

Lesson Plan 03

Writing to a friend

Age group: All Years

Aims:

- a) Supporting English in the curriculum.
- b) Learning to understand a different country and way of life.
- c) Learning the meaning of friendship and global citizenship.
- d) Learning research, presentation and communication skills.
- e) Use of I.T.

Resources: *Each child* Print off the following sheets, which if printed on both sides of an A4 sheet, folds into an **A5 leaflet**.

General Notes for Tutor Groups (originally some suggestions provided for Aylesford School after an Assembly to one of their year groups, to support their global citizenship programme), which may be useful as suggestions for group work.

Teacher Guidelines:

Although individual children can write to friends in Bo, either named or unnamed, it is often more profitable for a group or a class to pool their resources and work together in sending out a package.

Also, audio tapes and videos are also possibilities.

Encourage the children to keep writing regularly (e.g. once every term, or more frequently) without necessarily waiting for a reply.

Some more things you need to know

Remember

You live in one of the richest countries in the world and they will think you are very rich – even if you don't think you are! They may live in one of the poorest countries in the world, but they may not see themselves as poor, because everyone around them is the same. And you may discover that they are richer than you are in ways other than having material possessions!

You also need to know:..

... that after the civil war, the postal system was disrupted, but at the time of writing this (2006) we have good reason to believe that it has returned to normal. If you post a letter in a letter-box in this country to Bo, it may not get there, especially if it has any 'things' in it! The best way is to send an **Aerogram**, which is also the cheapest; you can buy them at the post office.

If you do want to send a **packet** with something in it, ask at the post office for it to be sent at 'SMALL PACKET' rate. To make sure that it gets there, we recommend that you put your addressed packet in another envelope and send it to

Mr. David Ngombu
Secretary, One World Link
Matru Road
Bo
Sierra Leone
West Africa

and he will make sure it is delivered safely to its destination in Bo Town. Also, It would help them to reply if you send the paper and envelope for them to write back to you with your packet.

Replies take a long time to come back, so please be patient

Note that **email** is not yet widely available in Bo, but hopefully it will be in the near future – perhaps later in 2006 or 2007, although there are internet cafes, but they are expensive.

If you want to check the current situation before you write, contact One World Link at owl@31cv311tp.freeserve.co.uk



One World Link

Registered Charity No. 700714

Some ideas for writing to a friend in Bo



Some ideas for writing to a friend in Bo

You don't have to write a lot – just one page is a good start. It is better to write a little and often. And don't wait for a reply – keep on writing!

For the very first time ...

- ▶ Include a photo of yourself
- ▶ Say who you are – your name, boy or girl and what you look like
- ▶ About your family – brothers, sisters, cousins
- ▶ Your school – which year, tutor group and so on
- ▶ Your favourite subject(s) & teacher(s)
- ▶ About your friends
- ▶ Your interests – hobbies – sports- games, outside of school
- ▶ Remember – don't brag about the things you have got – computer – own TV – mobile – they haven't got them!
- ▶ And do ask them questions – what do you want to know about them?



Other letters afterwards ...

What can you write about later? Here are some suggestions, but you might only be able to write about one of these in each letter. Remember, these are only ideas to help you get started – you will have better ones yourself.

- ▶ Always, answer any questions they ask and ask them questions about the things you want to know about.
- ▶ Tell them about a typical day in your life, from when you get up in the morning until you go to bed – perhaps you could write it like a diary, hour by hour.
- ▶ Tell them about the place where you live – your house – your road – your town (picture postcards?) – where it is in England (map?) – what the countryside is like (pictures, drawings?)
- ▶ Tell them about what it is like to live here – shops – traffic – buses and trains – what jobs your Mum/Dad have and where they work – the seasons, length of day/night, weather and temperature.
- ▶ What is happening in your country – the news – newspaper cuttings – what you and your friends are interested in that is going on – what makes you angry – anything that seems silly or fantastic.
- ▶ Make an audio tape recording (or even a video!) with your friends. Take photographs for them. Make a scrap book of cuttings from magazines. Send them a magazine or newspaper that you like or you think they would be interested in.



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NOTES FOR TUTOR GROUPS

Following the Assembly, it is suggested that a group of students in each tutor group might be interested enough to make some sort link with students in Bo, Sierra Leone. They might like to –

- Tell them about ourselves and our own way of life
- Ask them about the way they live and what they do
- Think about what resources they would need in order to respond

About ourselves

It is suggested that the students can get together a pack of materials that they would send to Bo students [This cannot be posted in the normal way because postal services have not yet fully resumed after the civil war, but One World Link can get them there]. Such a pack could include:

- Pictures of themselves, their families, their homes, school, etc.
- Postcards and information leaflets about Warwick and its surrounding area.
- Audio tapes with spoken messages, music, etc
- A video?
- Examples of the work they do at school and other things that happen in school
- Descriptions of activities they are involved in out of school
- Cuttings out of Newspapers and magazines
- Personal letters
- ANYTHING THEY CAN THINK OF FOR THEMSELVES

About themselves

It is suggested that the students ask the students over there questions about themselves, such as:

- What is the country, town, weather, etc. like?
- How do they get to and from school
- What is the vegetation, agriculture, industries and transport?
- What side of the road do they use? What are the roads like?
- What do they eat and how do they cook it?
- What are the shops like? Do they have supermarkets or outdoor markets?
- What money do they use? How much is it worth? What are the prices of things? How much do people earn?
- What do they do at school and what are their classes like. What do they learn?
- Have they got computers? Do they use email?
- What do they do outside school-time? What sport do they play? Do they do any work?
- Do they have pets? What are the animals like in Bo?
- ANY OTHER QUESTIONS THEY CAN THINK OF

What do they need to reply?

If they just send this to them without considering this question, they may never get a reply. Why? They probably have enough prior knowledge of the economic circumstances of people living in the disadvantaged world to know that they have **very** limited resources and nothing can be taken for granted! Even getting their replies back to us will be a problem to them.

Please remember

- Anything sent out needs to be of a reasonable quality – no 'rubbish'!
- They will not get a reply very quickly – they will have to be patient!