

**PEN PALS**

(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 pen pals to exchange information about democracies in other parts of the world.
- ✓ Write to:
World Wise Schools
1990 K Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20526
- ✓ Look for pen pal opportunities on the Internet. A good Web site to visit is:
<http://www.stonesoup.com/main2/penpal.html>

INSTRUCTIONS

- ✓ Assign each student a pen pal.
- ✓ Give them model questions they could ask their pen pals, such as: *How is your country different from America? Do you know people who vote? What is the name and title of the leader of your country?*

- ✓ Over a specified period of time, have your students put together profiles on the countries where their pen pals are living. Have them include information they got directly from their pen pals.
- ✓ Designate a time for students to share what they learned from their friends overseas.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- ★ *How are democracies the same in other countries? How are they different?*
- ★ *What did you especially like about the other countries you researched?*
- ★ *Are there any things you did not like?*
- ★ *Are there things you would change about the United States?*
- ★ *How could we make changes if we wanted to?*