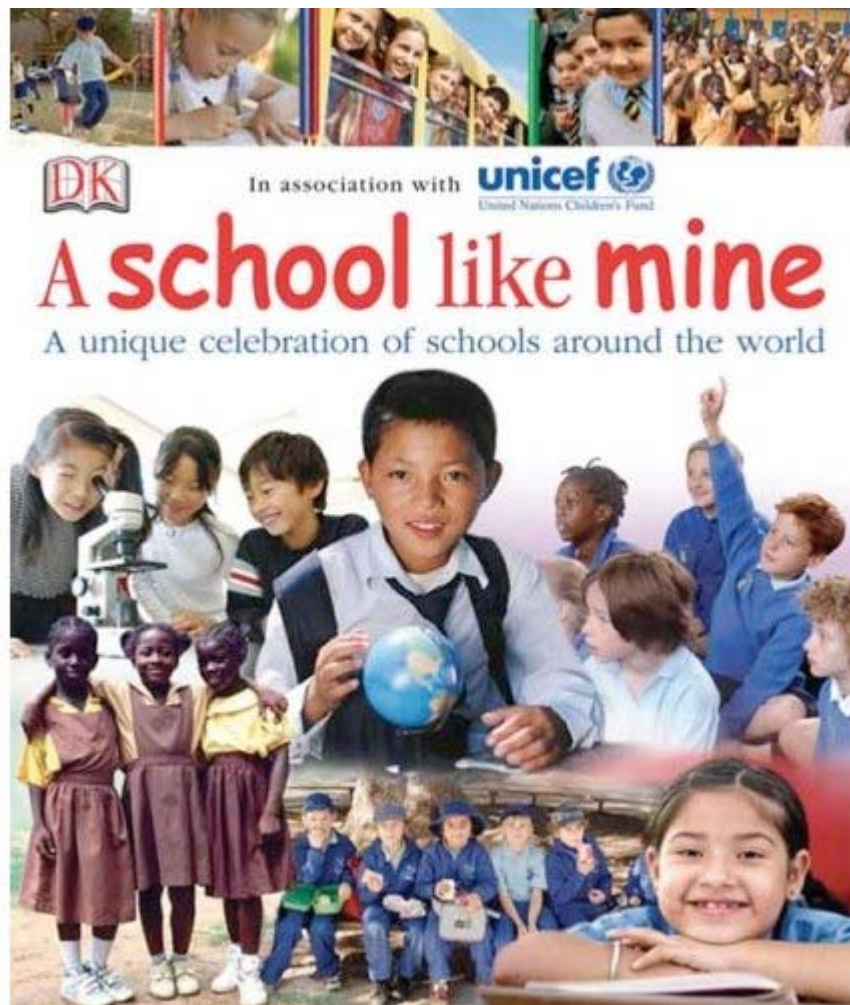


A School Like Mine
A unique celebration of schools around the world
Teacher's Guide

With this teacher's guide, you'll find ways to integrate *A School Like Mine* into your classroom, whether it's through student discussion questions, handouts to help students learn more about countries around the world, or an interactive pen pal program for your class to enjoy. With this engaging book and its accompanying activities, your students will develop a greater understanding of the world around them, as well as the unique and wonderful place they occupy in it.

And be sure to sign up for the pen pal campaign at penpals@dk.com.



A School Like Mine discussion questions

Use the following questions to stimulate classroom discussion, or encourage your students to pick one and write a response.

In Mexico, why does Maria's teacher take the students outside for nature lessons? What things do you learn outside of your classroom? Is it important to learn things outside of school? Why or why not?

Sander from the US goes to school for part of the week, and is home schooled for the rest of the week. Fundi from South Africa goes to boarding school. What do you think are the advantages of each? Would you rather go to school for the day, be schooled at home, or go to boarding school? Why?

Why does Semira from Ethiopia wear a headscarf to school? Are there certain things you're allowed to wear to school? Are there certain things you're not allowed to wear to school? Why do you think schools make rules about dress codes?

