



"Educating Children Around the World"

**July 2014**

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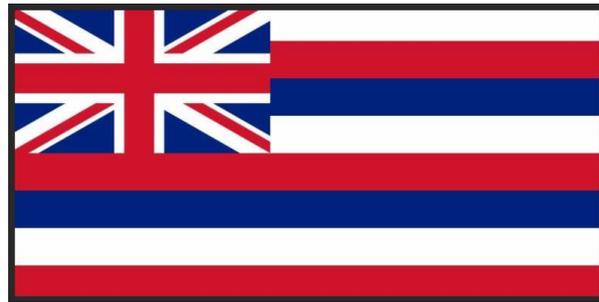
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## WHOSE FLAG IS IT?

Whose flag is that?

Which US state flag has a British Union Jack on it? Probably wouldn't have guessed Hawaii. Hawaii was independent when King Kamehameha received both British and American flags as gifts during the war of 1812. He decided to show his neutrality by incorporating aspects from both flags. When Hawaii became the last state to join the USA in 1959, Hawaiians decided to keep it.



In between the fireworks and parades take a little time for vexillology which is the "scientific study of the history, symbolism and usage of flags or, by extension, any interest in flags in general". This is an interesting and creative letter lesson plan to introduce your new students next term to their pen pal country, or a fun summer school activity. Start by learning a bit about your own flag.

The current US flag is the 27<sup>th</sup> and longest lasting version to date.

With the addition of Hawaii, design ideas for the new field of 50 stars were submitted to President Eisenhower by the thousands, including one from Robert G. Heft, a 17-year-old student who created the star design for a class project. He was one of three to submit the version that was accepted and remains in use today. Despite this, he only got a B- on his project!



What OEF pen pal country has the only national flag that is not four-sided?  
Nepal! Their flag is the only non-quadrilateral national flag. It is shaped like two pennants hooked together. The red is the color of the country's state flower, the rhododendron. The blue border is for peace. The emblems used to have faces until 1962. The flag's shape is described in detail in the Nepalese constitution.



The history of a national flag is a great way to introduce a country and culture to your students. Discover the multiple meanings behind the colors of the Indian flag. Ask students what the black star on the Ghanaian flag represents... and how it relates to their world cup soccer team. Have students come up with unique ways to create pictures of both countries' flags and sum up the meaning in a letter to their pen pals!

## CONGRATS TO BRENDA LARSEN!

CONGRATS TO Brenda Larsen an outstanding OEF sister school teacher from RM Marris Magnet Center in Omaha, Nebraska.

Ms. Larsen was awarded the 2014 Alice Buffet Outstanding Teacher Award!



### OEF Sister School Teacher Wins!

We 100% agree with the following from one of the many who recommended her for the award by saying, "Brenda Larsen is a teacher of action. She has consistently proven herself a model of what other teachers should aspire to be."

She was also featured in an OEF video that highlighted her school's creative and generous efforts to help their pen pals in Uganda.

<http://www.opportunityeducation.org/videos/water-tank/>

We are so proud to have Brenda Larsen as a pen pal teacher and congratulate her on the well-deserved recognition for her achievements!

## G'DAY AND WELCOME AUSTRALIA!

We are thrilled to welcome Donnybrook High School, in Donnybrook, Western Australia!



While northern hemisphere schools are enjoying a summer break, our southern hemisphere friends are going into winter and are still in school.

OEF would love to have more international schools – if you have educator friends anywhere in the English speaking world – forward them to us and we will connect their school to one of our outstanding schools in Africa or Asia.

## THESE SCHOOLS NEED PEN PALS!

Want to have pen pal letters waiting for you when yo

OEF will be visiting Tanzania in July and could collect from Michael Pre & Primary School in Arusha. This is located in a tourist area close to Mount Kilimanjaro a

Your students will love to learn about life in Tanzania; misconceptions about living in Africa.

Or perhaps you are thinking India?

Darshan Vidyalaya (Vidyalaya means school in Hindi) is a private school located in Trivandrum, Kerala, India. The state of Kerala has been a major source of spice exports from as early as 3000 BCE and is well-known for its pepper. The school was founded in 1992 it has grown to accommodate 350 students from pre-school to grade 4.

While schools in the USA may be on break, OEF schools are still busy writing letters. Email me today and you can have letters for your students to respond to when classes resume this fall.

Writing letters 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](mailto: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!

## FEATURED SCHOOL & GIFT CERTIFICATE WINNER

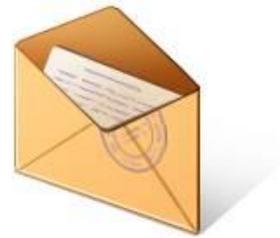
Congrats to Kathy Shook from Corpus Christi School,  
Wheeling, West Virginia.

On behalf of your pen pals from St. John Bosco Katende Primary School, Mpigi, Uganda –  
thank you for sending letters!

Kathy, send an email to: [schools@opportunityeducation.org](mailto:schools@opportunityeducation.org)  
to claim your prize!

Want to win next month?

Just email [schools@opportunityeducation.org](mailto:schools@opportunityeducation.org) after you mail  
your letters and you are entered to win!



## START WRITING – RIGHT NOW!

Now is the perfect time to write your pen pals!

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

Writing letters is a great 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](mailto:Schools@OpportunityEducation.org)

### Get Others to Write!

We have 355 schools very eager to have English speaking pen pals.  
Share the following link – and make sure you CC [schools@opportunityeducation.org](mailto: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.](#)

## NEED HELP FINDING SCHOOL SUPPLIES?

Playtime/Schovertime Inc. has a long history of helping teachers equip their classrooms and locate hard-to-find or discontinued items.

OEF depends on owner Terry Jenson to help us fill orders for wide variety of supplies we send to our schools overseas.

Recently we had immediate need for a special order of magnetic boards, (pictured) which are hugely popular and beneficial to OEF students.

Terry was able to get them for us quickly and at a great price.

If you are looking for educational products for children from birth to middle school age, their friendly staff of former/current teachers can help you find what you need.



# PLAYTIME / SCHOVERTIME

<http://www.playtimeschoolsupply.com/>

[info@playtimeschoolsupply.com](mailto:info@playtimeschoolsupply.com)

1-800-288-3224 | 5310 N 99th Street, Omaha NE 68134



**Picture of the Month:**  
**Painting is just another way of keeping a diary.**  
~ Pablo Picasso

This beautiful note card was created from a painting by Lisa Harris, an art teacher at Swampscott Middle School in Swampscott, MA. She made the painting to welcome Sheila Galo, the sister school principal from Siyabulela Primary in South Africa, who recently visited Swampscott.

Everyone agreed the message and beauty of the painting should be shared – so this note card was made and is now being sold to raise money for their pen pals!

For more information please contact:  
**TERESA ROLL**  
**OUTREACH & SISTER SCHOOL COORDINATOR**  
**OPPORTUNITY EDUCATION FOUNDATION**  
[www.OpportunityEducation.org](http://www.OpportunityEducation.org)  
[schools@opportunityeducation.org](mailto:schools@opportunityeducation.org)  
402-614-5381

*STAY CONNECTED*

