



Sharing with Your Sister Community

What could your students share about their Miss Columbia experience with students in a faraway school? Just as important: what could they learn?

Objective: Students learn firsthand about a foreign culture by connecting with a distant school participating in the *Around the World with Miss Columbia* project.

Background

One of the main objectives of the *Around the World with Miss Columbia* project is to introduce students to the idea that they are part of a much larger community than their neighborhood, town, or city. They are part of the global village — a world that, thanks to technology, keeps getting progressively smaller. Students will pick up some of these lessons in looking over earlier entries in Miss Columbia's journal and passport. But this activity offers a chance for schools, educators, and students alike to become linked with their peers in distant lands around a theme of mutual interest.



Materials

As required by the joint activities you set up with your sister school.

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SISTER COMMUNITY**Procedures**

1. The first step is to be matched with another school in a distant community. Interested educators should call Jacquie Serafino at the Wenham Museum in Wenham, Massachusetts, at 978-468-2377 (email: info@wenhammuseum.org). Jacquie will do her best to match you up with a school making a commitment to the *Around the World with Miss Columbia* project on a similar scale.
2. Once you receive your contact name at the sister school, it will be up to you to contact that person directly. Most participating schools will be delighted to hear from you and to make plans to share ideas and their Miss Columbia experiences. If you run into a school that for whatever reason seems unreceptive to becoming an active “sister” with yours, let Jacquie know and she’ll try to arrange a different match.
3. Some ideas for collaborations between sister schools:
 - ◆ Run briefly through the activities listed in the contents of this Guide and discover which ones both schools are actively pursuing. Where possible, make up “care packages” of some of the resulting written work or art projects and exchange them with the sister school.
 - ◆ Make up a special scrapbook filled with photos and descriptions of the Miss Columbia activities your school pursued. Exchange the book with the sister school. (You might make up two books, so that you can keep one copy for your own school!)
 - ◆ If you can manage it despite different time zones, set up a live, real-time event that both schools can celebrate simultaneously, using phone, email, or any other technology available to both schools.
 - ◆ If a “school-to-school” collaboration seems unlikely from your end, consider trying to match up a single classroom with another in a distant community, either by consulting the website (www.wenhammuseum.org) or by checking with Jacquie Serafino at (978) 468-2377. If your collaboration goes well, don’t let it die with the end of your participation in *Around the World with Miss Columbia!* Students can profit in many ways from pen-pal relationships.