

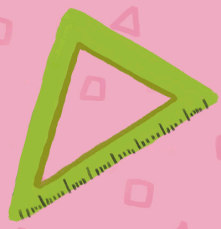
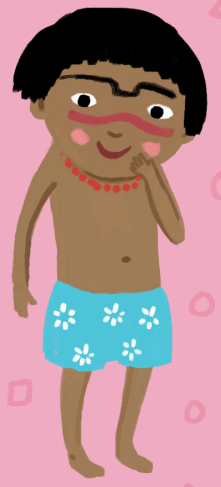


HELENA HARAŠTOVÁ • ŠTĚPÁNKA SEKANINOVÁ • MICHAELA BERGMANNOVÁ

Where Kids Go to School Around the World



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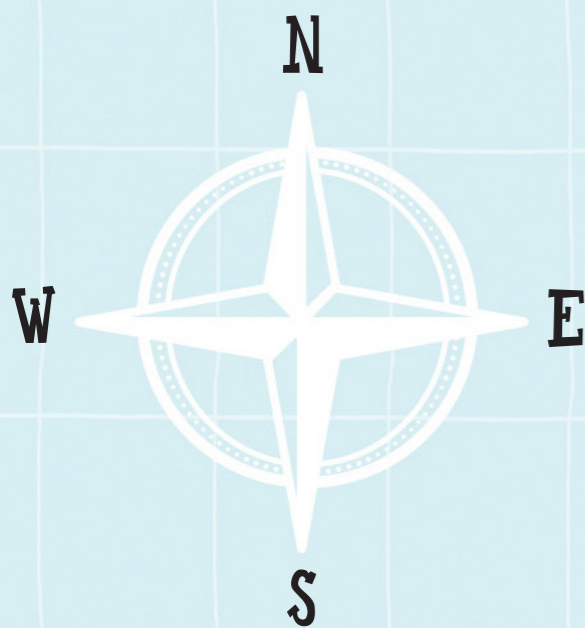
ALBATROS

# Where Kids Go to School Around the World



ALBATROS







# Yay! We're off to school!

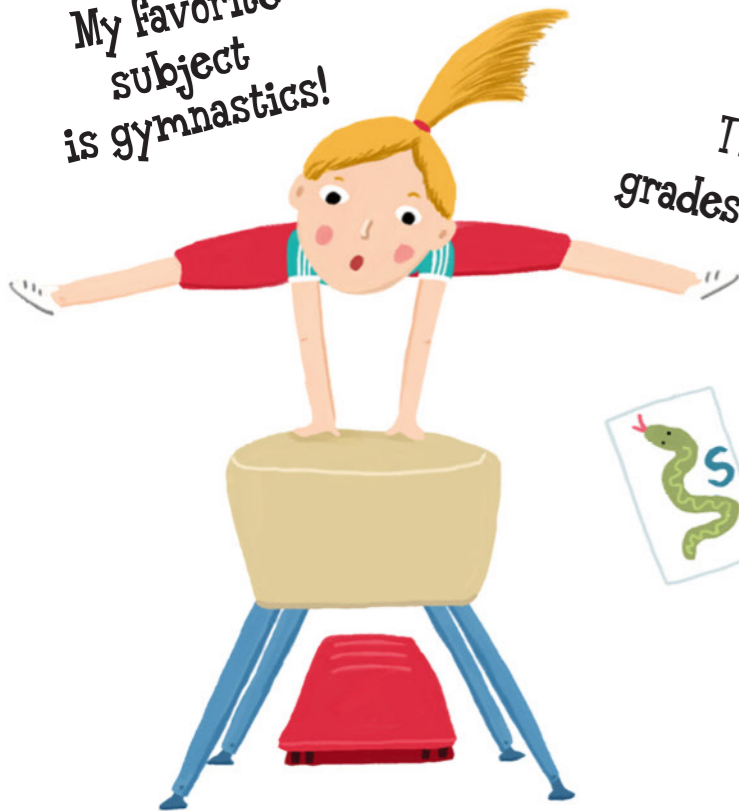
Maybe you already go to school. Or maybe you haven't started quite yet. Imagine all the places where children like you grab their books and make their way to school every day! Whether it's a big city, a tiny village, a desert, a rainforest, or somewhere down by the sea or up in the mountains, there's a school there. Children are the same everywhere, but are schools the same? Far from it! What pupils learn in class and how they acquire new knowledge depends on the country they live in and its culture. The differences are huge!



