Welcome to History Adventures! Today we're going to explore storytelling in history. Sharing stories of what life was like in the past is an important way we can learn history. Individual people, families, and cultures can all have traditions of sharing history through stories.

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 storytelling, I think:

________________________________________  
________________________________________  
________________________________________

I want to know more about:

________________________________________  
________________________________________  
________________________________________  
________________________________________
Ancestral Pueblo people began living here on the Pajarito Plateau around 850 years ago. They built homes, farms, and communities here for around 400 years before moving. They are the ancestors of modern Pueblo people in New Mexico.

How do we know about Ancestral Pueblo people?
One way is through archaeology: studying the buildings and human-made objects left behind over time. Another important way we learn this history is listening to the stories that Pueblo people tell, and have told for generations, about what life used to be like for their ancestors.

Why storytelling?
Ancestral Pueblo people who lived here told stories about the past and about the present. They spoke Tewa and Keres. Pueblo people also speak these languages today. Storytelling is a great way to share and remember important information. People can remember history from centuries ago when there is a tradition of sharing and keeping stories from the past.
To explore storytelling in history, let’s visit a place where Ancestral Pueblo people lived in the past. One important way that we learn about what life was like here hundreds of years ago is by listening to stories!

If you’d like a shorter adventure, visit the Ancestral Pueblo site on the downtown walking tour: LosAlamosHistory.org/tours

If you’d like a longer adventure, visit Bandelier National Monument (you’ll need to buy a pass): www.nps.gov/band

As you explore the Ancestral Pueblo homes, be sure to stay on the sidewalk or trail. Think about:

- What would it have been like to live here?
- What are ways that we have learned the history of this place?
- Do you know where your ancestors lived? How do you know?
- Has anyone lived near here after the Ancestral Pueblo people moved away?
- What connections are there between Ancestral Pueblo people in the past and Pueblo people today?
- Do you think storytelling has changed over time?

Connections across time:

Learn more about Ancestral Pueblo people and what their lives were like from Bandelier National Monument: www.nps.gov/band

Some Ancestral Pueblo people who lived here spoke Tewa. You can find Tewa words in some New Mexican place names. For example, owinge means village or place.
LET'S MAKE HISTORY

Some historians today learn about the past by interviewing people and asking about their lives. These interviews are called oral histories. Let's do our own oral history interview!

1. Choose a friend or family member who you want to interview about their personal history.

2. Ask the person you're interviewing for permission to record the interview. You can write down their answers or use a phone or microphone to record your conversation. If they say no thanks, ask someone else.

3. Before you begin the interview, write down some questions you would like to ask. What do you want to learn about this person and their history? Use some of the ideas below, and write your own, starting with "how," "what," or "why."

4. Record today's date, your name, and the name of the person you are interviewing, then ask your questions!

Some Ideas for Questions from the Smithsonian:

folklife.si.edu/the-smithsonian-folklife-and-oral-history-interviewing-guide/smithsonian

- Where did you grow up?
- How does your family celebrate holidays?
- What community traditions are celebrated where you live today?
- How have historical events affected your family and community?
- What do you know about your family name?
- Does your family have special recipes?
- What family stories do you have?
- What heirlooms does your family have?

What new things have you learned after your oral history interview?
PHOTO CHALLENGE

One way that we learn history is through stories. Stories can be shared out loud, written in books, or connected to the places and things around us.

Take a photo of something that shares stories from history with you, or someone who tells you history stories. This might be an older relative, your favorite history book, or a historical object you like.

How does who or what you photographed share stories from history?

_____________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________

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 storytelling 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