

The Great American Mail Race

The Great American Mail Race is a project in which students from around the country use the computer to find the address of a faraway school and then write to them, sharing information about their personal interests, and their school and community. The class who receives this letter is encouraged to respond to it, and then find a new school to write to. The Great American Mail Race is like an educational version of a chain letter.

Who: You and any other 8th grader in the 50 states!

What: The Great American Mail Race is a letter-writing challenge that connects students from all around the United States.

Where: You will select a school in a state of your choice.

Why: The goal of The Great American Mail Race is to share information and stories about yourself, your school, and your community with others.

Directions: Write a friendly letter to an 8th-grade student at the school of your choice. Your letter will be five paragraphs in length, following the format below. The purpose of this letter is to share information about yourself and where you live, as well as encourage the reader to write back to you.

Paragraph 1: Explain The Great American Mail Race and why you are writing. What is the goal of this project?

Paragraph 2: Tell about yourself. Feel free to include hobbies, likes/dislikes, or interesting and unusual facts. Do not share personal details like phone/email/Myspace information.

Paragraph 3: Tell about your school and community. You can include information about where you live and interesting locations in our area. You should also share information about our school, such as size, values, student fashions, etc.

Paragraph 4: Ask your reader a few questions about themselves. These should be relevant, thoughtful questions about themselves, their school, and where they live.

Paragraph 5: Conclude your letter by thanking the reader for participating in The Great American Mail Race. Encourage the reader to reply to your letter.

Adapted from The Great American Mail Race Student Directions by John Mikulski, posted at <http://www.classroominthecloud.net/2010/03/great-american-mail-race.html>.