

"Mapping the Mercado: Exploring Community Through Story"

Book(s) the Lesson Starter Uses:

¡Vamos! Let's Go to the Market by Raúl the Third

In a Nutshell:

This lesson starter invites students to explore the rich cultural setting of a bustling border-town marketplace. Using the detailed illustrations as inspiration, students will practice close reading of visuals, map-making skills, and community vocabulary in both English and Spanish.

Do This!

- Read *¡Vamos! Let's Go to the Market* aloud, encouraging students to observe and discuss the illustrations.
- Pause frequently to point out and identify community helpers, signage, and labeled objects (in English and Spanish).
- Ask students to describe the different types of vendors and their goods.
- Have students draw their own version of a marketplace that reflects their community or imagination.
- Label different parts of the market using English and/or Spanish.
- Discuss what makes a community thrive. Who helps make a community strong?

Use This!

Either have students draw their own mercado map, or fill out this simple worksheet with a blank marketplace layout (vendor stalls, paths, central plaza) for students to fill in with their own shops, labels, and characters.