What days of the week does Anna from France go to school? Would you like a school schedule like this? Why or why not?

Alexei from the Russian Federation takes a helicopter to get to boarding school. Gapiirri from Australia doesn't have to go to school, but he chooses to do so. Would you be willing to take a helicopter to go to school, and would you go to school if you didn't have to? Why do you think Alexei and Gapiirri like going to school?

Why does Aysima from Turkey feel lucky to have thirty-four students in her class? How many students are in your class? What are the advantages of a big class? What are the advantages of a small class?

What is special about the school Yotam attends in Israel? Can you think of times in your country when there was similar fighting? What do you think it would be like to go to school in such an environment?

What does Deepak from India study in his moral science class? Do you think students should have a class like this? Why or why not?

Why does Reena from India go to school in the evening? Would you like to go to school in the evening? Why or why not?

Why does Hassa from Mongolia go to two different schools? If you could go to two different schools, what would you like to learn in your second school? Is there a special skill you'd like to study? What is it and why do you want to study it?

What do Momona and her Japanese classmates do at the end of each day before they go home? Do you have similar tasks at school? What do students learn through these tasks?

Why does Junivio from East Timor have to do his homework before the sun sets or by candlelight? Why might these conditions make it hard for Junivio to learn his school subjects? Do you think it would be hard to do your homework under such conditions?

In the book, whose school is most like yours? Why?

In the book, whose school is most different from yours? Why?

In reading about other schools, are there customs and practices that you wish you had in your school? What are they?

In reading about other schools, are there customs and practices that you're glad you have in your school? What are they?

Handout: Where in the World...?

All the countries featured in the book are in the Word Scramble below. Can you find them all? Words go forward, backward, up, down, left, right, and diagonally.

- | | | | |
|---------------|-------------|------------|-------------|
| Peru | England | Germany | Mongolia |
| Brazil | Ireland | Poland | South Korea |
| Mexico | France | Russian | Japan |
| United States | Spain | Federation | East Timor |
| Canada | Belgium | Turkey | Australia |
| South Africa | The | Jordan | New Zealand |
| Egypt | Netherlands | Israel | |
| Ethiopia | Denmark | India | |
| Botswana | Italy | China | |

X	E	G	Y	P	T	H	G	F	D	S	A	Q	W	E	T	J	Y	T	U	E	I	O	P
C	J	A	S	F	G	H	H	J	J	K	L	Q	E	Y	L	A	T	I	Q	W	E	R	T
S	O	U	T	H	K	O	R	E	A	L	K	J	H	G	F	D	S	A	P	O	U	T	B
V	J	T	B	N	K	J	E	J	H	W	A	C	N	H	G	S	Y	E	K	R	U	T	N
B	H	R	Y	H	J	S	T	X	C	V	B	N	M	Q	W	B	S	D	F	G	H	H	H
N	S	C	W	P	M	A	H	R	W	O	I	U	N	I	T	E	D	S	T	A	T	E	S
M	A	V	D	E	G	C	I	W	R	R	L	Y	L	Y	W	L	T	A	Y	V	R	N	M
Q	R	N	B	R	D	J	O	R	D	A	N	T	Y	W	E	G	N	R	G	A	U	E	F
W	E	M	O	U	A	K	P	H	Y	U	E	A	T	D	H	I	A	C	D	D	S	T	D
E	T	W	T	D	H	P	I	M	A	R	K	S	L	H	C	U	B	E	E	H	S	H	A
T	Y	E	S	I	S	R	A	E	L	I	A	H	U	C	B	M	V	N	E	F	I	E	X
C	J	R	W	C	C	A	I	I	L	N	B	R	S	Q	G	F	M	J	H	J	A	R	C
Y	A	R	A	H	P	O	L	A	N	D	T	A	K	R	E	A	B	V	C	E	N	L	V
H	F	N	N	V	S	T	M	K	E	I	E	M	Y	A	R	T	E	A	J	C	F	A	B
Z	T	H	A	A	C	J	S	E	X	A	F	Y	R	K	M	R	J	C	V	A	E	N	N
H	I	N	F	D	A	P	M	L	A	T	M	E	T	F	A	W	W	I	A	C	D	D	M
D	H	S	V	H	A	I	G	K	M	Y	I	M	B	M	N	C	A	R	E	H	E	S	N
N	H	H	X	I	R	M	E	E	B	R	M	E	A	O	Y	H	X	F	H	R	R	R	D
A	J	B	N	F	A	S	D	H	E	A	A	X	H	N	H	V	W	A	C	W	A	D	N
L	J	W	X	R	J	T	O	B	R	A	Z	I	L	G	A	U	E	H	N	H	T	F	A
G	A	U	S	T	R	A	L	I	A	A	R	C	L	O	B	J	R	T	G	B	I	G	L
N	S	U	J	W	F	E	N	V	R	V	I	O	E	L	R	K	D	U	F	V	O	H	A
E	H	T	H	T	R	V	Y	I	A	I	A	N	Y	I	M	W	E	O	T	W	N	J	E
K	T	F	G	C	A	E	A	M	M	C	H	I	N	A	E	C	H	S	W	X	M	N	Z
I	R	E	L	A	N	D	T	S	T	V	N	R	H	G	C	B	A	V	R	Y	G	M	W
U	W	J	D	V	C	N	R	I	N	A	P	A	J	B	F	H	E	B	E	Q	F	Y	E
J	Q	W	N	B	E	J	A	V	Y	A	B	A	E	A	S	T	T	I	M	O	R	U	N

