

## Teacher Instructions

### TOPIC

International E-Mail Exchange

### LEVEL

Middle School and High School

### OBJECTIVES

- Exchange information with students from other countries.
- Conduct interviews via e-mail.
- Learn about the e-mail exchange student's country, collect the answers in a spreadsheet and then search for patterns. Write up a report of the findings.

### TEACHING STRATEGIES

- Discuss ground rules for student interaction with the collaborating teacher before beginning the project. The rules should clearly define privacy boundaries, such as:
  - Delineating specifically the type of information that students should collect.
  - Instructing students to use first names only and to not give out personal information such as addresses, full names, etc.
- Share the Interview sheet with the collaborating teacher, or add more questions depending on your area of study.
- Have students respond either one-to-one or in small groups.
- Have students create a chart in a spreadsheet comparing answers and finding patterns in the answers they collect.
- Have students convert measurements, such as distance, to American units if necessary. Provide the collaborating teacher with the appropriate conversion formulas.
- Have students write up a report about the other country, share it with their peers, and request feedback to incorporate into the final report.

## **Student Interview Questions**

Use the questions below to exchange information with students in another country via e-mail. Record his or her answers as accurately as possible. Ask for clarification if you don't understand something.

Remember, like you, your e-mail exchange students are individuals. The region and /or city that they live in may differ from other parts of the country, just as a student living in a large city might lead a very different life from someone living in a rural area. Hence, the answers your e-mail exchange students give you shouldn't lead you to make generalizations or stereotypes about their culture or country.

### **Environment**

- Describe the weather in fall/winter/spring/summer.
- Describe the topography in your region: mountainous, oceans, lakes, rivers, etc.

### **Economy/Infrastructure**

- What type of transportation do people in your community use? How far is school from your home and how do you get to school? If you walk, how far do you walk? (Most students overseas will give an answer in kilometers.)
- What types of jobs do people have in your region? Is there a primary industry?

### **Culture**

- Tell me about a traditional holiday celebration in your country. What is the holiday?
- What is the most popular sport in your country? Do you play it?

### **School**

- How long is your school day? School year?
- Approximately how many years do students attend school? What are your plans for your future?
- Describe how you spend your time outside of school.