

# The Day It Rained Tortillas

A Reading A-Z Level M Leveled Book  
Word Count: 602

LEVELED BOOK • M

# THE DAY IT RAINED TORTILLAS

## Connections

### Writing and Art

What would you have done with the gold? Draw a picture and write about it.

### Social Studies

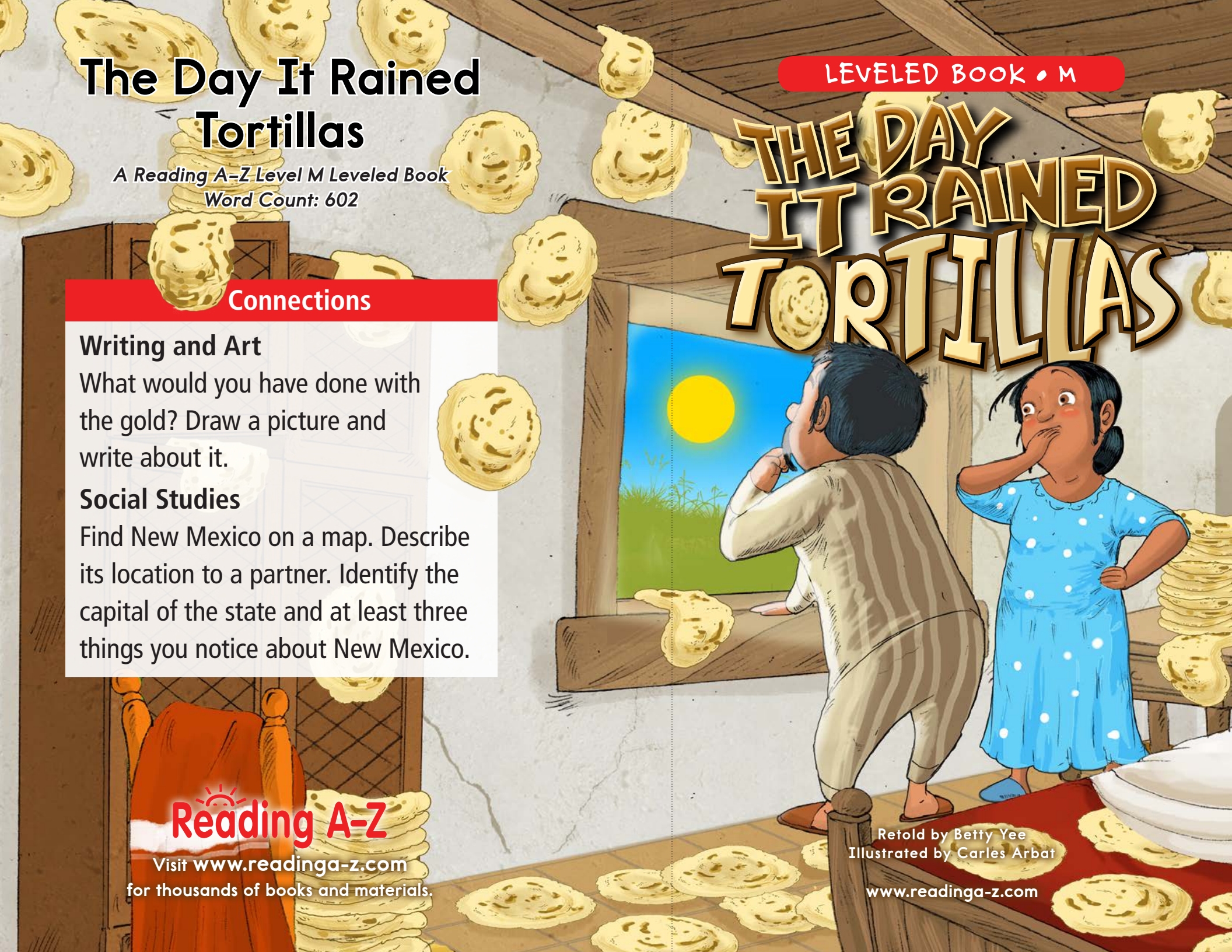
Find New Mexico on a map. Describe its location to a partner. Identify the capital of the state and at least three things you notice about New Mexico.

