



WHAT DO YOU WANT OR NEED FROM SANTA?

While many students may be more focused on writing a letter to Santa for all their wants, now is a good time for a letter lesson on wants versus needs.

A letter to your pen pals is an excellent way to bring the real world into your classrooms to help students discover what they really need.

Following is a Letter Lesson Plan – all ready to provoke discussion and generate questions to determine if "wants versus needs" is the same or different for their pen pals. The lesson will work well before holiday gift giving, or a reflection following.

1. LETTER LESSON TOPIC: Wants versus Needs

2. LESSON OBJECTIVES:

A. CONTENT OBJECTIVES: (1) Students will identify the three basic needs of human beings.
(2) Students will identify and distinguish between needs and wants.

B. LANGUAGE OBJECTIVES: (1) Students will articulate the three basic things that human beings need for survival. (2) Students will identify at least three things that they consider "wants".
(3) Students will define "needs" and "wants".

3. MATERIALS – Items to demonstrate needs/wants, checklist, paper for writing letters.



4. TEACHING PROCEDURES

A. Introduction: Teacher will introduce the lesson by collecting items to encourage discussion on whether item is a need or a want. Suggested items include: apple, bottled water, chips, coat, clothes, picture of an "American" suburban house, picture of a tent, money, family photos, Ipod, miscellaneous photos of cars, animals (cat/dog/cow/goat), popular toys, etc. The teacher will have a large checklist and place each item under either the needs category or the wants category. Teacher will then ask students to copy the "needs and wants" chart and then determine where the items on their holiday wish list should fit in.

B. Developmental Procedures: Discussion about needs and wants asking the following questions: "What is one thing that all humans need to survive?" "Is there a difference between what humans need and what they want?" "Do you think that the basic human needs for survival are different among cultures?" "Do you think other cultures have the same wants as we do?"

The words "need and want" will need to be defined. Identify and describe the 3 basic needs of humans by writing them on the board (food, shelter, clothing). After the discussion students re-evaluate their own holiday wish list chart.

To expand the lesson, holiday ads can be used to cut out additional pictures and words that represent "needs and wants". Students will cut out the pictures or words and glue them on a larger class chart – classifying them as either a need or a want.

C. Summary: Review by asking the following question, "What are the 3 basic human needs?" Tasking students to review their list to explain or justify their needs and wants. Have any of the "needs" changed to "wants" or vice versa?

D. Lesson Expansion: Ask students to exchange "wish" lists and classify fellow student's wishes as "wants and needs". Encourage discussion on their re-classification reasoning. Students may even decide to write a new personal wish list following the lesson.

5. LESSON EVALUATION – Students will demonstrate their comprehension of needs and wants by evaluating their lists and writing a summary letter to their pen pals regarding their conclusions. Lesson follow up includes asking their pen pals to do this same Letter Lesson Topic and reply back with their results. Send this the Letter Lesson Plan outline along with the letters to help guide your pen pal teachers overseas.

6. SUGGESTED STANDARDS – Social Studies, Language Arts

7. ESL STRATEGIES – Repetition; Participation; Question & Answer Drills; Comparison; Demonstration; Visuals; Representation; Oral Conversational Disclosure; Modeling; Hands on; Verbal Clues/Pictures; Directions; Vocabulary

LAST CALL FOR TANZANIA!

Time is running out if you want to take the trip of a lifetime to visit OEF schools and go on safari in Tanzania –but you can still join us!

Email schools@opportunityeducation.org by December 23 and you can go!

The OEF Education Experience Trip, July 2014 is open to educators, high school/college students, professionals – anyone willing to share their English skills & experience.



The trip includes spending time Monday through Friday teaching, learning and sharing in OEF schools followed by a 3 day safari to some incredible wildlife parks (see links below).

[Ngorongoro Crater](#) and [Tarangire National Park](#)

The 12 day trip is scheduled for July 10 to July 21, 2014. An estimate of total trip cost is \$3,500–\$4,500. The estimated cost includes all lodging, food and travel. The majority of this cost is airfare (about \$3,000) – and we are still negotiating group airfare rates.

We had an awesome experience in Uganda and Ghana – and we encourage you to watch the videos on our website (linked below) to learn more.

<http://www.opportunityeducation.org/videos/load/ugandashort/> and

<http://www.opportunityeducation.org/videos/load/ugandalong/>

Please email schools@opportunityeducation.org if you have any questions and forward this email or [brochure](#) to anyone you think might be interested in going.

Still deciding...take the words of Cathy Intemann, who is joining us in Tanzania for her THIRD OEF TRIP!

"Do not hesitate to come if you want to immerse yourself in another culture and if you want more than a tour. You will learn in ways you could never anticipate and you will receive more than you could ever give. And OEF and their staff will insure that you are well–cared for and that you will have an unforgettable experience. Do not miss this Opportunity for your own education."



THIS SCHOOL NEEDS PEN PALS!

St. Jude's Catholic Special School
in Fundong, Cameroon

St. Jude's, a semi-urban school, was established in 2002 and celebrated its first graduating class in 2012.

The school now educates a total of 360 students from grade 1 to 6.

Annual tuition is approximately \$47.



Despite crowded classrooms and only 9 teachers; the school has many achievements. The school as a whole scored well in district examinations and placed first in recent singing and debate competitions.

