

Sharpen your wits!

<u>Do you know where you and your family live now?</u> Roswell, New Mexico, in the Pecos Valley of Chaves County.

Do you know who else has lived here in the past?

Chaves co. has been home to people for many 1000's of years. Prehistoric Indians left stone firings called hieroglyphs in this area as early as 12,000 years ago. When the Spanish arrived in the 1500s, they found Pueblo, Apache, Navajo, and Comanche Indians. Spanish Mexican people began to settle here soon after. After a war with Mexico in the early 1800s, the Americans claimed the land for the United States.

<u>Do you know why the people settled in this area?</u>

Modern Indians and the Americans came because there was plenty of water from several rivers teeming with fish. The grasslands were plentiful for wild game hunting and raising livestock. The building of the railroad to Roswell, in 1891, brought a great number of people from other parts of the United States. They too began to build homes and raise families in this part of Chaves County called the Pecos Valley.

Do you know what the larger towns in Chaves County are today?

Towns formed where water was available. Still today, <u>Roswell</u>, <u>Dexter</u>, <u>Hagerman</u>, and <u>Lake Arthur</u> all depend on water for pasture, crops, and homes. Roswell became the county seat in 1890 with 343 citizens.

Do you know what industries you find in Chaves County?

People in Chaves County do a variety of things. Farmers raise cotton, alfalfa, corn, chilies, and pecans. Ranchers raise cattle and sheep. Oilmen work with the rich oilfields. Recently the dairy industry has boomed bringing in the largest cheese plant in the country. Many



people have jobs in these diverse areas.

Do you know when New Mexico became a state?

New Mexico became the 47th state in the nation in 1912. That same year the historical museum for Southeastern N.M. was built.

The Historical Society for Southeast New Mexico <u>4th Grade Tours!</u>

Historical Pictures of Roswell Schools



Photos courtesy of Historical Society for SENM Archives

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