Handout: It's Time to Eat!

Listed below are different meals that students from *A School Like Mine* eat during the day. Can you match the student with the meal?

Cold rice and vegetables

Chiara from Italy

Pita bread, falafel, ful medmaes

Yasmin from Brazil

Tuna and rice

Sibusiso from South Africa

Pasta and sausages

Anna from France

Rice salad, bread, chicken, beans, pineapple, and yogurt

Deepak from India

Xinpei from China

Soy milk and fortified bread

Sun-Woo from South Korea

Spaghetti and meatballs

Momona from Japan

Rice and stew

Safaa from Egypt

Paratha (flat, pan-fried bread) with jam or pickles

Maria from Peru

Rice and fish, with a fresh satsuma for dessert

Handout: International Crossword

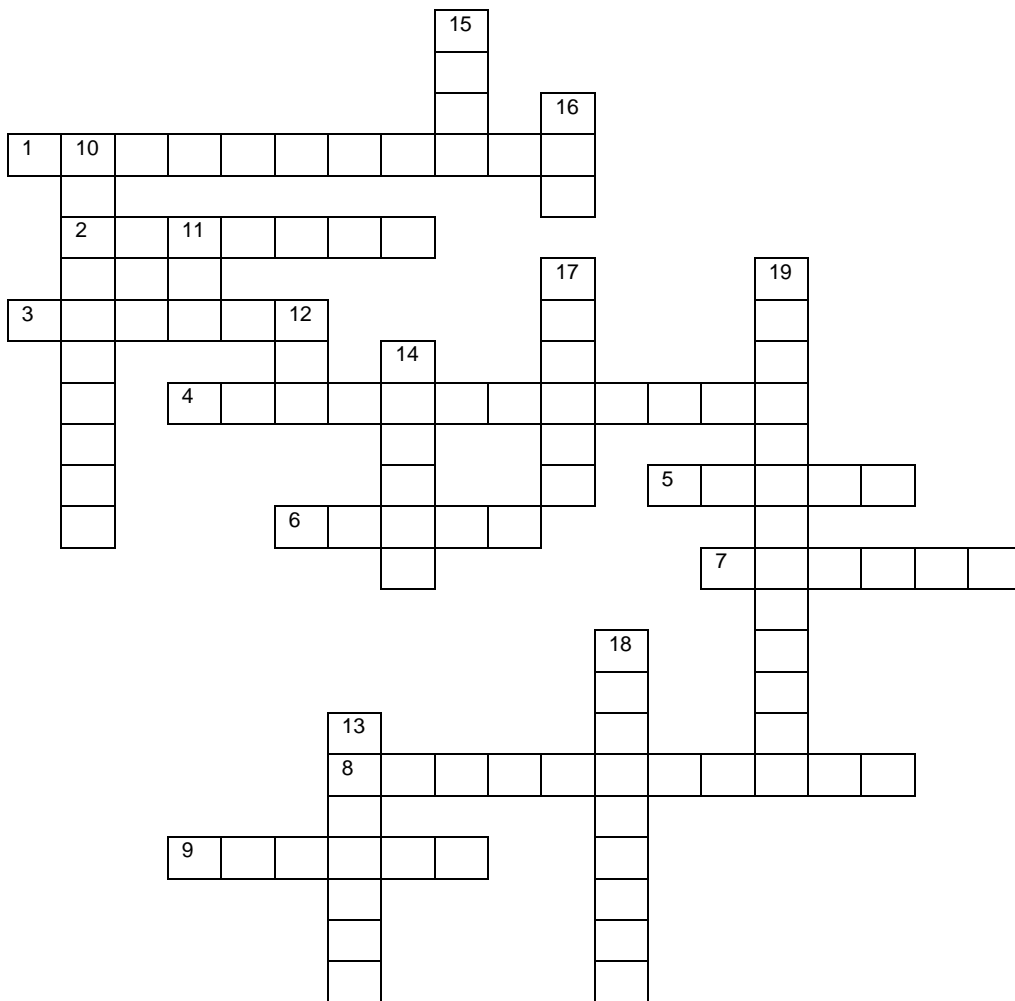
Can you fill out the crossword, using the clues listed below?

Across

1. In Xinpei's classroom in China, she and her classmates do eye exercises every day. They stimulate special places around their eyes called _____ points.
2. Aysima from Turkey buys iftar bread during the month of _____, to share with her parents after they break their fast in the evening.
3. In her classroom, Parekaawa from New Zealand learns about _____, Maori carved totems, in school.
4. Jucari from Mexico celebrates _____, a day when people ask the spirits to look after them in their everyday lives.
5. The traditional Korean drum Sun-Woo from South Korea is learning to play is called a _____.
6. In school, Junivio from East Timor speaks Portuguese and his local language, which is called _____.
7. Michael from Ireland spends half his time at school learning the traditional Irish language, which is called Irish _____.
8. Momona from Japan, and her classmates, say a prayer of thanks for their lunch food. The prayer is called _____.
9. Deepak from India speaks Hindi, English, and _____.

Down

10. Gapiirri from Australia participates in traditional dancing, which is called _____.
11. If you want to see where the students in the book live, you might look at a piece of paper called a _____.
12. Emmy, Ian, and Sander from the United States of America, might abbreviate the name of their country as US or _____.
13. In the book, Isabelle from the Netherlands painted a picture in the style of the famous artist named Pablo _____.
14. Alexei from the Russian Federation speaks Russian and the reindeer herders' language, which is called _____.
15. Jiyu from China is learning to play a traditional Chinese musical instrument called the _____.
16. Hassa from Mongolia lives in a traditional tent called a _____.
17. Semira from Ethiopia makes traditional Ethiopian bread called _____.
18. Lukasi from Canada speaks French, English, and _____.
19. Fundi from South Africa's hero is the leader _____.



Handout: “Hello!”

