



Teacher's Guide: My Caravanserai

Background

Caravanserais (pronounced: care-uh-van-sir-eyes) are ancient buildings that were found all across Asia, Northern Africa, the Middle East, and Southern Europe. For ancient caravan travelers, these buildings provided food, shelter, and drink for all of the animals and people in the caravan. When travelers stayed at a caravanserai, they would meet other travelers and make new friends as they told each other stories about their homes, their families, their cities, and their journeys.

Goal

Help students connect the journey of ancient travelers at a caravanserai to their own experiences and express their understanding through creative writing or visual art.

Activity

- Watch a short, narrative video about a caravanserai journey. This video can be watched with students in the classroom or assigned as homework. <http://www.caravanserai-arts.org/resources/my-caravanserai>
- Distribute the handout, “Activity: My Caravanserai.” This sheet gives background information on caravanserais and describes the creative activity.
- Review background and discuss questions. Questions are provided for students to answer in their response. You may wish to discuss some of these questions out loud with the group to give students ideas and lead the discussion.
- Have students share their work with the class. You could exhibit posters, drawings, or written stories on a bulletin board or in the school library.

Share your work

If you would like your students’ work posted online at www.caravanserai-arts.org, you may submit work by email or mail. Works from students under the age of 13 should have identifying information (name, grade, class) removed.

Send submissions to:

Arts Midwest
Attn: My Caravanserai
2908 Hennepin Avenue, Suite 200
Minneapolis, MN 55408
USA

Or by email: autumn@artsmidwest.org