

Sister Cities

Carrie and Danielle are third graders in Bloomington, Indiana. They are learning about their community in school. They are excited to learn that their town has sister cities around the world.

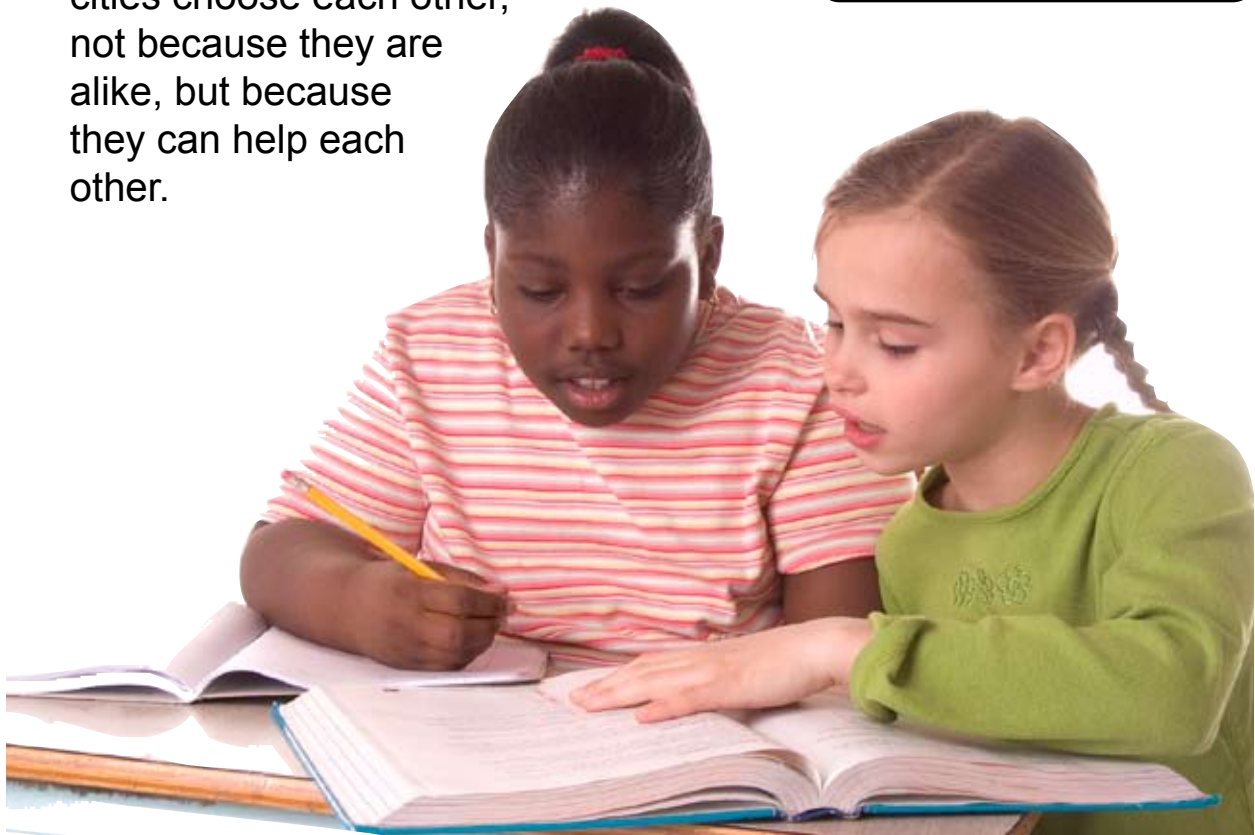
Sister cities are cities in different parts of the world that share a special connection. They might both be famous for their schools. They might both be farm communities. Sometimes sister cities choose each other, not because they are alike, but because they can help each other.

