

# Character and Life Skills: **Caring**

## Lesson Title: **Cross-Country Caring**

### Grade Level: **3-5**



#### Project and Purpose

Students write a friendly letter using proper format to demonstrate caring and identify the letter destination on a map.

#### Essential Question

Through letter writing, how can we show we care?

## Materials

- Pens, pencils, crayons, markers
- Paper, construction paper, card stock, poster board
- Letter or email and picture of a friend or relative
- Smart board, white board, or chart paper
- Large map of the world
- Sticky notes
- In a remote environment, meeting software will need to have “breakout room” or similar function enabled to allow pairs of students to have discussions. Also, handouts may need to be emailed to students ahead of time or shared in meeting software chat function

## Procedure

**Note:** Before beginning this lesson, find a letter or email that you received from a long-distance friend or relative. If you don’t have one, write a letter to someone to use as a reference. Facilitator may wish to use an email rather than a letter for this activity.

### Introduction

1. Create a class definition of the word “caring” (**Merriam-Webster:** *feeling interest or concern*).
2. Ask students: what are some ways we show we care for others?

### Direct Instruction (I do)

1. Read the letter that you have brought to class. This might be a letter that you have received or a letter that you are planning to send.
2. Show students a picture of the person and describe your relationship.
3. Discuss how sending this letter is a sign of caring.

## Guided Exploration (We do)

1. Discuss the ways in which people who live in different places remain friends. Ask students to provide examples and record their responses on the board or chart paper
2. Ask each student to choose a person who he or she cares about who lives far away. To demonstrate caring, each student will write a friendly letter to this person, e.g., grandparent, cousin, aunt, uncle, friend, sibling, etc.
3. Explain or review the elements of a friendly letter:
  - Date
  - Greeting or salutation
  - Body
  - Closing
  - Signature
4. Ask students to think about the types of things they could write about to show caring. Make a list on the board of their ideas. Some examples might include: favorite activities or sports, events at home, friends at school, reasons why the student misses the person, etc.

## Independent Practice (You do)

1. Allow time for students to write and edit their letters. Encourage students to include pictures, stickers or other special items that the recipient will appreciate.
2. Remind students to include a sentence in the body of the letter asking the recipients to write back and to send a picture, if possible.
3. As students finish, display the map of the world on the board or refer to it if you have one in the room.
4. Allow students to take a sticky note and place it on the map that represents where their letter will be sent.
5. Discuss with students how we can show our caring nature all around the world just by sending letters.  
**Note:** After students have chosen their recipient, send a note home to each student's parents requesting a stamped envelope addressed to the recipient of the letter. Have each student write your school's return address in the proper place on his or her envelope.

## Conclusion

If students want to, have a few share their letters aloud. Discuss with students how they showed caring today.

## Vocabulary

**caring (adj.)**

**Definition:** being kind and loving; being concerned about someone because a person likes or loves him or her

**Context:** T.J. shows his caring nature by taking the neighborhood kids to the park to spend the day together.

## correspond (v.)

**Definition:** to send and receive letters

**Context:** After the family reunion in Florida, Shameka began to correspond with her distant cousins.

## Teacher Notes

[illegible]