Name_____ Date_____

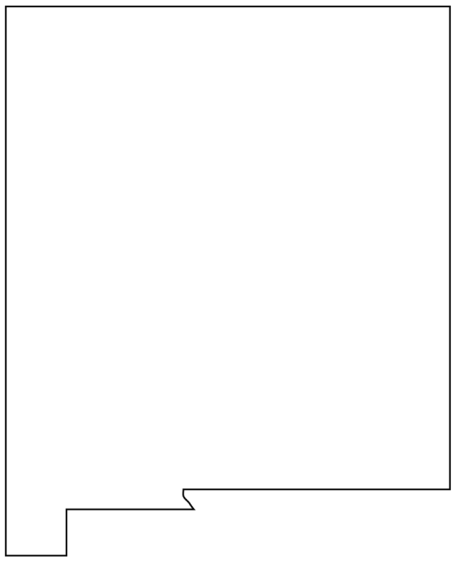
# New Mexico

New Mexico is located in the southwestern part of the United States, between Texas and Arizona. Spanish explorers founded New Mexico in 1540 when they first came north from Mexico.

Albuquerque, New Mexico is the home of the largest hot-air balloon festival called the International Balloon Fiesta. Hot-air balloons come from all over the world to the event each October.

The Carlsbad Caverns are located in the southern part of the state and one of the caves is the largest natural cave in the world. These caverns include 24 miles of passages where tens of thousands of bats feast on millions of bugs each day at dusk. The caves are said to be home to more than 300,000 bats.

Lincoln National Forest is located in the Rocky Mountains in New Mexico. In 1950, a bear cub was rescued from a fire there and he then became known as Smoky the Bear. Smoky is now a national symbol that represents preventing forest fires. A major river flows down the middle of the state of New Mexico, the Rio Grande. That waterway continues to flow south, right down the border between Texas and Mexico.



Nickname: The Land of Enchantment

State Capital: Santa Fe

State Flower: Yucca

State Bird: Roadrunner

Created by Stuckey in Second ©2016

Name_____ Date_____

# New Mexico

## Comprehension Questions

Underline the text evidence in the passage that supports your answer to each question.

1. Which river flows down the middle of New Mexico?

_____

2. Which caverns are located in New Mexico?

_____

3. What is the state capital of New Mexico?

_____

4. Which city is the International Balloon Fiesta located in?

_____

5. How do you think New Mexico got its name?

_____

_____

_____

## Written Response

Where did Smoky the Bear come from? How did he become famous? Use text evidence to support your answer.

_____

_____

_____

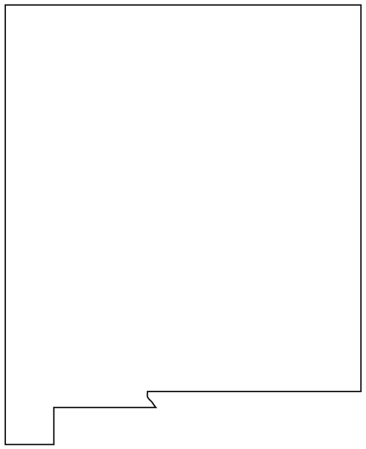
_____

_____

_____

_____

_____



Created by Stuckey in Second ©2016