# Do all children go to school?

It used to be the norm that children from poorer families didn't go to school. Instead, they began working at a very young age to help support the family. It was common for boys to be educated in reading, writing, and math, but not girls. In some countries, this is sadly still the case. But everyone on Earth has the right to an education! Today, international organizations work to ensure that all children—regardless of gender, age, ethnicity, nationality, or faith—can go to school. And year after year, more and more kids are going to school. Even so, every twelfth child in the world is still unable to go to school.

My favorite subject is gymnastics!



They don't give us grades at Montessori school!



My school is high in the mountains.



# Does age matter?

The age at which children start school is not the same in every country. In England and Argentina, for instance, schooling is compulsory from age 4, while Finnish and Indonesian children don't start school until they are 7. But have no fear: good teachers are prepared to teach pupils large and small.

I have lots of friends at school!



My parents are proud of me!



# School on a boat in Bangladesh

HI! MY NAME'S **ANIKA**, AND I COME FROM **BANGLADESH**. AS OUR VILLAGE IS IN A REGION CUT OFF FROM THE REST OF THE WORLD BY THE MONSOON FOR MUCH OF THE YEAR, I CAN'T GO TO SCHOOL. SO GUESS WHAT? A FLOATING SCHOOL COMES TO ME! THANKS TO SCHOOLS ON BOATS, MY FRIENDS AND I GET AN EDUCATION ALL YEAR ROUND.

## 1 A boat that is both old and new

Our school is made out of a traditional local kind of boat called a nauka. It is 50 feet long and 10 feet wide, and its roof—reinforced with metal beams—can withstand the heaviest rain. We are perfectly safe in our floating school.

## 2 Energy from the sun

Our boat takes its electricity from solar panels on its roof. This allows us to work with computers and an internet connection. How lucky we are: ours are the only computers in the village!

## 3 Learning at any time of day

So that we can revise our schoolwork in the evenings at home, each of us has a small solar-powered lamp—a brilliant invention. I love to read when my younger brothers and sisters are asleep, and our home is quiet.



## 10 Life affected by floods

In the past, the children of our village were unable to go to school during the floods—because the water stopped them from reaching the city, where the school was located. Sadly, due to the global climate emergency, the monsoon where we live is an ever-greater problem that causes devastating flooding.

## 9 The boat as a school bus

Every morning, our floating school picks up children at a number of coastal stops. It takes us all home again in the afternoon.

## 8 Sustainability and thrift

As we see for ourselves how the mishandling of nature affects human life, in class we spend a lot of time learning about environmental protection. My parents come to the school to attend courses on the safe fertilization of crops.



## 7 Schoolbooks for everyone

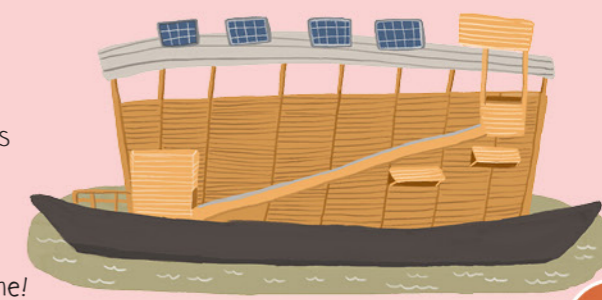
We get our textbooks, exercise books, and stationery for free. All parents support us in our education, believing that thanks to school we will not grow up to be poor.

## 6 Our ABCs are important, and so are other things

Thanks to our great teacher, we can already read and write in Bengali. We spend some time each day doing math, and we also learn practical skills, such as purifying contaminated water.

## 5 Let's go to the play boat!

Lying at anchor next to our boat is another boat with a slide, swings, and climbing frames. Imagine that! We adore this waterborne playground, especially at break time!



HELLO,  
MY NAME'S  
**ANIKA**



# School in Japan

HI! MY NAME'S **HITOMU**, AND I LIVE IN **JAPAN**, WHERE WE HOLD EDUCATION IN HIGH REGARD. JAPANESE SCHOOLS ARE KNOWN FOR BEING VERY DEMANDING AND FOR EMPHASIZING DOING WELL IN EXAMS. I SPEND A LOT OF TIME DOING HOMEWORK, EVEN ON HOLIDAYS, AND I HAVE DONE SO SINCE I WAS SMALL. BUT AS YOU'LL SEE, IT'S NOT ALL STRESS AT SCHOOL—WE HAVE LOTS OF FUN TOO!

## 1 A respectful start to the day

We start the school day by standing to sing the school song together. After this, we bow to our teacher in a respectful greeting. When the day is over, we bow to the teacher again before we leave school.

