Welcome to History Adventures! Today we're going to explore homes in history. People have made homes in the beautiful mesas and canyons of Los Alamos for hundreds of years. Where we live and how we make homes can tell us a lot about the history of a community.

You can do these activities in any order! Think about the two questions below and read the information on the next page before you get started.

When I think of homes in history, I think:

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

I want to know more about:

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________
Some homesteaders moved to New Mexico from far away. Most homesteaders here lived in the Española Valley and their mountain homesteads were their second family farm. Homestead farming here ended suddenly in 1942. The government decided to put the secret World War II Manhattan Project laboratory here, and all the farms were sold and closed.

Homesteading Here

The Romero Family

Victor and Refugio Romero had six children. Victor’s parents had a farm next door. Families and friends often worked together to do the farm work, especially during harvest time in the fall. Descendants of the Romero family still live in the area today.
OUTDOOR ADVENTURE

To explore homes in history, let’s go outside and visit the Romero Cabin. The Romero family built this cabin to be their home more than 100 years ago.

The Romero Cabin is behind Fuller Lodge. You can find it on the historic walking tour map!

When you arrive at the Romero Cabin, check out the different signs that tell you about the history of homesteading and the Romero family. Explore the cabin by walking around it and looking at the details of the cabin and how it was built. Think about:

- What would it have been like to live here?
- Do you think farmers spent more time inside or outside?
- If your family were farmers here 100 years ago like the Romeros, what kind of chores would you do at home?
- The Romeros and some other homestead families had two homes: one farm here in the mountains and one farm in the Española Valley. What do you think that would be like?

Connections across time:

- The Romero Cabin was moved here so people could visit it. What do you think the Romeros would have thought if they knew people would visit their home 100 years later?
- What is different between the Romero Cabin and your home? What things are the same?

Learn more & explore historic photos in this book: https://issuu.com/4cruz/docs/homesteaders

This sketch was made before moving the Romero Cabin. (From Los Alamos National Laboratory.)
The Romero family and other homesteaders built their cabins themselves from logs and stone. Let’s make our own model of a homestead cabin from paper!

What you need to get started:
- construction paper or 8.5"x11" printer paper
- glue or tape
- markers or crayons

1. Fold the paper in half horizontally, like an upside-down hotdog bun.
2. Fold in half again, this time vertically (like a book).
3. Open the book fold.
4. Fold the left side in to touch the center line.
Let's Make History

5. Fold the right side in to touch the center line.
6. Open the right side and push the top down to create a triangle.

7. Open the left side and push the top down to create a triangle.
8. Fold both sides back in to meet the center.

9. Lay the paper flat and color your homestead cabin. Then glue or tape the sides together to create the walls.

While you're coloring, think about:

One side of your cabin will be the inside and one side will be the outside. Make the outside look like it's made of logs. Inside of homestead cabins there was usually a cast iron stove that burned wood for cooking. What other furniture, toys, and tools might you need?
If you want to share your photo with the Los Alamos History Museum online, tag us! @LosAlamosHistory
Reflect on your adventures in local history by writing down your answers or talking about ideas.

I learned this about homes in history:

What has stayed the same or changed over time?

How are the past and the present connected?

Thanks for exploring History Adventures from the Los Alamos History Museum!
www.LosAlamosHistory.org