



# Museum Access: National Museum of Nuclear Science & History

## SEASON 3 - EPISODE 8

The National Museum of Nuclear Science & History in Albuquerque, NM takes us on the journey of the Atomic Age from early research of nuclear development through today's peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Let's continue the learning with these questions and talking points.

### Question 1

Where did the name 'Manhattan Project' come from?

**More Talking Points:**

1. How is uranium connected with the Manhattan Project
2. Why is uranium such a challenging element to work with?

### Question 2

What do you think about when you hear "nuclear science"?

**More Talking Points:**

1. What were you most surprised to learn about nuclear science?
2. Do you think the original researchers would be shocked at what new technology has been developed as a result of their efforts?

### Question 3

Why was Los Alamos, NM chosen as the location for early nuclear research?

**More Talking Points:**

1. If you were working on a top secret project, where would you want to be located?
2. What do you think family life was like for the scientists of Los Alamos?

### Question 4

Where were the other 'secret cities' located in the United States?  
Why were they secret?

**More Talking Points:**

1. Why were multiple cities necessary for the Manhattan Project research?
2. Why were these cities ideal locations for the project?

### Question 5

What would it have been like to work on the Manhattan Project in complete secrecy?

**More Talking Points:**

1. What materials were used in the laboratories to keep employees safe?
2. Do you think the employees understood the importance of this project?





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### Question 6

What was 'the Gadget'?

**More Talking Points:**

1. How was the Gadget originally tested?
2. What did researchers learn from this first testing?

### Question 7

What was the difference between the two initial Manhattan Project nuclear bombs?

**More Talking Points:**

1. Why were multiple types of bombs necessary?
2. How were "Little Boy" and "Fat Man" used?

### Question 8

Although the United States and the Soviet Union were allies during World War II, they quickly became enemies after the war ended. Why?

**More Talking Points:**

1. When did the race to develop nuclear capabilities begin?
2. Do you think having nuclear capabilities helps keep our country safe?

### Question 9

Can you explain the term 'Broken Arrow'?

**More Talking Points:**

1. What precautions were taken to ensure there were few accidents?
2. Although a bomb was accidentally dropped on the outskirts of Albuquerque, it was not radioactive. Why?

### Question 10

Nuclear technology is used in many areas of modern life. Can you name a few?

**More Talking Points:**

1. What are some of the results of advancements in nuclear medicine?
2. How has nuclear energy been used to power entire cities?

