



## Route 66: Roads, Stories, and Community Memory







# WELCOME TO YOUR TINY TOOLKIT!

iHola!

This Tiny Toolkit is about Route 66, a historic road full of stories about travel, family, work, and community. Route 66 is often remembered for cars, road trips, and famous signs, but it is also about the people who lived and worked along the road and made it meaningful.

Roads can connect towns, but they also connect memory. Along Route 66, families built homes, opened businesses, created gathering places, and shaped communities. Diners, gas stations, murals, motels, and neighborhood landmarks all help tell the story of the road.

## What You'll Discover:

- What Route 66 is
- Why it matters
- How communities shaped its history
- Learn about a community along Route 66
- How you can help protect stories and places

When we care for historic places, we also care for the people and memories connected to them.

What is a place you pass by that feels important to your community?



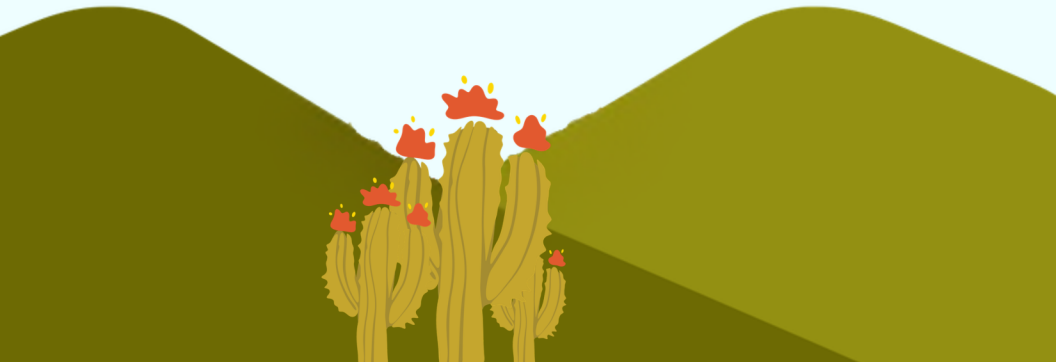
# WHAT IS ROUTE 66?

Route 66 is one of the most famous historic roads in the United States. It connected many towns and communities and helped people travel long distances. Along the way, people stopped at restaurants, shops, gas stations, motels, and other roadside places.

But Route 66 is more than a road. It is also a place full of stories. Families traveled on it. Workers found jobs near it. Business owners welcomed visitors. Neighborhoods grew around it. Communities made the road part of everyday life.

## Examples of Route 66 in Action:

- Families stopping for food and rest during trips
- Local businesses serving travelers and neighbors
- Artists creating murals and signs that shape community identity
- Neighborhoods forming memories around streets and gathering places



Every road tells more than one story. Route 66 tells stories about movement, belonging, and community.

What kinds of stories do you think a road can hold?

### Vocabulary:

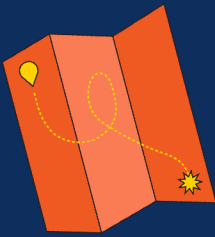
- **Historic Road:** a road that is important to history.
- **Community:** a group of people connected by place or shared experience.
- **Landmark:** a place people recognize, remember, and care about.
- **Preservation:** protecting important places and stories so they are not forgotten.





# WHY ROUTE 66 MATTERS

Route 66 matters because it helps us learn about travel, work, migration, family, and community life. Roads can connect places, but they can also connect stories.



Historic places along Route 66 remind us that history is not only found in textbooks. It also lives in old signs, local businesses, neighborhood streets, family memories, and places where people gathered. These places help us understand how communities changed over time and what they chose to build, protect, and remember.

Route 66 also matters because many different communities shaped its history. Latinx, Indigenous, Black, immigrant, and local communities all helped make the road meaningful. Their labor, traditions, businesses, art, and memories are part of the story.

When we protect historic places, we help make sure community stories are not erased.

What place in your community should be remembered in the future?



Bienvenidos a  
**BARELAS**  
y La Calle Cuarta

## COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

### *Barelmas, New Mexico*

Barelmas is a historic Latinx neighborhood in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Long ago, Route 66 once passed through this community. Families lived there, businesses served the neighborhood, and everyday life became part of the road's history.

Today, Barelmas is known for local places, shared memories, and community stories. People remember businesses, like the Red Ball Café, Ive's Flower Shop, and B. Ruppe Pharmacy, which were gathering spaces that helped shape the neighborhood.

Barelas also has many murals that honor local history, including women, healers, and residents who were important to the community.

These places remind us that Route 66 is not only about travel. It is also about home, culture, work, and memory.

### Did You Know?

Barelas is one of Albuquerque's oldest Latinx neighborhoods, with roots that go back long before the cars were on the road!



What neighborhood, street, or corner in your community holds special memories?



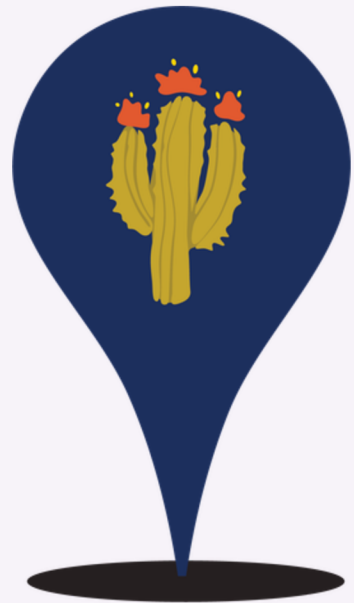
# BE A HISTORY HELPER!

You can help protect history too. When you look closely at the places around you, ask questions, and listen to family or community stories, you become a history helper.

- **Look** at pictures or maps of Route 66 and notice signs, buildings, murals, or landmarks.
- **Wonder** who passed through, who worked there, and what stories the place might hold.
- **Create** by drawing your own Route 66 stop or writing about a place that matters to you.
- **Connect** by thinking about your neighborhood and the places your family remembers.
- **Protect** by saving stories, photos, or memories that should not be forgotten.

Everyday people help preserve history. That includes you.

How can you help protect a story or place in your community?







# LAS CARRETERAS TAMBIÉN GUARDAN MEMORIA.

*Roads carry memory too.*

When we learn about Route 66, we learn about more than travel. We learn about families, neighborhoods, culture, and the places that hold community stories.

When we look closely, ask questions, and protect what matters, we help care for history.



# Reach out to nosotrxs!



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