

To Students: Right now, we are all spending a lot of time at home so we can stay safe and healthy! It can be hard to be away from our friends and school - but luckily, there are so many cool things that we can learn and explore while we are home! We hope you have fun and learn a lot from these different activities all about our beautiful ACEQUIAS.

The ACEQUIAS in our communities take water from nearby rivers through a ditch to our fields, gardens, and orchards. The water comes from the snow that melts in the mountains and flows into our rivers. Acequias are sometimes called 'community ditches.' Neighbors along an acequia work together to share water.

Our families in New Mexico have been taking care of acequias and community ditches for hundreds of years - and they are a very important part of our history, our culture, and what makes us who we are! Acequias let us grow food to feed our families, and their waters help support all the plants and animals and bugs and birds that make up our beautiful environment.

As you do these activities - remember that your elders, parents and neighbors have lots of knowledge about the acequias, and you can ask them for help when there is something that you don't know. *Water is life! El Agua es vida!*

To Families: We hope your children enjoy and benefit from these acequia education activities provided by the New Mexico Acequia Association. Having our children at home can be an amazing opportunity to talk more with them about our families traditions and knowledge around the acequias, farming and gardening, and taking care of the water, seeds, animals, orchards, food crops, and the land.

NMAA is also offering to share seeds with families who want to grow a garden this year! Get more info and submit a request here - or call our office at the number at the bottom of the page: lasacequias.org/2020/04/01/semillas-pa-la-gente/

About the New Mexico Acequia Association - The mission of the New Mexico Acequia Association is to protect water and our acequias, grow healthy food for our families and communities, and to honor our cultural heritage.

In our vision, acequias flow with clean water, people work together to grow food, and communities celebrate cultural and spiritual traditions. People honor acequias as part of our heritage and express *querencia* through a strong connection to land and community. Knowledge and experience about growing food, sharing water, and saving seed are passed on from generation to generation.

Guided by our core values, the New Mexico Acequia Association grows a movement of people of all ages and walks of life to defend and protect our precious water by resisting its commodification and contamination. Through involvement in NMAA, families and youth are inspired to cultivate the land, care for our acequias, and heal past injustices. Communities have an abundance of healthy, locally-grown food because we recognize agriculture as a respected and dignified livelihood and way of life.



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