

# New Mexico

New Mexico ELA Standards — Common Core plus state-specific additions

## LESSON

### Following a Chain of Causes

Civil War Recipes

## TEACHES

## RI.4.5

Describe the overall structure (e.g., chronology, comparison, cause/effect, problem/solution) of events, ideas, concepts, or information in a text or part of a text.

### WHY THIS EARNS THE STANDARD

Students identify and trace a cause-and-effect relationship in an informational explanation.

The canonical lesson that follows is unchanged. This cover is an additive curriculum-placement layer.

TumbleTA | Tumbleweed Press Inc. | Corrected build 2026-09-09

TUMBLETA | GRADE 4 ELA | STANDALONE SKILL LESSON

### Following a Chain of Causes

Civil War Recipes

20 minutes

## OBJECTIVE

Separate an effect from multiple causes and explain how linking language builds a causal chain.

## STUDENT PRODUCT

A cause chain with at least three causes leading to one stated effect.

## ESSENTIAL QUESTION

How does the author explain why supplies ran short?

## TEXT FOCUS

An informational explanation in which several conditions contribute to scarcity.

## LESSON SEQUENCE

1. Name the effect | 3 min Write the shortage or condition being explained.
2. Find causes | 5 min Collect at least three reasons the author gives.
3. Order if needed | 4 min Decide whether the causes occur in sequence or work together.
4. Build the chain | 6 min Use because, so, therefore, or as a result to connect the ideas.
5. Check | 2 min Do not turn an effect into a cause.

## TEACHER KEY / EXPECTED THINKING

The author builds scarcity as the result of several connected pressures rather than a single cause, and linking language shows how each reason contributes.

## LOOK FOR

- Identifies the stated effect.
- Uses multiple accurate causes.
- Explains how the causes connect to the effect.

TumbleTA | Grade 4 ELA | Canonical standalone skill lesson