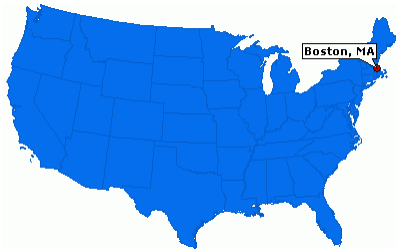


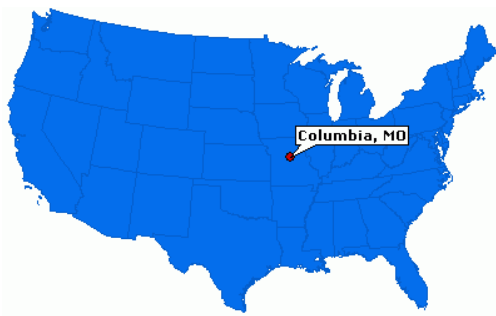
Lucy,

My name is Sarah I get the honor of being your pen pal for the rest of the year! I live in a small town just outside of Boston Massachusetts. Boston is where the Boston Tea Party happened (you will learn about this in history) and it is where Paul Revere rode on his horse through the night yelling 'The British are coming!'.



I work at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) as a scientist. I study cancer cells, where I am looking for a very specific modification (change) to any protein in the cancer cells. We do this by using a molecule that binds to the modified proteins, and then we can fish the protein-molecule out of the cells and study it. I make the molecule that binds to the proteins....this is called Organic Synthesis (it's a fancy way of saying that I make molecules).

I went to graduate school at The University of Missouri; it is right in the middle of the state of Missouri.

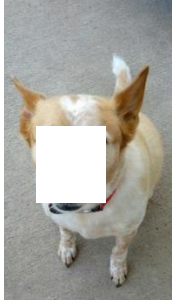


If I drove 2 hours east, I could see the St. Louis Arch.



Did you know that you can go up inside the arch to the very top? This is the sign that is at the very center of the very top of the arch. I am afraid of heights, but I have been inside the top of the arch 5 times, just because it is so cool!

I am married, I met my husband (his name is Roman) when I was in graduate school in Missouri. Roman is from Germany, and we fly to Germany a lot to see his family. I am from Texas, so we have to fly to visit my family too. We have 3 dogs; their names are Raider, Hannah, and Mocha.



And we have an almost 1 year old son, his name is Manfred.



I went to Texas Tech University for my Bachelors...its way out in west Texas. It looks like this:



It is a really big campus, so I had to walk far to get to all of my classes. But I really liked college, I had to work really hard in all of classes, but it was worth it.

I heard that you just finished learning about our Solar System in class, how exciting! When I was young, I really thought it was neat to learn about the other planets and how different their environments are. When I was in elementary school, we didn't know about the Kuiper Belt yet and Pluto was still classified

as a planet, so it very interesting for me to hear about what you are learning. This is probably the best part about science; new things are always being discovered, so there is always something new to learn!

What is your favorite thing about 5th grade so far? I hear that you like to study the ocean, do you want to do that when you grow up? I have a friend that works at the aquarium in Chicago and she sends me fun photos almost every day from her work, I will try to save one for you for our next letter ☺

I am so excited to be your pen pal and I cannot wait to get your letter. When you write you letter, feel free to ask me any questions that you want to.

I hope you have a great rest of March...and a great St. Patrick's Day.

Sincerely,

Sarah