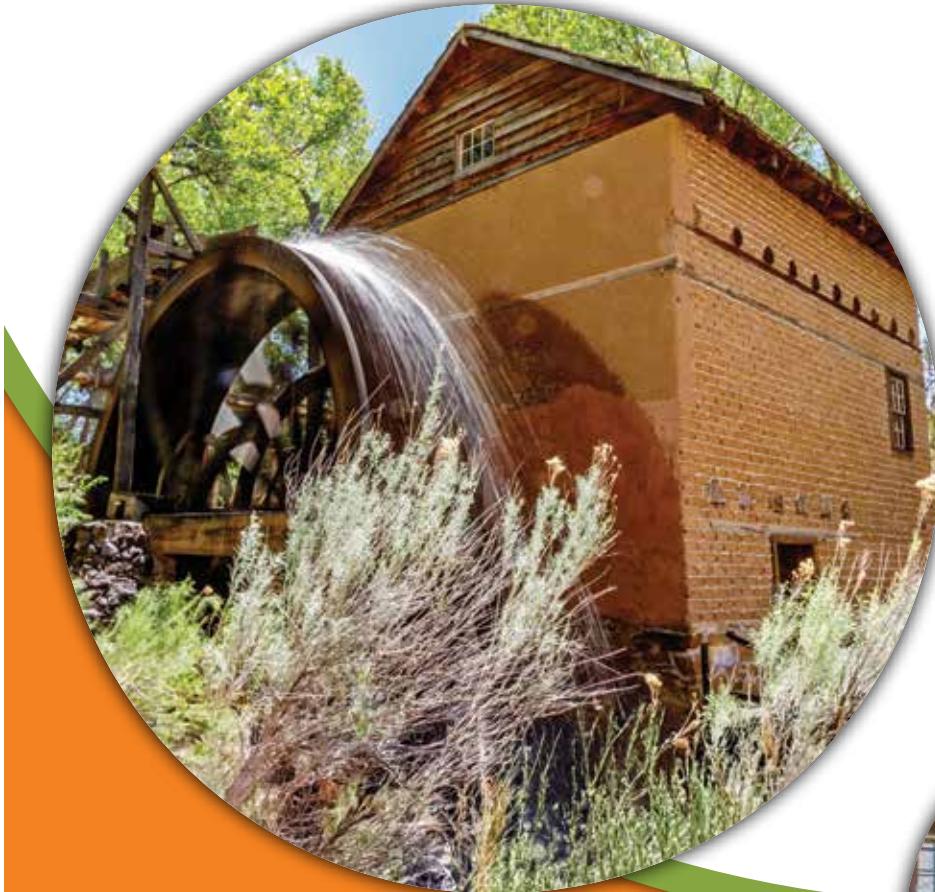


El Molino Grande de Sapelló/The Big Mill

One of the most beloved buildings at Las Golondrinas, this working watermill was originally built in the 1880s in Sapelló, New Mexico. This mill ground grain for the people who lived in the many small communities in northeastern New Mexico and for Fort Union, the largest military post and supply depot of the Southwest during the 19th century.

A new form of machinery, its parts were shipped from Buffalo, New York to New Mexico by railroad. It uses water to turn the water wheel, which rotates the machinery inside, grinding, sifting, and packaging grain. Here that water source is a spring-fed pond. If the miller is present, ask to see what else you can learn about this amazing machine!

- ▶ *What are the different kinds of grain that the mill could grind?*



More Ways to Explore!

Talk to the Locals

Good explorers talk to the people inhabiting the area they're exploring to get a better understanding of the culture of the place. Find someone in historical clothing and get to know more about life and work at Las Golondrinas.

- Here are some questions you can ask.
 1. *What is your favorite part about being an interpreter at Las Golondrinas?*
 2. *What makes Las Golondrinas special?*
 3. *How do you protect Las Golondrinas?*
 4. *Why is learning New Mexico's history important?*
 5. *Ask your own question.*



Journal Entry

Every good explorer documents their journey.

► Write or draw something you learned or enjoyed while traveling through Las Golondrinas.