## 2 Groups for all kinds of hobbies

After class, I don't go straight home, because I spend time in hobby groups organized by our school. In addition to all kinds of sports, we can choose from activities including *kendo* (traditional Japanese swordsmanship), *shodo* (calligraphy), *sado* (the Japanese tea ceremony), *ikebana* (flower-arranging), and *haiku* (short Japanese poems).



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## 3 A uniform for a sense of togetherness

At our school, we wear a uniform. Some of my classmates don't like the uniform much, but no one complains. For us, togetherness and the greater good of the group are very important.

## 10 It's up to us to keep things neat and tidy

We Japanese schoolchildren clean up after ourselves. We mop the floor, wipe down the desks, and clean the blackboard; we even wash the windows. This teaches us to respect our surroundings and not make unnecessary messes.

## 9 Earthquakes!

As earthquakes are common in Japan, at school we often do drills to prepare for such a disaster. In an earthquake, we crawl under the desk immediately, put on a special head-protecting cap, and hold onto the desk.



## 8 School starts at springtime

Our school year is divided into three terms. It begins in April, when the trees are in bloom. We welcome new pupils at a traditional ceremony, and we have another ceremony to mark the end of the school year.

## 7 Meshiagare!

This is our way of saying "Bon appétit." As the meal is served in the classroom, no one goes home for lunch. Children dressed in an apron and headscarf serve everyone with the same healthy food. No one would dream of having a hamburger and fries instead!



## 6 Randoseru

Before I started in the first grade, my parents bought me a *randoseru*, the traditional leather backpack in which we Japanese schoolchildren carry the books and stationery we use each day.

## 5 Three types of writing

To read and write in Japanese, we must learn three types of writing. *Higana* and *katakana* are syllabaries (sets of symbols representing syllables), while *kanji* is logographic (meaning it has characters for individual words).

## 4 Uwabaki

In Japan, we remove our shoes indoors. To make sure we don't bring mud into the classroom, as soon as we get to school, we change into special cloth slippers called *uwabaki*. Practical, aren't they?



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HELLO,  
MY NAME'S  
**HITOMU**



# School in Finland

MY NAME'S **TAINI**. I LIVE IN **FINLAND**, BEYOND THE ARCTIC CIRCLE. IN OUR RURAL AREA, THERE IS ONLY ONE SCHOOL, AND EVERYONE IN IT KNOWS EVERYONE ELSE. ALTHOUGH WE ARE A GOOD DISTANCE AWAY FROM THE NEAREST BIG CITY, OUR LIFE HERE IS ANYTHING BUT BACKWARD. YOU MAY BE SURPRISED TO LEARN HOW MODERN OUR SCHOOL IS INSIDE.

## 1 Well-being comes first

Our school is fitted and furnished with our comfort in mind. We can spend time at our desks, on a sofa, even on a favorite exercise ball. We are always happy to change our seating plan.

## 2 Local school curricula

They even adapt the curriculum to their own needs. At our school, for instance, we sometimes talk about the Sámi people, the original inhabitants of northern Scandinavia.



## 3 A good night's sleep

Our classes don't start until 9:30 a.m., and we have only a few lessons each day. This gives us lots of time to relax and have fun. Plus, in the morning we can sleep in.

## 10 Kids should act like kids

We Finns don't start school until we are seven. Before then, we have plenty of time to enjoy childhood to the fullest. Even at school, play is understood as an excellent way to learn.

## 9 Technology in the modern world

At school, we often work with computers, tablets, and an interactive board. We learn computer programming and practice it with educational computer games. But don't be fooled. We don't spend all our time indoors. We go outside to learn from nature too.



## 8 Teachers are family friends

One teacher teaches us all subjects, all the way through sixth grade. As a result, they get to know us very well. In Finland, the teaching profession is highly regarded. Only the best students get a place at a teacher-training college. Finnish education is among the world's best, possibly because our teachers are so enthusiastic.

## 7 Long-distance school buses

In the Finnish countryside, people live quite far apart. A bus picks us up from even the most remote places—that way, we don't have to traipse through the woods or across snowy plains to get to school.



## 4 The value of teamwork

As is common in Finland, our teacher places great importance on a friendly atmosphere and teamwork. After all, each of us has different talents. If we work together, we get the best results.

## 5 No stressful tests

Many people think that because we are one of the world's best-educated nations our teachers must give us test after test. But the opposite is true! Besides, we are learning for our whole lives, not just for school.