Writing letters to this school is an excellent opportunity to learn more than textbooks or even the internet can offer...just email us and we will put a Welcome Folder in the mail to you today!

Email schools@opportunityeducation.org and you can start writing today!

If you already have a pen pal, refer a friend to our [OEF Pen Pal](#) link.

If you prefer a different school, simply email us and note what grade and country you would like to write to and we can get you writing, right away!

WELCOME NEW SCHOOLS

We welcome the following schools to our free, international pen pal program which is a fun and easy way to meet Language Arts, Social Studies and History/Civics standards [share this link to invite others to join.](#)

A special thanks to all the wonderful educators who joined our pen pal program during the National Conference for Teachers of English in Boston!

Marlborough Girls College, Blenheim, New Zealand
Lawton C Johnson Middle School, Summit, NJ
William Tecler Arts Education Magnet, Amsterdam, NY
Amsterdam High School, Amsterdam, NY
Aycok Middle School, Greensboro, NC
Burr Elementary School, Auburndale, MA
Campbell High School, Litchfield, NH
Eastern Technical High School, Essex, MD
E.C. Adams Middle School, Guilford, CT
Fairdale High School, Louisville, KY
Fields Memorial School, Bozrah, CT

FDNY High School for Fire & Life Safety, Brooklyn, NY
Foundations for the Future Charter Academy, Calgary, AB
Forest Glen Middle School, Coral Springs, FL
Franklin Elementary School, Wadsworth, OH
Galeton Area School District, Galeton, PA
Gross Schechter Day School, Pepper Pike, OH
High School of Commerce, Springfield, MA
Hillcrest High School, Simpsonville, SC
Kingfield Elementary School, Kingfield, ME
J.H. Phillips Academy, Brimingham, AL
L. Hollingworth School for Talented & Gifted, Toledo, OH
Leman Manhattan Preparatory, NY, NY
Mount Notre Dame High School, Cincinnati, OH
Manchester High School, Manchester, CT
Noble Leadership Academy, Passaic, NJ
Orchard Gardens K-9 Pilot School, Roxbury, MA
Port Clinton Middle School, Clinton, OH
Quinebaug Middle School, Danielson, CT
Riverwood International High School, Sandy Springs, GA
Robert Adams Middle School, Holliston, MD
Roosevelt Middle School, Cedar Rapids, IA
Scotlandville Magnet High School, Baton Rouge, LA
Stoughton High School, Stoughton, MA
St. Mary's High School, Westfield, MA
Susan B. Anthony Middle School, Revere, MA
Trumbull High School, Trumbull, CT
The Willows Academy, Des Plaines, IL
Norris Middle School, Omaha, NE
Garinger High School, Charlotte, NC
Waterford Kettering High School, Waterford, MI
East Kingston Elementary, East Kingston, NH



We have hundreds of schools waiting for pen pal partners – email today and start writing tomorrow!

FEATURED SCHOOL & GIFT CERTIFICATE WINNER

Congrats to Stephanie S. a great pen pal educator from Hamlin School in Hayti, South Dakota!

On behalf of your pen pals from Ghana and India, thank you for sending letters. Send me an email at schools@opportunityeducation.org to claim your prize!



Want to win next month?

Just email schools@opportunityeducation.org after you mail your letters and you are entered to win!

START WRITING – RIGHT NOW!

Start your year off right by writing your pen pals!

No lesson plan is needed, but if you need one – we have them!

Writing letters is a perfect activity to keep students productive during homeroom, study hall or downtime.

You can also integrate cross-curricular objectives into lesson plans that we have created to maximize learning through letters.



[Click Here for Letter Ideas and Resources](#)

[Click Here for Letter Lesson Plans](#)

We also have 4 options to stay up to date with our international pen pal program.

OPTION 1: To keep up with our "Friends" – we have a Facebook page just for you!

Visit our Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/OpportunityEducation>

OPTION 2: Unable to get on Facebook? No worries.

Visit our Pen Pal Blog. <http://opportunityeducation.wordpress.com/>

OPTION 3: Pinterest. <http://www.pinterest.com/opportunityed/>

OPTION 4: Twitter. <https://twitter.com/OpEdFoundation>

Check out our social media for interesting ideas, stories, and links to help generate enthusiasm and discussion about education plus lesson plans to integrate pen pal letters into your standard requirements.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Write Your Pen Pals!

Even if it's been a while, now is still the best time to write. The name, address and mailing instructions are available on our website start by [clicking here](#).

You can also email: Schools@OpportunityEducation.org

Get Others to Write!

We have 421 schools very eager to have English speaking pen pals. Share the following link – and make sure you CC schools@opportunityeducation.org – to get a gift certificate. [Click Here to Refer A Friend and Get a Gift Certificate!](#)

Visit an Opportunity Education School!

Take a life-changing trip to teach, share and learn in an Opportunity Education school in Africa or India. [Click Here to Learn More.](#)





From everyone at Opportunity Education Foundation –
we wish you peace, health and happiness
for the holiday season and new year.

We thank you for being an essential building block
in a foundation for peace and understanding
through our international pen pal program.

TERESA ROLL
OUTREACH & SISTER SCHOOL COORDINATOR
OPPORTUNITY EDUCATION FOUNDATION
www.OpportunityEducation.org
schools@opportunityeducation.org
402-614-5381

STAY CONNECTED



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