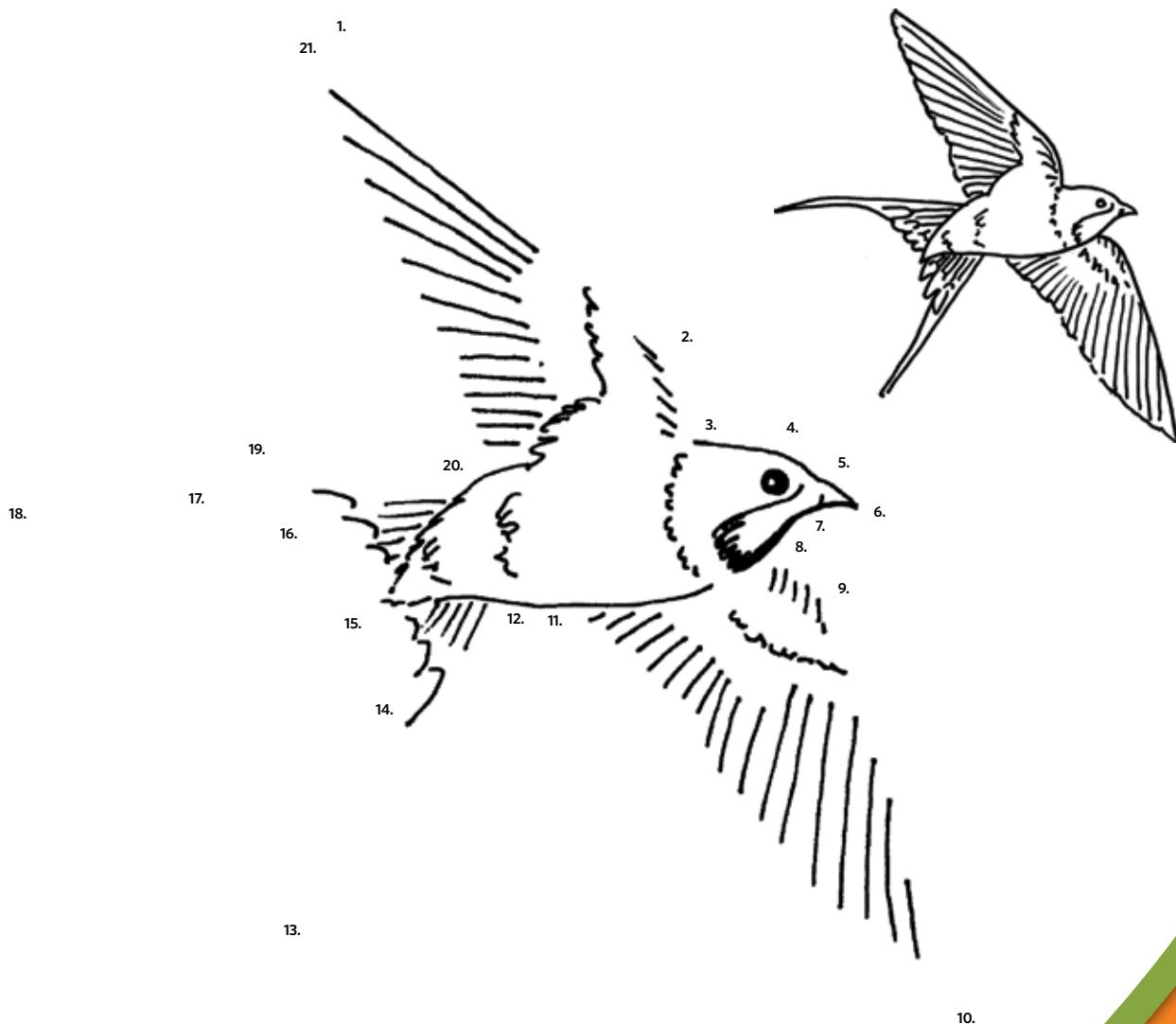
Connect the Dots

A Spanish legend about Swallows centers around the Mission San Juan Capistrano in California, where swallows migrate back each year to nest within the mission walls. The story tells of a priest at the mission who saw a shopkeeper destroying nests and invited the birds to take refuge at the mission. This annual return is celebrated as the "Miracle of the Swallows." Swallows also nest at Las Golondrinas and return each spring!