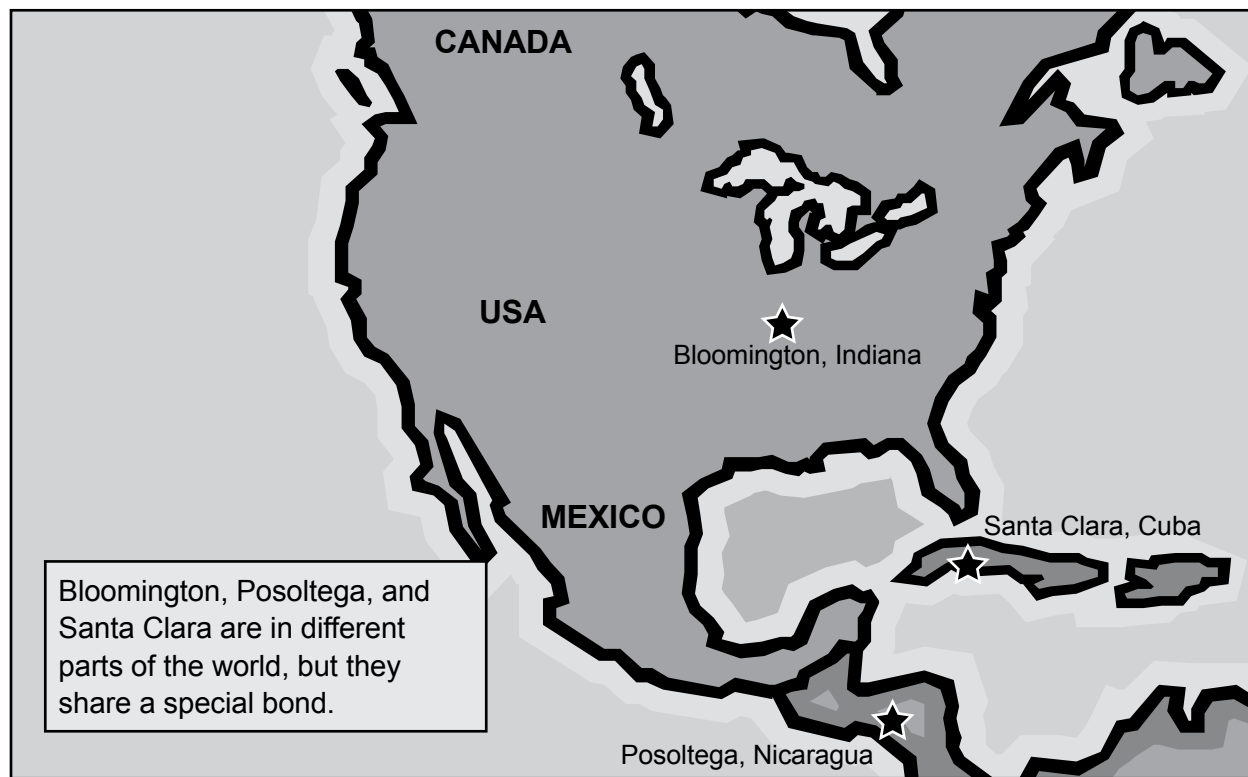
MAIN IDEA

Bloomington has a special connection with its sister cities.

