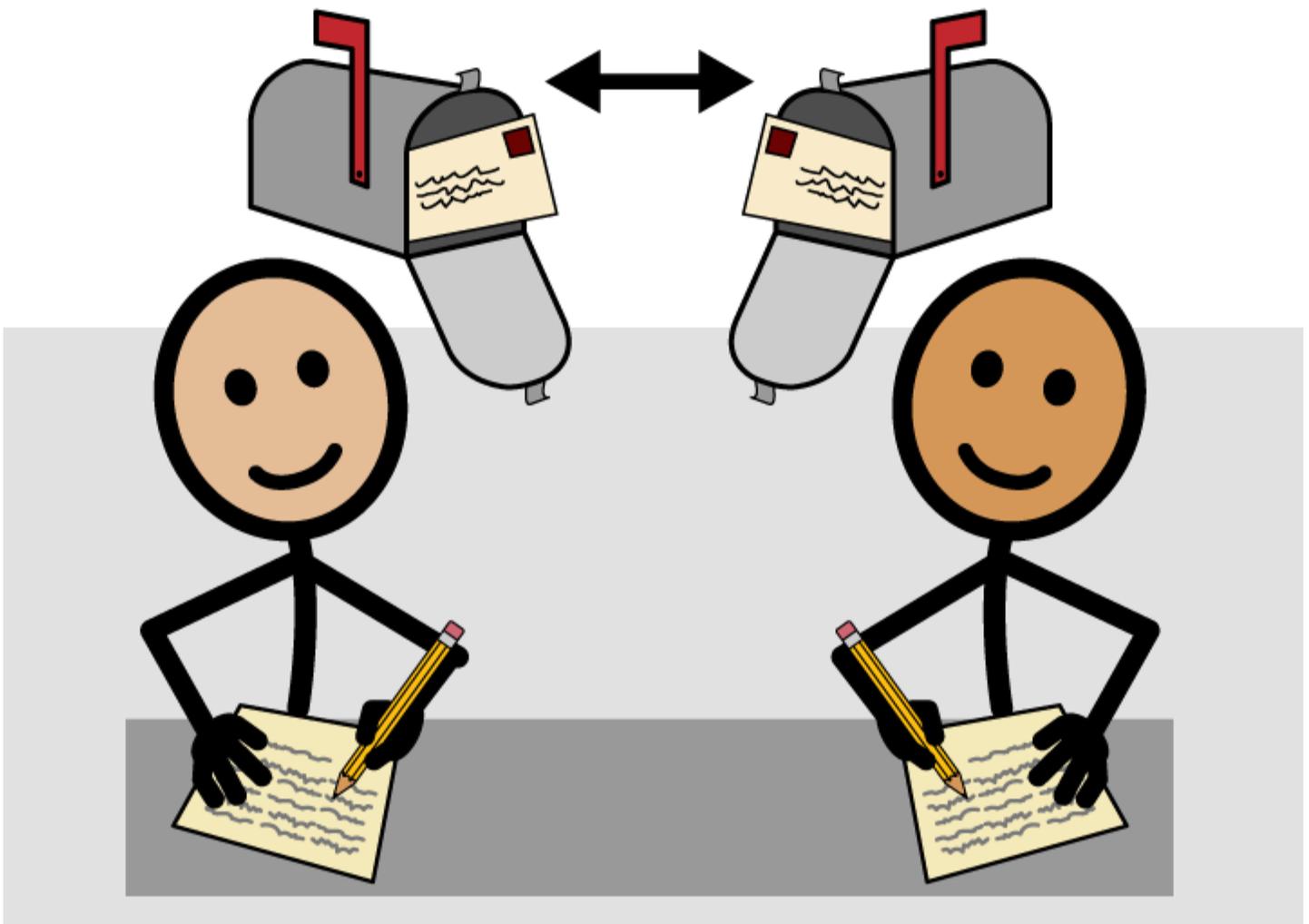


Holiday Pen Pals





Unit Overview

Holiday Pen Pals

This unit explores holidays, traditions and geography in different countries around the world through the writing of letters between pen pals. Through stories and hands-on activities, students will develop an appreciation for diversity in traditions. They will also learn about different places and features on a map.