Because Swallows are known for returning to their nests, they symbolize familial bonds and represent one's ability to find their way home. Some farmers believe they bring good luck to their crops.

Barn Swallows once nested in caves throughout North America, but now build their nests almost exclusively on human-made structures. Look around the ranch, can you spot a Swallow nest?

- ▶ *Follow the numbers and connect the dots to make a barn swallow, the official bird of El Rancho de Las Golondrinas!*





Word Scramble

- Unscramble the letters to form a word.

El Rancho de Las Golondrinas is Spanish for Ranch of the **awslwosl**.

Historically, the ranch was a paraje or resting point along **le monica arel**.

A place of trade, as well as a ranch, one of the main trade items was **lowo** from the Churro sheep.

New to the area, Spanish settlers were reliant on their **dignusoen** neighbors from nearby Pueblo communities.

El Agua es Vida! Water from the **qaiucae** madre sustains life on the ranch.



What am I?

Many different types of plants and animals live at El Rancho de Las Golondrinas. They are used to this environment and adapt well to life in the high desert marshlands of La Ciénega.

► *Read about some of these plants and animals below and match them to their description.*

Cottonwood Tree Yucca Chamisa Rattlesnake Bobcat

Jackrabbit Burro Maize Coyote Juniper

I move fast, but have no feet. I feed on small rodents and birds. If you get too close I'll shake my tail.
What am I? _____

I tower over the land and turn bright yellow and orange when autumn comes.

I can grow to over 100 feet and provide cool shade on hot summer days.

What am I? _____

With my big feet, I can run over 40 mph and hear the slightest sound with my big, long ears.

What am I? _____

I'm very intelligent and friendly, but I can be stubborn too. I help humans on the ranch to haul and carry items. What am I? _____

I am a staple crop in New Mexico and part of a balanced diet. I can be enjoyed fresh, dried, made into tortillas, and even popped!

What am I? _____

A perennial shrub, I can be used by weavers to dye wool yellow. I also make some people sneeze!

What am I? _____

Small but fierce, I can leap as far as 12 ft. to catch my prey. I eat smaller animals and birds.

I have a short tail and spotted fur.

What am I? _____

My roots are used as medicine and can be made into soap. For centuries Indigenous people used my long, spiny fibers to weave mats and shoes.

What am I? _____

Often the mischief maker in legends, I can be a loner or thrive as part of a pack.

I mostly eat meat, but am considered an omnivore.

What am I? _____

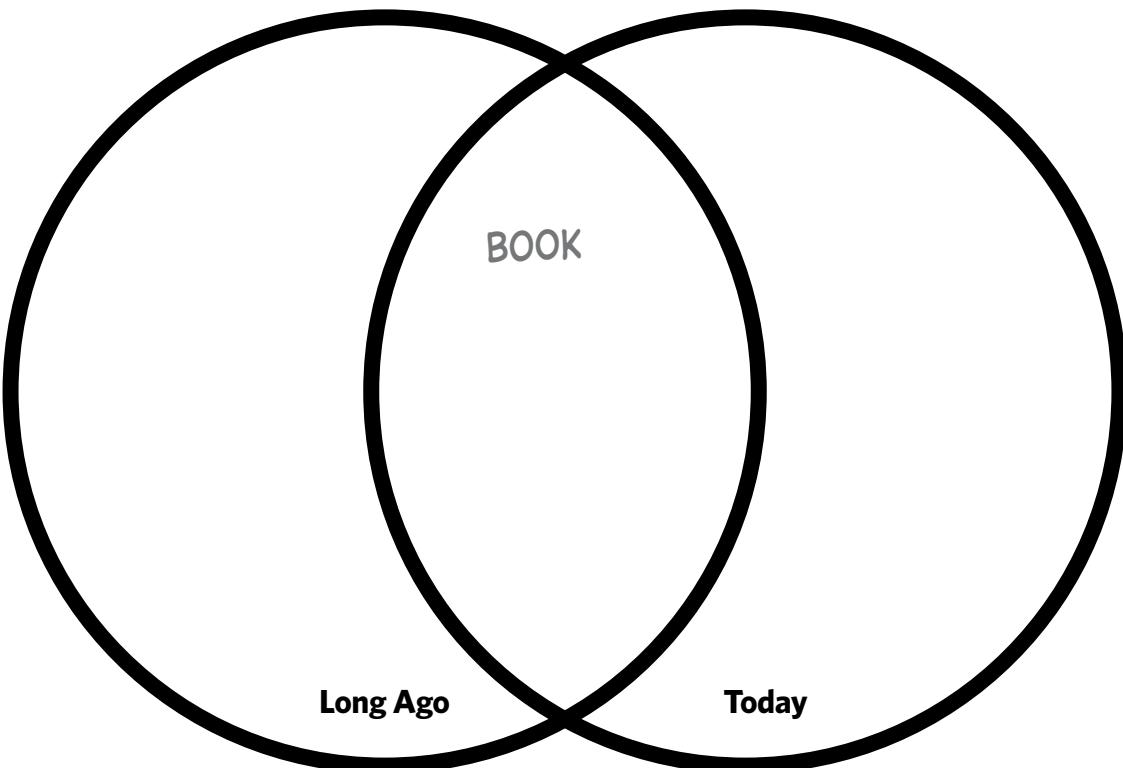
My berries are edible and can be used as medicine. Though not the state tree of New Mexico, I am evergreen and can be found almost everywhere!

