

2 Coles. For Acc. No. doc.
C/O - 100, 100, 100

Coles, Robert. *Eskimos, Chicanos, Indians. Volume IV of Children of Crisis*. Boston, Toronto: Little, Brown, and Company, 1977.

Coles asked children of many different cultures to make drawings related to their lives. He then interviewed them about the drawings. All the Pueblo children he worked with chose to draw something from the land they lived in: sky, wind, snow, the nearby mesa, the ground itself (including the roots and underground). He learned that they are taught to notice details and also to personify the natural world.

One nine year old girl talked about the picture she was drawing of land and clouds:

"It gets so dry for so long; the earth cracks, and when you walk over it, you can hear it cry for water. Even a cactus plant seems to be saying that it would like a little drink. I could have a cloth over my eyes and know if I was walking over some very thirsty land: the noises, the feel of the earth under my feet. It is like rubbing your skin with your hand when you've hurt yourself and the cut is just beginning to heal...(p. 435)"

Coles writes about another girl:

"As she concludes her drawing (Figure 22), she makes remarks about the land she has pictured, and she freely acknowledges their source: "My mother used to punish me. She would see me kicking the earth, or pulling up some brush, and she'd tell me to stop. I would complain that we were just playing, but she didn't accept our excuses. Once I brought some water out, and I was making mud bread, I called it. She didn't like that idea too much. She said I should be more careful. She told me to go in the house and think about what I could do that was better. I told her I didn't know why it was so bad for us to make forts or cook food -- with the mud we made by bringing water to the outside earth. She said it was the *way* we were playing; she had been watching us, and we were digging in one place, then another, leaving ditches and holes, and not bothering to fix up what we'd done to the land after we were through. Instead, we started a new game further down the path. She told us we were acting like white people. She told us that a lot of Indians learn to act like white people. They learn in school, and they learn in their jobs. She said we'd better watch out" (p.402-3).