VOCABULARY

- Posoltega
- Santa Clara
- sister cities



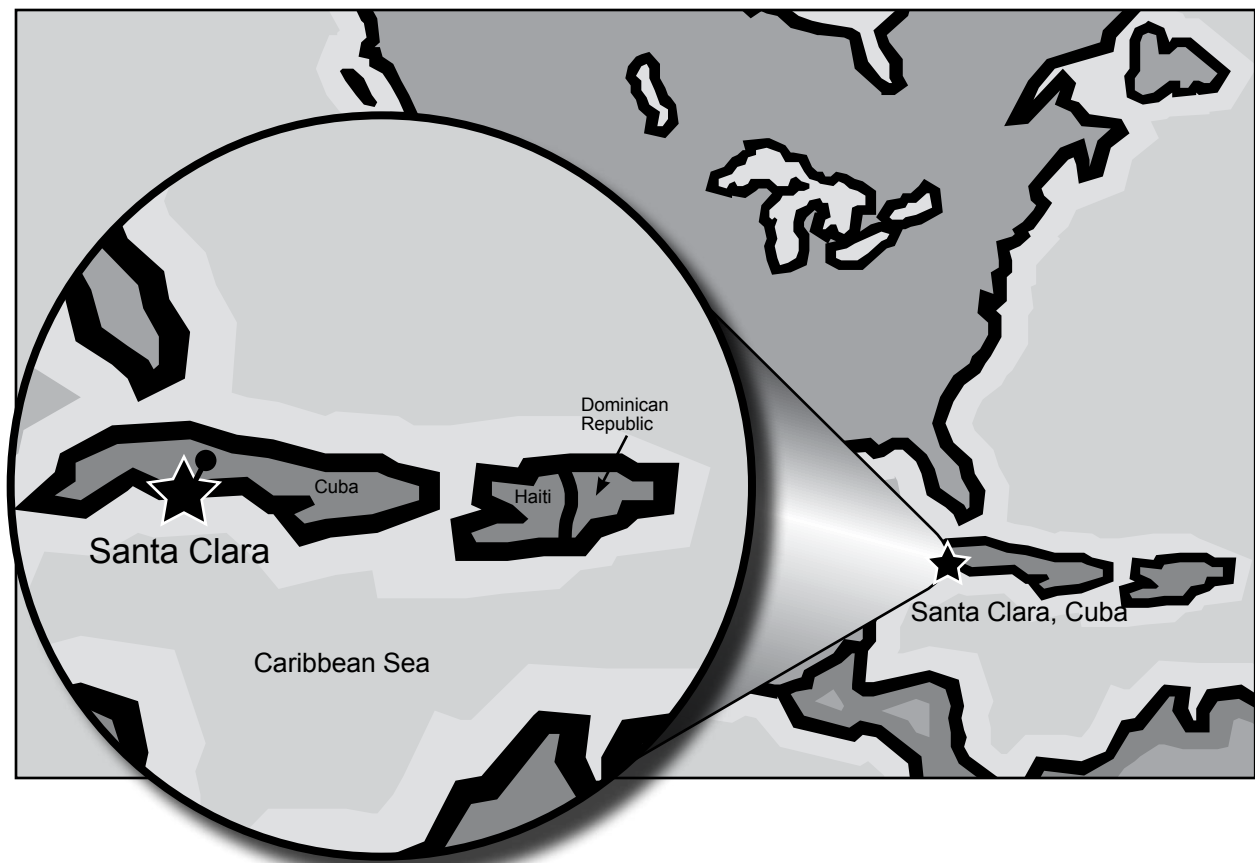


Posoltega

One of Bloomington's sister cities is the town of **Posoltega** (POS-ul-TAY-gah), Nicaragua. Nicaragua is a small country in Central America. About 5,000 people live in Posoltega. That is much smaller than Bloomington's population of about 69,000 people. Many people in Posoltega are very poor.

After Posoltega became Bloomington's sister city in 1988, people from Bloomington began sending food and medicine to the people of Posoltega. In 1998, much of Posoltega was destroyed by Hurricane Mitch. People in Bloomington raised money to help the people of their sister city.

People in Bloomington have also gained a lot from their special friendship with Posoltega. Citizens of Bloomington have the chance to learn about life in Nicaragua through the sister cities program.



Santa Clara

Posoltega is not Bloomington's only sister city. **Santa Clara**, Cuba also shares a special friendship with Bloomington. Cuba is an island in the Caribbean. Bloomington and Santa Clara became sister cities in 1999. These two cities have a lot in common. Bloomington is home to Indiana University. Santa Clara is home to the Central University of Las Villas. Both cities are also full of beautiful parks.

The governments of Cuba and the United States disagree about many things. But the people of Santa Clara and Bloomington are working to understand each other. They hope to overcome these differences and learn about the culture of their sister city.

Does your town have a sister city? What would you like to ask the kids who live there? What would you like to tell them about your community?

1. Which of these is a heading in the lesson?

- Sister Cities
- Santa Clara
- Social Studies
- Standards Addressed

2. Which of these is *least* important to understanding the lesson?

- the Main Idea Box
- the Vocabulary Box
- the sister cities map
- the photo of the girls

3. What is the lesson's main idea?

- Carrie and Danielle are learning about sister cities.
- Carrie and Danielle are third graders in Bloomington, Indiana.
- Bloomington has a special connection with its sister cities.
- Bloomington and Posoltega have been sister cities since 1988.

4. What is the main idea of the section "Posoltega?"

- Nicaragua is a small country.
- Posoltega is smaller than Bloomington.
- Being sister cities has helped Posoltega and Bloomington.
- Hurricane Mitch destroyed much of Posoltega in 1998.

5. Why did the people of Bloomington *first* send food to Posoltega?

- Many people in Posoltega are poor.
- Much of Posoltega was destroyed by Hurricane Mitch.
- The population of Posoltega is too small to grow enough food.
- The farmers in Bloomington needed a place to send their extra crops.

6. What is one problem faced by the people of Santa Clara and Bloomington?

- They have dirty parks and universities.
- They don't have enough medicine.
- Their governments do not agree.
- Their towns are too small.

7. Which of these do you think is *most* likely to happen in the future?

- Carrie's family will move to Santa Clara.
- Posoltega will adopt Santa Clara as a sister city.
- People in Bloomington will learn more about life in Cuba.
- Posoltega will send medicine and supplies to Bloomington.

8. Based on what you know, which of the following would you be *most* likely to find in Posoltega?

- crowds of people
- beautiful parks
- tall buildings
- small homes

9. Which of these helps you understand the definition of *Posoltega*?

- Posoltega* is pronounced POS-ul-TAY-gah.
- Looking up Posoltega in the table of contents.
- Noticing that *Posoltega* has ten letters.
- Reading "Posoltega is in Nicaragua."

10. How would you break the word *government* into word parts to understand it better?

- go-ver-ment
- govern-ment
- gover-nme-nt
- gov-ern-ment