

Spanish Market Day: An Immersive Learning Experience

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Overview

Open-air markets are central to Latin American communities and represent a cornerstone of their cultural heritage. Within these bustling marketplaces, the practice of *regatear* (haggling) thrives. *Regatear* is not about paying the lowest price—it's a social interaction between buyer and seller designed to reach a price that feels fair to both parties. This cultural exchange reflects deeper values: community, fairness, and human connection.

Thanks to the Teacher Vision Grant, I brought this authentic experience into my classroom. Students learned to haggle in Spanish while developing appreciation for the cultural practices embedded in Latin American markets.

Project Implementation & Impact

After months of preparation, students navigated a simulated *artesanía* (handicrafts) market in Honduras. Heritage Spanish-speaking students served as vendors, naming and decorating their *puestos* (stalls) and creating deals.

Each student received a budget of 375 *lempira* (Honduran currency) and purchased three items from different vendors. I observed remarkable growth in oral proficiency and conversational fluency as students applied their learning in real time. The competitive element of strategic negotiation kept them genuinely motivated to use Spanish meaningfully.

Assessment & Student Reflection

After purchasing items, students completed self-assessment forms reflecting on their negotiation successes, vocabulary application, and growth areas. My rubric emphasized authentic market behaviors: warm greetings, polite price confirmations, respectful personal space, and genuine cultural curiosity. Seeing students internalize not just phrases but authentic cultural practices was deeply rewarding.

Lasting Benefits & Future Vision

I created reusable frameworks and materials for sustaining this experience annually while building meaningful cross-curricular connections in mathematics, social studies, and business skills.

Student enthusiasm has inspired expansion plans. Next year, I aim to incorporate Spanish-speaking classes from the Multilingual student program and deepen our cultural exploration of their countries. This grant transformed my classroom into a vibrant marketplace of language, culture, and authentic learning.

Thank you so much for your support!