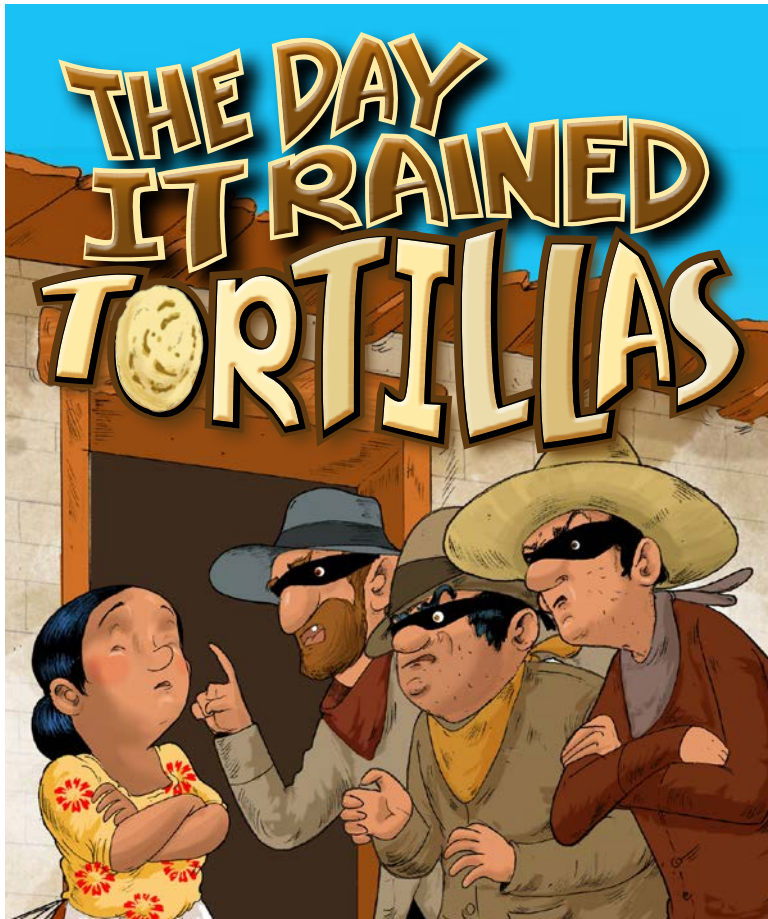
Reading A-Z

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Illustrated by Carles Arbat

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### Focus Question

What is the problem in the story, and how does the woodcutter's wife solve it?

### Words to Know

advised	snatched
babbled	stash
furious	tortillas

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 Level M Leveled Book  
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### Correlation

#### LEVEL M

Fountas & Pinnell	L
Reading Recovery	19
DRA	24



A long time ago, a woodcutter lived in New Mexico. He loved to talk and tell tall tales. He talked to his wife. He talked to his neighbors. He talked to everyone in town. When he ran out of people to talk to, he talked to his goat and mule.

One day, the woodcutter found three bags of gold in the forest and took them home. His wife quickly figured out that so much gold could only belong to robbers. She worried that they would find her husband.

“Don’t worry,” the woodcutter said, grinning. “I only told the baker, the butcher, the fish seller, the candlestick maker, and her daughter,” he added.

“Ay! You talk too much. Now the robbers will know we’re the ones who have their gold,” his wife wailed.

“We really need that gold to fix our broken roof,” she added. So, she came up with a plan.





First, she told the woodcutter to hurry into town and buy one hundred pounds of flour. Meanwhile, she buried the coins in the backyard. When he returned, she told him the gold disappeared. She explained that she had left the gold on the porch while thinking of a good place to **stash** it. Someone must have **snatched** it then.



After her husband went to bed, she cooked pile after pile of **tortillas**. Then she threw them all around the house. Tortillas covered the floors, were spread on the kitchen table, and hung from the curtains!

In the morning, the woodcutter awoke to see tortillas all over his bed. One even sat on top of his head!

His wife yawned, stretched, and then exclaimed, "Ay! It rained tortillas last night. They must have come down through the broken roof."

"Tortillas! How can that be?" the woodcutter asked.



"Everyone knows it can rain tortillas," his wife assured him. "Don't you remember learning about it in school?" she asked.

"No, I think I'd remember *that* lesson," he replied.

"You better go back to school," she **advised**. "Who knows what other lessons you failed to learn!" she added.





“I still don’t understand how it can rain tortillas,” the woodcutter wondered aloud.

He looked through a window and was surprised not to see any tortillas.

“They already washed away down to the river,” his wife said, as though reading his mind.

The next day, the woodcutter went to school. It was hard work!





Meanwhile, his wife spent the day stacking tortillas in the cupboards. Soon after she had hidden the last one, she heard **furious** knocking at the door. She opened it.



Three robbers began yelling angrily. “The villagers say your husband found our gold. Give it back now!” they screamed.

“You won’t find any gold here. My husband is always saying silly things,” the woodcutter’s wife calmly insisted. “If you don’t believe me, ask him yourself,” she added.

The robbers sat down, awaiting the woodcutter's return. When he finally arrived, they demanded that he return their gold.

The woodcutter sighed and explained, "The gold is gone. It disappeared the day it rained tortillas."

"What are you talking about? Tortillas don't rain from the sky!" the robbers shouted.



"That's exactly what I thought. Now I'm back in school so I can learn how it can happen," the woodcutter babbled.

The robbers exchanged confused glances.

"You're right," one of them moaned to the woodcutter's wife, "we can't believe a word that man says."

The robbers left.







That night, and for many nights afterward, the woodcutter and his wife ate tortillas for dinner. The woodcutter never figured out how his wife found the money to fix their roof.

## Glossary

- advised** (*v.*) gave a suggestion or advice (p. 8)
- babbled** (*v.*) spoke quickly in a way that was foolish, excited, or made no sense (p. 14)
- furious** (*adj.*) very angry (p. 11)
- snatched** (*v.*) grabbed something quickly and without permission (p. 5)
- stash** (*v.*) to hide something away for later use (p. 5)
- tortillas** (*n.*) flat, thin Mexican bread made of flour or cornmeal (p. 6)