# LESSON PLAN: Cross-cultural Exploration

Name of units to which lesson is linked**: Community Resources**

| **LANGUAGE LEVEL** | **LANGUAGE SKILL** |
|---|---|
| Low Intermediate ESL | Listening |
| High Intermediate ESL | Speaking |
| | Reading |
| | Writing |

## OVERVIEW OF INSTRUCTION

Using Project CONNECT teacher listserv, contact a Project CONNECT teacher in another city or state to see if he/she is open to a cross-cultural task that would pair your students and his/her students as e-pals. If you both agree, assigning one of his/her students to one of yours (there are many different ways you can do this, including conducting a survey prior to this activity, to determine your students' likes and dislikes, and then trying to pair them up according to similarities or differences. You and your partner teacher should work together for this preparatory phase. Then, send the task, instructions and directions via email to the students so they could initiate the exchange.

## MATERIALS
Computer, dictionary (on-line or hard copy)

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES
By the end of this lesson, students will:

- identify a state on a map of the U.S. via an Internet search

- describe holidays in the U.S. and in their country, and

- use e-mail.

## TIME REQUIRED TO CONDUCT LESSON
1-3 hours

## PROCEDURE

- Students will open their e-mail. They will find an e-mail from the teacher stating the tasks and instructions for this lesson.

- Students may print the email if they want to.

- Students do an Internet search for maps, U.S., and then a state of their choice. When everyone has found the state of X on a map, there is a whole group discussion about the location of that state, i.e., Where is it located in the U.S.? What states does it border?Have you heard of this state before? What do you know about this state? How far do you think the state where you live is from X? What part of the U.S. is your state in?

- Students then write an email describing their favorite holiday, including the date, dress, food, customs, rituals, history, etc. They also explain why this is their favorite holiday. At the end of the email, students ask their e-pal what their favorite holiday is and what it is like.

- Students print the e-mail to maintain a copy in their folder, and send the e-mail to their epal.

**EVALUATION**

As a group, determine if the Internet search was successful by checking each person's computer to make sure they were able to find a U.S. map on the Internet. A group discussion of the search is done while a map from the Internet is projected onto a large screen for all to see. Writing will be checked by asking the students to print out the email they are sending to their e-pal. The cross-cultural interchange will be evaluated by the response from the e-pal (Did the e-pals understand each other? What kinds of questions did they ask each other?) This is done through e-mail exchanges.

**PRACTICE SHEET**

Name: _____ Date: _____

### Meeting a New E-pal

Send via e-mail to students the following task and instructions:

1. Today, you are going to do a cross-cultural exploration. You have been assigned an e-pal. Look in the list below for your name. *(Names are listed at the end of the instructions.)* Next to your name is the name and e-mail address of your e-pal.

2. Your e-pal lives in the state of X, in the United States. Do an Internet search for maps of the United States. When you find a map, locate the state of X.

3. What part of the United States is X in? What states border X? What part of the United States is your state in? How far do you think X is from the state where you live? *(Whole class discussion.)*

4. Write an e-mail message to your e-pal. In your message tell your e-pal what your name is and what country you are from. Tell your e-pal what your favorite holiday is in your country. Explain why it is your favorite holiday. Describe why this holiday is special to your country, how people dress on this holiday, what traditions are observed, and what special food is served.

5. End your message by asking your e-pal to tell you about their favorite holiday.

6. Send your e-mail.

7. Be sure to print a copy of the e-mail and give it to your teacher.