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3	Easy Read Book	<i>Holiday Pen Pals Around the World</i>	71
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 **Instructional Target**

Social Studies Standards for History

- Describe features of the local community (land and water, culture, changes over time, etc.)
- Describe the influence of cultural practices of groups from different places on the formation of the community, state or nation.

Social Studies Standards for Geography

- Use maps and map tools to locate places, landmarks, land masses and water forms.
- Identify locations on a map in relation to north, south, east and west.

 **Differentiated Tasks**

Level 3 Students will...

- Describe ways in which land, water or lifestyles have changed over time.
- Trace events and ideas from early state or country history that influence life today.
- Locate named cities, bodies of water and landforms on a map or globe.
- Describe locations on a map, using relational vocabulary (north, south, east and west) to do so.

Level 2 Students will...

- Match similar features of land, water or lifestyle from different places or periods of time.
- Identify events or ideas from early state or country history.
- Use picture supports to find major locations on a map.
- Describe locations on a map, using relational vocabulary (near, far, beside, above, etc.) to do so.

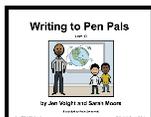
Level 1 Students will...

- Select pictures representing local land features, water sources, or lifestyles of the past.
- Identify the state in which they live.
- Select a picture or symbol to represent a location on a map.
- Physically demonstrate locational vocabulary with assistance.



Standards Connection

Writing to Pen Pals



In this first book of the unit, students follow Mr. H's class as they discuss what they can write about in letters to pen pals. Students learn that they can write about where they live, activities they like to do and different holidays and traditions they have with their families. Students also learn that they can ask questions to learn about their pen pals too. As you read this book, encourage students to discuss where they live, what they like to do and what holidays or traditions they celebrate with their families. Point out how people live in different places and have different traditions. In Lesson 2, students will build comprehension of the story and have the opportunity to answer questions and retell details from the story as they play Mail It!, a board game about writing letters to pen pals. Students will learn to write a letter to a pen pal in Lesson 27, as well as how to address an envelope. As an extension to the activity, plan a field trip to the local post office to mail their letters, or, show students how to mail their letters by placing them in a mailbox.

Holiday Pen Pals Around the World



This unit's Easy Read Book extends the concepts of geography and traditions as students explore writing and reading letters from pen pals in different countries around the world. Students read about a variety of countries and land features as well as different traditions and holidays celebrated in those countries. After reading this book with students, discuss how the holidays and traditions are similar and how they are different to those celebrated in the United States. Continue to discuss traditions in other countries as students make Reindeer Cookies in Lesson 21. Point out how Freya's family had a tradition of watching reindeer races in Sweden. Ask students what holiday they think of when they see a reindeer. Is it reindeer races in Sweden or Christmas in the United States? In Lesson 28, students will experiment with glow sticks to see how temperature affects the brightness of the glow stick. The glowing light is a reminder to students of the different lights found in various holidays and traditions.

Finding Your Place



Students can write to pen pals that live all over the world. In Lessons 25 and 26, students learn how to use pictures and symbols to locate various places and land features on maps. Students will also use maps to identify the different countries from the Easy Read Book. As you work through this lesson, encourage students to make connections about the locations and land features on the maps with locations and land features in their local community. After completing this lesson, have students use maps of their school, local community or state to identify locations they might visit.

The **n2y Library** has several books that may extend understanding of leaders and rules in our lives:

- **Australia Christmas** (Level D) explores Christmas traditions in Australia.
- **Boxing Day** (Level D) explains the background of Boxing Day and different ways to give back to a community.
- **Chinese New Year** (Level D) describes traditions for the Chinese New Year.
- **Holidays Around the World** (Level B) shows individuals celebrating different holidays.
- **Reading a Map: Landforms** (Level E) explains how to recognize landforms on a map.

