



## Pen Pal Letters (Canadian Version)

**Purpose:** to allow young people to learn about other people and cultures in a personal way  
to build personal relationships/friendships between students from different countries  
to support the Ontario Literacy Writing Curriculum expectations

**Students will:**

- a) *generate, gather, and organize ideas and information to write for an intended purpose and audience*
- b) *draft and revise their writing, using a form and format appropriate for the audience*
- c) *use editing, proofreading and publishing skills to present their work effectively*

### **Startup Procedure**

a) Contact *Connecting Countries* [info@connectingcountries.net](mailto:info@connectingcountries.net) (905) 529-9799  
to schedule an information meeting with your class/school representative

b) Classroom Presentation

This is only a suggestion by our team. Adjustments may be made to suit each class situation.

### **Readiness to Write**

1. A day or so before the presentation, the classroom teacher reads to the class the book **Ryan and Jimmy and the Well in Africa That Brought Them Together** by Herb Shoveller (Kids Can Press ISBN-13 978-1-55337-967-6 ISBN-10: 1-55337-967-5). If the school is not able to order this book we are able to loan a copy. The teacher emphasizes the importance of a Pen Pal letter to the development of cultural awareness and personal relationship building.
2. A team from Connecting Countries will come to the class with a PowerPoint presentation called "Differently Similar"... introducing Kenya, their schools and students. During the presentation, students look for ways the Kenyan schools are similar/different to their own, i.e. equipment, storage of belongings, learning materials.
3. A Venn Diagram or T-Chart may be used to organize/record their observations.

c) Pairing of Classes:

Adopt-a-School will pair your class to a class in Kenya of the same grade.

d) Suggested Mailing Schedule: (10-14 days delivery time)

Canada to Kenya	October/November
Kenya to Canada	January/ early February
Canada to Kenya	March/early April
Kenya to Canada	May/mid-June

*Our vision is there will be two letters sent from both countries within the school year.*

