



Post Fellowship Reporting - Project Summary

Report Title: When Cultures Collide: The Cape Verde Expedition
Name: Destanie VanDyne

Other Team Members: Hadley Bachman, Michael Taylor

Program: EL Education Program

Trip Dates: 06/25/2012 - 07/07/2012
Location Visited: Cape Verde

Post Fellowship Reporting Template: PFR Template 01

Project Summary: Our team, the Island Hoppers, consisted of the Math, Science, and English teachers on our seventh grade team. Every fall, we teach an expedition called "When Cultures Collide" about West Africa, and specifically Cape Verde, to our students. The two cultures that "collided" to bring about the existence of Cape Verde are the Portuguese and many West African cultures. We were inspired to propose our fellowship because we wanted to experience first-hand what we were teaching so that we would be able to teach about it more accurately and effectively. Also, as Expeditionary Learning teachers, we firmly believe in the importance of authentic fieldwork and experts, which are difficult to provide for our students in Ohio, when the subject is across an ocean. We hoped to bring back authentic artifacts and forge partnerships with experts and a "sister" school from Cape Verde, to bring the subjects we study to life.

Specifically, we were drawn to study the history, geology, agriculture, and economy of the islands of Fogo and Santiago in Cape Verde. We interviewed many locals about the history of their area, the current economic situations, and about the harsh reality of farming and caring for their delicate ecosystem. We explored the volcanic island of Fogo and brought back video interviews and topographic data. We learned to speak some of the language and to experience for ourselves the reality of "cultures colliding." We came back with partnerships forged for cross-cultural communication between our students and students at a secondary school in Cape Verde.

Career Impact: We will provide many authentic experiences for our students:

- * We will be Skyping with local experts including guides and teachers
- * We have authentic realia including clothing, games, money, music and artwork. These items will help students appreciate Cape Verde's culture
- * We video recorded interviews of locals. Being able to interview many in the local culture was amazing! They gave us information about their jobs, their salaries, and their general responsibilities.
- * We brought back an elevation map to help students understand the size and scale of the islands.

The experience gave us the power to share this culture with our students

Classroom/Community Impact: This experience helped us fully integrate our subjects across all the curriculum.

- * Math and Social Studies will be working together to build scale models of the islands as well as Ohio
- * Science and English will work together to write about the soil analysis results
- * Science and Social Studies will compare climate of Cape Verde to other nations as well as Ohio

Ultimately our final project involves integrating all the subjects including art to create books for students in Cape Verde. The authentic research that this grant provided allowed us to fully immerse ourselves in the culture and see how all of these elements connected.

Open Response: Our group gave an in-service to our staff during a professional development day. During the presentation we had photos, a slide show, video, and realia on display. We were able to get a detailed description to all of the staff. We are hoping to present this same material to teachers at other schools within our charter as well as to other local schools.

Our students are creating books on the Cape Verde Islands. The books will be invaluable as Cape Verdean students learn English. We are hoping to have these students present to local adults at the Ohio State University.

Quote: Visiting the Cape Verde islands made what we were trying to teach about real. We were able to bring back so much realia, experience, and emotion. We will never be able to bring students overseas, but our passion for learning during the trip allowed us to bring a piece of Cape Verde to Ohio.

Photos:



Descending Fogo, an active volcano, after reaching the crater with our guide.



Local fishermen sell their morning catch on a Tarrafal beach.



Soil differs throughout Cape Verde. Collecting samples at a mountainside farm.



Majestic sunset at Cha das Caldeiras, a town in the crater of an ancient volcano



Preparing for our long and challenging hike of the Ribeira Principal Trail.



A local explains farming in volcanic soil: expertise to enhance student learning



A Cape Verdean teacher admiring books that our students created for his school.



What an amazing adventure to grow as teachers, individuals, and friends!