

Schooling across the Globe

The following chart provides some interesting facts about the educational opportunities and restrictions of different countries around the world. This chart may be used as a resource in the context of the upcoming activities. When presenting this to youth, have them examine the chart below and compare their education system with those of other countries from around the world. Reflection questions: *What do you like better? What do you think is worse? Why do you think some countries provide so little education for their children while others provide so much?*

School year	School day	Average class size	Typical studies	Interesting facts
Australia				
January to November divided into 4 terms; summer vacation is from December to January	9am to 3:30pm	18 students	English, math, studies of the society and environment, science, arts, languages, technology, and personal development, health and physical education	School grades in Australia are called "years." Primary school is from year 1 to year 6; secondary school is from year 7 to year 12.
Brazil				
Summer vacation is in December and January	7am to noon	30 students	Math, geography, history, science, Portuguese, and physical education	Students typically go home at noon to have lunch, the most important meal of the day, with their families.
China				
Beginning of September to mid-July; summer vacation is spent in summer classes or studying for entrance exams	7:30am to 5pm, with a 2-hour lunch break	21 students	Chinese, math, physical education, art, nature, history, foreign language, and geography, combined with practical work experiences	Students study China's unity, past and present accomplishments, and its future. Math is typically taught by drill, which means students are repeatedly taught



				the basics of math until they comprehend it.
Costa Rica				
February to December; with two months of vacation from December to February, and a few weeks off in July		28 students	Core subjects: Spanish, social studies, math, and science, as well as English and computer science	Costa Rica was one of the first nations in Central and South America to offer free public education. Students begin college at age 15.
France				
August to June, divided into four seven-week terms, with one to two weeks of vacation in between	8 am to 4 pm, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, & a 1/2 day on Saturday	23 students	Basic skills in reading, writing, and math, and participate in exercises to develop observation, reasoning, imagination, and physical abilities	Students usually attend school from ages 6 to 18. Uniforms are not required, but religious dress of any kind is banned.
Iran				
10 months a year, or about 200 active days, from September to June	7:30m to 1:30pm	27 students	Religious study, hygiene, basic math, science, reading, and study skills	Boys and girls are educated separately. Mobile libraries bring books to more than 4,000 children.
Japan				
April through March, with breaks for summer, winter, and spring separating three trimesters	8:30am to 5:00pm	29 students	Japanese language, math, reading, social studies, music, art, and moral education	Moral education involves health and safety, discipline, courtesy, understanding and confidence, public manners, and environmental



				<p>awareness.</p> <p>Uniforms are required and there are extensive rules for hair styles, shoes, socks, skirt length, make-up, accessories, and more.</p>
Kenya				
Three terms, each 13 weeks long, with one-month breaks in between.	8am to 4pm	30 students	Kiswahili language, English, math, science, music, history, civics, and geography, and religious instruction	Because Kenya is experiencing severe economic and environmental hardships, some students save their lunch to share with their families.
Mexico				
September to June	Monday - Friday, with electives on Saturday	30 students	Spanish, math, art, physical education, and environmental knowledge (natural sciences, history, geography, civics, reading, writing, and oral expression)	Students are required to wear uniforms for primaria (elementary school) and secundaria (middle school).
Nigeria				
January to December, divided into three semesters with a month off in between each semester	8:00am - 2:00pm, with optional extra lessons for 2 - 3 hours	40 students	One of three main languages (Hausa, Yoruba, or Ibo), math, English, social studies, health and physical education, religious instruction, agriculture, and home economics	Students must wear uniforms, as well as obey rules for hair, jewelry, and accessory restrictions.
Russia				
Early September to late May	8:30am - 3:30pm	16 students	Russian, math, reading, natural sciences, music, art, and physical education.	<p>No uniforms are required; students are instead encouraged to dress warmly.</p> <p>Tenth grade is</p>



				the last year of mandatory education. Eleventh and 12th grades offer optional paths, either to vocational schools to learn trade skills or to continue to study for university entrance exams.
South Korea				
March to February	8:00am - 4:00pm	30 students	Korean language, math, science, physical education, social studies, moral education, music, fine and practical arts	Most students remain in the same room while their teachers rotate throughout the day. After 5 p.m. students have a short dinner at home, or eat at school, before study sessions or other activities begin in the evening.