What am I? _____

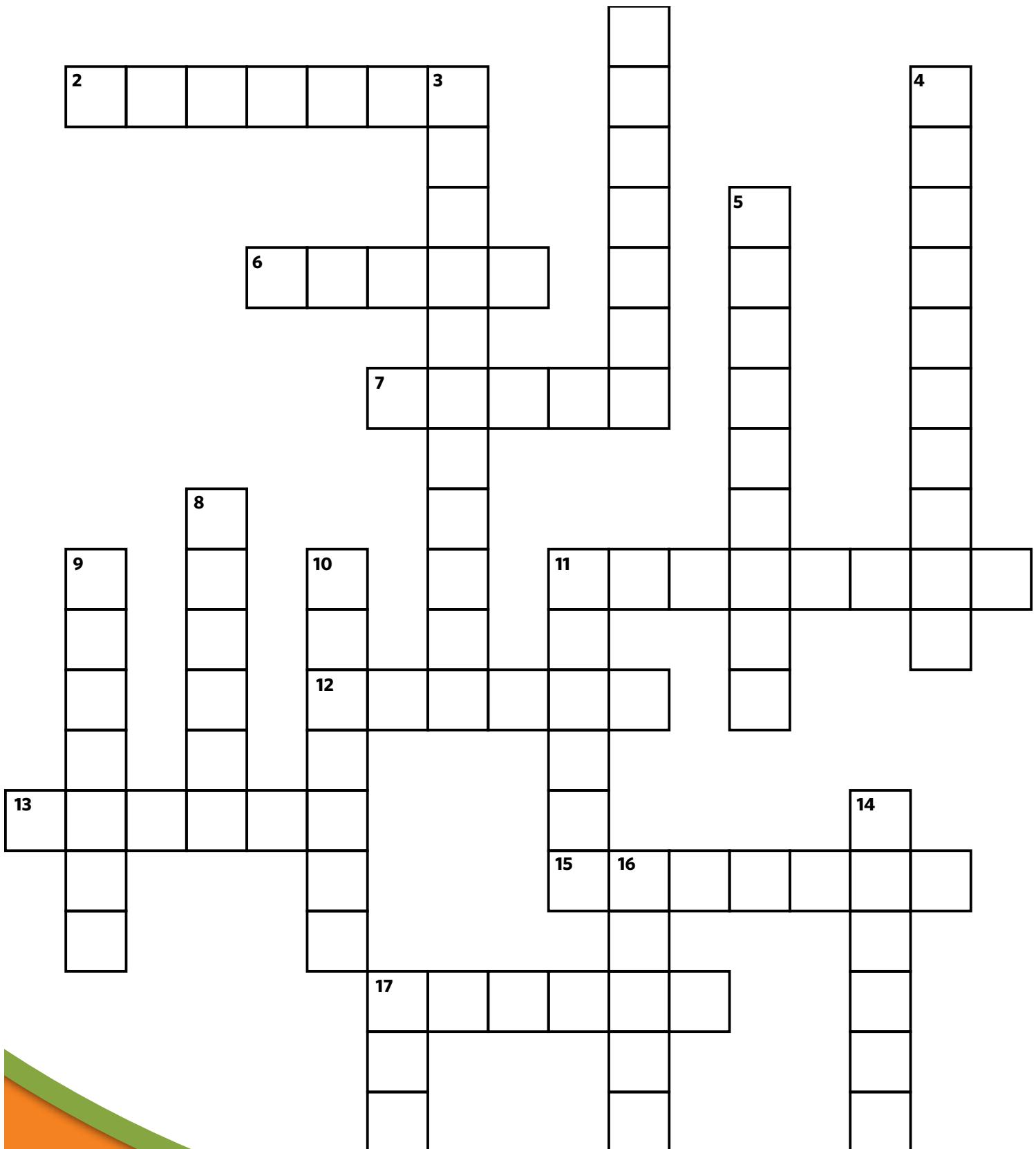


Long ago vs. Today

- ▶ Draw or write items from the past in the Long Ago circle and items used now in the Today circle. If they are used in both times, draw or write them in the overlapping area in the middle. An example would be a book!



Crossword Puzzle



Across:

2. The process in which hides are turned into various goods
6. New Mexico's state tree
7. Sun-dried brick
11. A Spanish drop spindle
12. Chile dried on a string
13. Grinding stone used to make cornmeal
15. Spanish irrigation ditch
17. A place in which historical, cultural, scientific, or artistic items of importance are stored, exhibited, or interpreted

Down:

1. Imported luxury item enjoyed as a drink
3. Spanish word for "swallows"
4. A skilled ironworker
5. A place to store food and herbs underground
8. Spanish patterned embroidery
9. A large wooden wagon used to haul goods along El Camino Real
10. A lookout tower
11. A religious meeting house for Los Hermanos Penitentes
14. A little store where goods could be purchased or bartered
16. Breed of sheep found at Las Golondrinas
17. The staple crop of New Mexico

Answers on the second-to-last page.

**Thank you,
Explorer!**

Thank you for visiting El Rancho de Las Golondrinas! We hope you had a wonderful time exploring this beautiful, historic ranch. Please come back and see us. There's always more to explore!

Golondrinas Explorer Pledge

"As a Golondrinas Explorer, I

pledge to protect and preserve the
cultural and natural resources of Las Golondrinas, today and in
the future.

I promise to explore the rich history of the Southwest, respect
nature, and help protect
all cultural heritage sites."

