

Community Pen Pals

Learn about communities and cultures all over the world by sending yourself through the mail!

Age Appropriateness:

5-8, 9-12

Key Topics:

Social Studies

Geography

Skills:

Writing

Materials:

**Paper, Crayons,
Laminating Machine
(optional), Envelope,
Postage**

Action Time:

60 minutes

Resources:

www.flatstanley.com

Flat Stanley by **Jeff
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OBJECTIVES

- Children will learn about the characteristics of their own community
- Children will create a scrapbook that reflects the characteristics of communities around the world



Discussion

Talk to the children about what the word “community” means. Ask about the characteristics of their community. Do you live in an urban, suburban, or rural community? What are the most common jobs in your community? What do most people like to do for fun? Brainstorm a list of questions that can be asked to learn about someone else’s community.

Action

- For this activity, children will travel through the mail to visit other communities! First, start by having each child draw a picture of themselves on a 4”x8” piece of paper.
- Next, children will write a letter that asks the recipient to take photos of their drawing in notable or historic places in their community. The children should first explain what they learned about their community, then ask the questions that they want to know about other communities. The letter should close with a request to send the photos and answers to the questions back to the child, but forward their drawing and original letter to someone else. Make sure to set a date for the original letter and photo to be sent back to the child.
- Soon, children should start receiving letters and photos from all over the country! When letters are received, show children where their drawing has been by mapping out their journey!

Reflection

After the children receive their original letters back, have them create a scrapbook about where they’ve been during the project. Put together photos, postcards, and letters to show the variety of communities that exist in our world. Celebrate by sharing scrapbooks!