

Watershed Pen Pal

by Debbie Grigsby

Objective:

To research and locate a pen pal who also lives in the watershed. Contact that student, classroom, or school as a writing assignment and share your experiences and your new or increased knowledge of aquatic issues and concerns.

Materials:

- Paper, envelopes, and stamps or e-mail capability.
- Regional map covering your watershed.

Examining a map of the watershed, locate the names of towns or counties in an area of your choice. Refer to your library, telephone books, or other reference material to locate specific names and addresses of schools in that area. Contact the principal or science teacher in writing or by e-mail and indicate your interest in communicating with their students. Ask them to respond (enclosing a self addressed, stamped envelope is a good idea) with specific names of teachers or students who might be interested in corresponding.

Write a letter to or e-mail the individual describing yourself, where you live, and where you go to school. Explain early in your letter your purpose in writing: to share information about the watershed, how you are both connected to it, why you think it may be special, and things you can do every day that may help improve water quality in your watershed. Ask about particular environmental concerns they may have in their area. Ask them to write back.