• • • •

This is to certify that

is now an honorary Explorer at
El Rancho de Las Golondrinas.

TEACHER'S SIGNATURE



NEW MEXICO STATE STANDARDS AND BENCHMARKS

Grades K-4 I-A:

Grade 2; 1: Describe how historical people, groups, and events have influenced the local community.

Grades K-4, I-C:

Grade 3; 1: Describe how the lives and contributions of the people of New Mexico influenced local communities and regions.

**Grade 4; 1: Explain how historical events, people, and culture influence present-day Canada, Mexico, and the United States.
(e.g. food, art, shelter, language).**

Grades K-4, I-D:

Grade 4; 1: Describe and explain how historians and archaeologists provide information about people in different periods.

Grades 5–8 I-A:

Grade 7; 3: Explain the significance of trails and trade routes within the region (e.g Spanish Trail, Camino Real, Santa Fe Trail)

Grades 5–8 I-C

Grade 5: 1: Describe the characteristics of early societies, including the development of tools and adaptation to environments.

Grade 5; 3: Identify the European countries that colonized the North American continent and their settlement areas.

Grade 7; 1: Compare and contrast the influence of Spain on the western hemisphere from colonization to the present.

Crossword Puzzle Answers:

Across	Down
2. Tanning	13. Metate
6. Pardon	1. Chocolate
10. Torreón	3. Goldmines
11. Morada	17. Museum
14. Tendita	4. Blaksmith
16. Churro	5. Soterrano
17. Maiz	8. Colcha
12. Ristra	9. Carreta

*Photography: Richard Gonzales,
Vic Macias, Stephanie Dali, Annie Murchy,
Cory Murchy, and Jane Phillips.*

Swallow Connect-the-Dot-Drawing: Jack McCarthy

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