## 6 School for all

The school does its best to make everyone's learning easier. We get our schoolbooks and our lunch for free, and school psychologists are always around to help. Children who have limited Finnish because they were born abroad can attend special language classes.

HELLO,  
MY NAME'S  
**TAINI**



# School in the Himalayas

HI! MY NAME'S **GAURAV**. WELCOME TO OUR SCHOOL, WHICH IS SITUATED ON A SLOPE AMONG THE PEAKS OF THE **HIMALAYAS**, THE HIGHEST MOUNTAIN RANGE ON EARTH. OUR REGION IS VERY DIFFICULT TO GET TO. IN FACT, THERE IS NO ROAD LEADING TO IT. LIKE OUR NEIGHBORS, MY FAMILY CAN'T AFFORD TO PAY FOR ME TO GO TO SCHOOL IN TOWN, SO I'M VERY GRATEFUL FOR OUR SCHOOL IN THE MOUNTAINS. IT'S LIKE A MAGICAL GATEWAY TO THE WORLD!

## 1 Daily hiking

My morning walk to school takes me over an hour. I have to descend to the valley, then follow narrow paths to the opposite hill. A group of us kids from the neighborhood all walk together, though, so it's fun.

## 2 Daily assemblies

The school day begins in front of the school, where we do exercises, sing the school's song, and say a prayer before one of us recites a poem. To be called on to speak in front of the others is a great honor, but can also be scary.

## 3 Teachers from all over the world

As well as teachers from the locality, the teaching staff of our school includes volunteers from abroad. They tell us in English about their culture, and they get to learn about life in the Himalayas. It's great fun, learning English in this way!

## 10 We are all equal

Have you noticed our school uniform? We wear it with pride because we are proud of our school. Our parents spent their childhoods working, but we will change the world one day!

## 9 Modest, but with love

Our school might be built of corrugated iron, and we might not have the internet, but you won't find smarter teachers or better-motivated pupils anywhere!

## 8 Rare fruit

Thanks to school, every week we get a chance to eat fruit our families can't afford, such as bananas and apples. Yum!

## 7 Reading, writing, and arithmetic

As well as studying the local language, English, and mathematics, we spend a lot of time learning about the natural world around us and environmental protection. I love the singing, dancing, and acting we do in class!



HELLO,  
MY NAME'S  
**GAURAV**

## 6 Discipline is strict

We have great respect for our teachers. We always stand up before answering their questions, sitting down again only after the teacher asks us to. And if one of the volunteers forgets to ask? Well, we stand patiently and wait.



## 5 The importance of exercise

Although our school subjects do not include PE, we like to exercise whenever we can. At break time we play table tennis and baseball, and sometimes we have races. On your marks, get set, go!

## 4 Latecomers are punished

Even though the school day doesn't begin until 10 o'clock, a pupil sometimes arrives late. Latecomers aren't allowed to join the morning assembly.







## Where Kids Go to School Around the World

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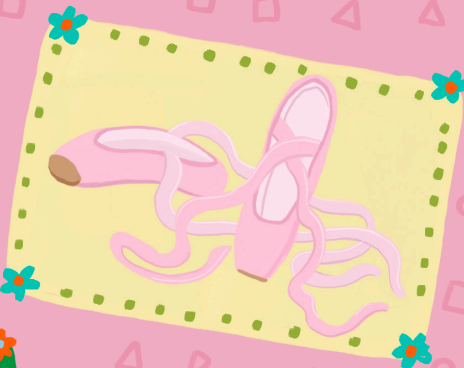
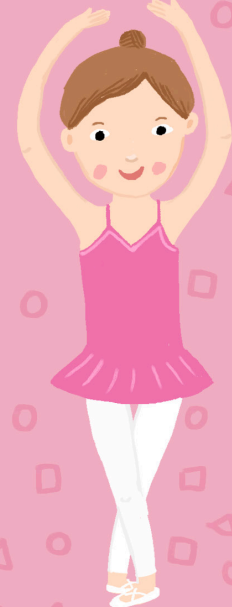




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ILLUSTRATED BY **MICHAELA BERGHANNOVÁ**

Going to school is a part of growing up. Kids everywhere attend school—even those who live in the densest rainforest. Have you ever wondered what their school is like and what is taught there? And what about the lessons of future monks? There are even special schools for ballet dancers. Just imagine! So, if you wish to know what goes on in schools in different places, this is the book for you. Come find the answers to all your burning questions—and make lots of new friends along the way!

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