Journey to the International Folk Art Market

Inspiration from Around the World

Casey Williamson

Art Teacher

Rudd Middle School

[cwilliamson@jefcoed.com](mailto:cwilliamson@jefcoed.com)

<http://artteachercasey.blogspot.com>

\*My grant from Fund for Teachers paid for my trip to the Crizmac Folk Art Extravaganza art teacher professional development trip in Santa Fe, New Mexico. I attended the International Folk Art Market, where I met folk artists from around the world. I participated in workshops that showcased specific folk artists, while creating artwork examples based on their style.

\*My personal definition and understanding of folk art has changed and expanded following what I learned in Santa Fe. Folk Art, in many cases, is what communities all over the world use to sell at markets to provide money for their families.

\*Having the chance to talk and work with real folk artists from around the world has given me new skills, ideas, and information I can share with my students for years to come.

\*Experiencing the climate and landscape of New Mexico also sparked new ideas for future artworks for my students, especially for one and two point perspective.

\*Annually, I teach my students about recycling, sustainability, and being “green”. After staying in an Earthship while in Taos, I experienced firsthand how people live “off the grid.” I will teach my students about Earthships, how and why they are made, and they will create an original design for an Earthship as a drawing.

\*My students will benefit from the artifacts, books, images, videos, and realia I acquired while in New Mexico. They will have access to these to better understand our discussions and projects.

\* Through the experience of this fellowship, I will use the information gathered including, videos, photos, artifacts, and examples to create an art unit about folk art. The unit will consist of evaluating artwork, working with artifacts, interacting with folk artists, class discussions about folk art, writing about the work, creating art inspired by my trip, and showcasing their work in a folk art show open to the community. The unit will focus on the global idea of “community” and how it relates to the lives of my students. We will focus on their personal culture and how it can be expressed through art. Their artwork will be featured in several art shows by the end of this school year.

\*Many thanks to Fund for Teachers for being so gracious to provide me with funds to send me on this journey. I may never have gotten to do this without them, so I am forever grateful!