



GLOBAL NEIGHBORS

(Time varies)

OBJECTIVE

Students contact other students around the globe to learn about different democracies.

MATERIALS

Appropriate letter writing materials: paper, pens/pencils, envelopes, etc.

GET READY

- ✓ Arrange for your students to learn about various global democracies by coordinating exchanges between them and students from different countries.
- ✓ Write to World Wise Schools
1990 K Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20526
for information on pen pal exchanges.
- ✓ Look for pen pal opportunities on the Internet. One site worth visiting is www.stonesoup.com/main2/penpal.html.

INSTRUCTIONS

- ✓ Assign each student to someone roughly their age in a different country. Explain to your students that they will use their letters to participate in a dialogue on democracy.
- ✓ Give your students sample questions they can ask in their letters, such as: How is your country different than America? How are elections run in your country? Who has the right to vote in your country?

- ✓ Designate a time for students to share what they learned from their friends overseas.
- ✓ Over a specified period of time, have your students put together profiles on the countries where their pen pals are from. Have your students include information they got directly from their pen pal friends. These profiles should both explain how the countries in question are similar to and different than America.
- ✓ Examine the country profiles as a class.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- ★ *What similarities are there between our government and your pen pal's government? How are the governments different?*
- ★ *What did you especially like about the other country you researched? Are there any things you did not like?*
- ★ *What did you learn when we examined all the country profiles? Were there certain things unique to America?*