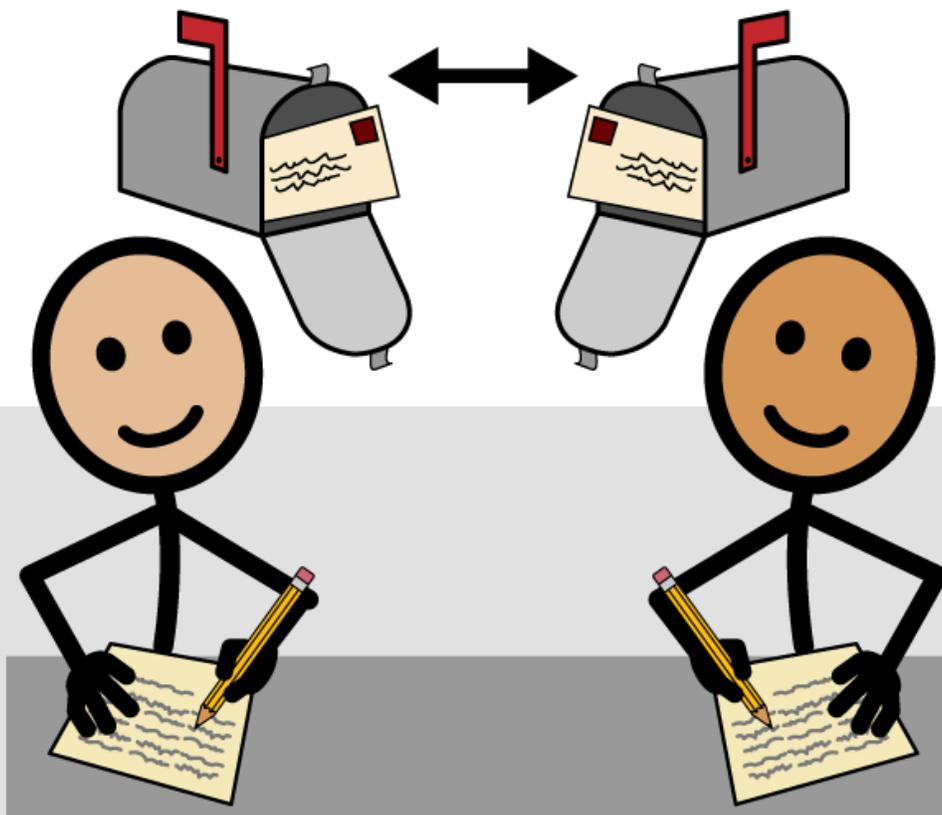


Holiday Pen Pals





Unit Overview

Holiday Pen Pals

This unit explores holidays, traditions and geography in different countries around the world. Through stories and hands-on activities, student will develop an appreciation for diversity in traditions. They will also learn about different places and features on a map.

Lesson	Activities	Description	Page
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2	Read and Comprehend	Leveled Book Comprehension	51
3	Easy Read Book	<i>Holiday Pen Pals Around the World</i>	70
4	Read and Comprehend	Easy Read Comprehension	99
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6	High-Frequency Spelling List 1	Spelling and Word Study List 1	135
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10	Word Rime Spelling List 4	Activities for '-ot' Rime	212
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14	Patterned Book	<i>Favorite Tradition</i>	288
15	Literary Experience - Fiction	<i>Same, Same but Different</i>	296
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17	Writing Time	Dear Pen Pal	317
18	Vocabulary Sort	Comparing Holidays and Traditions	329
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20	Graphing	Holiday Activities Around the World	422
21	Measure It!	Holiday Items	433
22	Money	Pen Pal Holiday Cards	470
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24	Geometry/Spatial Sense	Pen Pal Holiday Fair	496
25	Algebra/Patterns	Winter Clothing Drive	560
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Instructional Target

Social Studies Standards for History

- Share information about heritage and traditions in the country, state or community.

Social Studies Standards for Geography

- Use simple maps and symbols to locate a specific place.



Differentiated Tasks

Level 3 Students will...

- Share information about a tradition of the family, community or country (birthdays, festival, 4th of July, etc.)
- Use pictures and symbols on a simple map to locate places and locations.

Level 2 Students will...

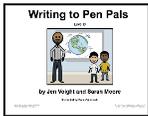
- Share something families like to do (tradition).
- Distinguish different features found on a physical map. (land, water, farmland, urban area, forest, ocean, etc.)

Level 1 Students will...

- Share an important personal event. (e.g., tradition)
- Distinguish basic physical features of land or water.

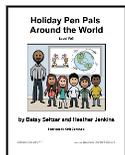


Standards Connection



Writing to Pen Pals

In the Leveled book, students are introduced to the concept of pen pals. Students follow Mr. H's class as they think about what to write about in their pen pal letters and what they can learn from their pen pals. After reading the Leveled Book, encourage students to think about information they might include in a pen pal letter, such as where they live, activities they like to do and holidays and traditions their family celebrates. Then, complete Lessons 2, 3 and 17, to help students think about and write their own pen pal letters.



Holiday Pen Pals Around the World

In this unit's Easy Read Book, students read letters from Mr. H's class and their pen pals from different countries. Students are introduced to the geography of each country, as well as different holidays and traditions. After reading the book, have students discuss how the holidays and traditions are similar and different. In Lesson 26, students engage in a tradition mentioned in the Easy Read Book by making Reindeer Cookies. Additionally, in Lesson 24, point out objects representing different holidays and traditions from around the world as students work through geometry scenarios. Encourage students to compare their holidays and traditions to those mentioned in the unit.



Finding Your Place

Students can write to pen pals that live all over the world. In Lesson 27, students learn how to use symbols to locate various places and land and water 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 and water features on the maps with locations and land and water 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 build and extend understanding of the unit concepts:

- ***Australia Christmas*** (Level D) explains traditions for Christmas in Australia.
- ***Ava and Andy's Map*** (Level E) follows Ava and Andy as they use a map to identify features of the land and reach a location.
- ***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.

