

GLOBAL CLASSROOM

Compare your experience of school to students around the world.



SWEDEN

Schoolchildren in Sweden celebrate Children's Day every year in October. In this picture they are protesting outside Stockholm Parliament, waving notices that say, "Peace on Earth", "No drunken grown-ups" and "Cleaner school toilets".

Population: About 9million

Language: Swedish

Education: Free and compulsory for 7-16-year-olds.



RUSSIA

Military-style cadet schools are becoming popular in Russia. There are 100 today, compared with about 30 a decade ago. This is the Cadet School Number One in Moscow (pictured). Students can learn up to 10 languages at school.

Population: 140million

Language: Russian

Education: Free and compulsory for 6-15-year-olds.



CHINA

Students hide under their desks during an earthquake drill at a primary school in Xingtai, Hebei province. One third of China is considered vulnerable to earthquakes. Few rural students advance to secondary level.

Population: About 1.3billion

Language: Mandarin (Chinese)

Education: Compulsory for 7-15-year-olds.



UNITED STATES

Every morning millions of students recite the Pledge of Allegiance: "I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

Population: 290million

Language: English

Education: Free and compulsory for 7-16-year-olds.



HAITI

Haiti has the worst literacy rate in the Americas. The government is offering free reading and writing lessons to three million children, about a third of the population. Haiti's education system is administered by the state and churches.

Population: About 8million

Language: French and Creole

Education: Compulsory for 6-12-year-olds.



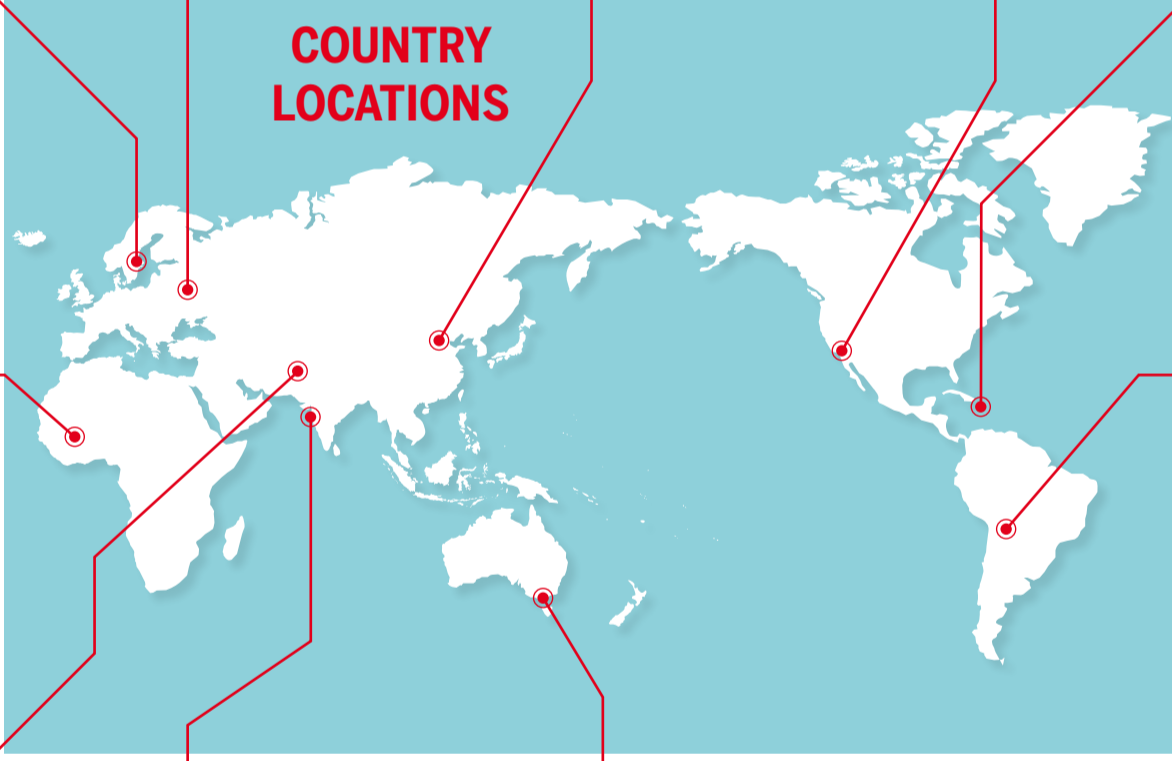
BURKINA FASO

Pupils use blackboard slates and chalk to write in a primary school in Burkina Faso, Africa, which is an extremely poor country. There is only one university and only about 26 per cent of the population can read and write.

Population: About 15million

Language: French

Education: Compulsory for 7-14-year-olds



BOLIVIA

Soccer is the most popular sport in Bolivia and offers hope to many children in one of the poorest countries in South America. Children of farmers are less likely to complete school because they have to help tend the herds or take care of siblings.

Population: About 9million

Language: Spanish

Education: Free and compulsory until the age of 14.



AFGHANISTAN

The Taliban, who ruled most of Afghanistan from 1996 until 2001, banned girls from school. The new government removed the ban, but the situation is still tough in the war-torn country. Less than 32 per cent of children complete primary school.

Population: 32million

Language: Afghan Persian

Education: In theory, compulsory for 7-13-year-olds.



INDIA

Authorities pay girls in Mumbai about 2c for every day they attend school. But boys' attendance rates are even worse. Students typically miss up to 70 days a year of school. Only about 60 per cent of the population can read and write.

Population: About 1.1billion

Language: Hindu, English

Education: Compulsory in some states. Free for 6-11-year-olds.

AUSTRALIA

Write a few sentences about what is happening in your photo, then fill in the facts.

Stick a photo of yourself or your class here.

Population: _____ **Language:** _____

Education: _____

Sources: AFP, Reuters, AP, SBS World Guide, CIA World Factbook, www.everyculture.com