

## Video Pen Pals

Grades: 3-4

<b>OVERVIEW</b>	This activity will allow the students to work on their writing skills by writing to students from different regions around the U.S. They will discuss the differences between their lives even though they both live in the same country. Then they will be able to have a video chat with that student using Tokbox. They both can bring things that are important to them and showcase the customs to their lives. Then the student will give a presentation about the norms of their pen pal.
<b>OBJECTIVES</b>	Students will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Improve on their writing skills</li><li>• Learn about the differences that exist in the U.S. today</li><li>• Learn about how to use video chat and their benefits</li><li>• Improve their presentations skills</li></ul>
<b>MATERIALS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Address of different schools across the U.S.</li><li>• Paper and pencils</li><li>• Envelopes</li><li>• Computers with internet and cameras</li><li>• Objects brought in from home to showcase their life</li></ul>
<b>PROCEDURES</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. I will tell the students that they will receive a pen pal to communicate with so they can work on their writing skills.</li><li>2. I will inform the students of who their pen pal will be, but that is all the information I will give because I want them to find out for themselves.</li><li>3. The students will begin writing to their pen pals.</li><li>4. The students will respond to their pen pals letters. All of the writing will be done in class.</li><li>5. The students will learn about video chat and Tokbox, but I will be the only one that will have an account because most of my students do not have an e-mail account.</li></ol>

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	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>6. Students will bring in objects that display the way that they live to show to their pen pals when they video chat.</li><li>7. The student will be able to video chat with their pen pal for 15 minutes to see what they look like and objects that are important to their lives.</li><li>8. The students will give a brief presentation of what they learned about the differences of people within the U.S.</li></ol>
<b>EVALUATIONS</b>	<p>Writing to pen pal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 5 points: wrote often with correct grammar</li><li>• 3 points; wrote often, but some grammar was incorrect</li><li>• 1 point: didn't write the required amount of letters and used incorrect grammar</li></ul> <p>Using Tokbox:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 3 points: brought in things to show the pen pal and engaged in conversation with the other student</li><li>• 2 points: only brought in a few things and didn't talk a lot to the other student</li><li>• 1 point: didn't bring in any objects and didn't have anything to share to their pen pal</li></ul> <p>Presentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 3 points: gave a thorough explanation of what they learned from their pen pal</li><li>• 2 points: mentions most of the key points the pen pal talked about</li><li>• 1 point: said very little about their pen pal</li></ul>
<b>STANDARDS</b>	