

# Pen Pals for Birds



Teacher-led Classroom Activity  
Social Studies/Writing/Science

*What do kids in other countries know about migratory birds?*



## Objective

Students communicate with children in other countries about migratory birds that spend time in both places, as well as learning about each others' countries and cultures.

## Students Will Need:

- Internet access with email or social media applications
- Maps, books, articles (online or print) about the countries where pen pals live

## Suggested Time:

One class period for reviewing information about neotropical migratory birds and explaining the process of establishing and maintaining pen pal relationships. Additional class time or homework time for writing to pen pal, plus class time for sharing communications.

## Planning Ahead

One option for arranging for pen pal friendships for your students is to contact Audubon Adventures by sending an email to [audubon\\_adventures@audubon.org](mailto:audubon_adventures@audubon.org). We will put you in touch with Audubon's international partners who have expressed interest in helping to facilitate pen pal relationships between young people in their countries and young people in the United States. Another option is to canvass the school community—colleagues, students' families, members of the PTA, a posting on the school's listserv, etc.—for possible connections. You will need to work out the logistics for how students will connect and communicate: presumably via email or various social media.

## What to Do:

1. Review with students what they've learned about migratory birds. Reinforce the concept that some birds migrate a short distance and others migrate long distances, often between one country and another.
2. Explain to students that they have the opportunity to make friends with children who live in other countries where birds that spend time locally go during their migratory journeys. Have a class discussion to identify what students would like to learn from or share with their pen pals about migratory birds as well as other topics. Make a list as students suggest ideas or questions. Encourage them to broaden their interests beyond birds to other wildlife, plants, local habitats, weather/climate, and to aspects of life and culture such as games/sports, family life, traditions, music, art, and so on.
3. Set aside class time for students to share their correspondence with their pen pals and to discuss what they are learning. Look for ways to build on this opportunity to enrich students' knowledge about other places and encourage exploration and curiosity.