If you were to meet any of the students in *A School Like Mine*, would you know how to say hello? Practice saying hello in the following languages:

France/French

Bonjour (bohn-ZHOOR)

India/Hindi

Namaste (Nay-may-STAY)

South Korea/Korean

Annyong ha shimnikka (An-YOH HASHim-ni-kah)

The Russian Federation/Russian

Zdravstuvite (ZzDRAST-vet-yah)

Mexico and Spain/Spanish

Hola (OH-lah)

Turkey/Turkish

Merhaba (MER-ha-ba)

China/Chinese Mandarin

Ni hao (Nee HaOW)

Israel/Hebrew

Shalom (Sha-LOHM)

Japan/Japanese

Moshi Moshi (MO-SHE MO-SHE)

Poland/Polish

Cześć (tcheshtch)

Italy/Italian

Ciao (chow)

Handout: Name That Flag

Each of the flags shown below represent a different country featured in *A School Like Mine*. Using an encyclopedia or the Internet, can you discover the countries for each flag?



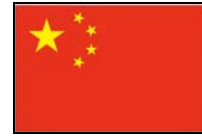
1.



2.



3.



4.



5.



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7.



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9.



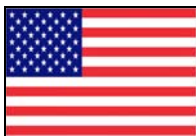
10.



11.



12.



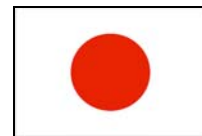
13.



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31.

Pen Pals

Your students can connect with other kids around the world! Send an email to penpals@dk.com and you'll be partnered with a class from another country to get first hand accounts about their lives at school.

Handout: Questions to Ask Your Pen Pal

- What do you want to be when you grow up?
- What do you wear to school?
- What kind of building do you live in?
- What classes do you have?
- What is your favorite subject?
- What is your least favorite subject?
- What do you call your teacher?
- What does your school look like?
- How big is your class?
- What do you like doing in your free time?
- When do you go to school?
- How do you get to school?
- How long does it take you to get to school?
- Do you have any brothers or sisters?
- What do you eat for lunch?
- Do you have any pets?
- What holidays do you celebrate?
- Do you play any sports?
- What languages do you speak?
- What is the weather like where you live?
- Do you go on field trips? Where?
- Do you have chores to do at home or school? What are they?
- Do you like going to school? Why or why not?
- What places do you want to see in the world? Why?

Tips for a Good Pen Pal Letter

Share concrete details. Good letters paint a picture through words—try to give your pen pal a good idea of what your life is like.

Use strong, descriptive writing, and rely on your five senses. Tell your pen pal how your favorite foods taste, what your house looks like, what your favorite band sounds like, and what petting your dog feels like.

Ask “why” questions. Instead of just saying, “Do you like to read?,” say, “Do you like to read? Why or why not?” By asking “why” questions, you’ll learn more about your pen pal’s world.

Look for fun things to send your pen pal. Maybe you can include a coin from your country, a copy of your newspaper, or a decorative stamp. If you share these things with your pen pal, he or she may share similar things with you!

If your class is participating in a pen pal program:

- o Feature a large world map on a bulletin board. Ask each student to use a colored tack to pinpoint where his or her pen pal lives, showing other students.
- o Ask each student to prepare a brief presentation on an aspect of his or her pen pal’s country. Possible topics include: holidays, customs, popular foods, extracurricular activities, sports, current events, and so on.
- o Encourage your student to share his or her own *A School Like Mine* page with his or her pen pal.

Extra Ideas

Assign students each one country from the book. Tell them to research the foods most commonly eaten in that country, and then report back. As a class, prepare a master list of foods eaten around the world, as well as a list of items they wish they could try. And then, throw an International Snack Hour! Assign each student an item they can easily bring (chips, salsa, pita bread, hummus, etc.), or supply foods (sushi, spaghetti, etc.) as needed. Share in the culinary delights of different countries.

Discuss with students common elements in *A School Like Mine*, e.g. most students talk about what they eat for lunch, the size of their families, what their home is like, what they want to be when they grow up, etc. Prepare a list of the most commonly featured topics in the book. Then, encourage your students to create a page of their own that could be featured in *A School Like Mine*. Have them include a picture of themselves, as well as pictures (drawn or from magazines) of what they eat, what their homes and schools look like, their families, etc.

Make a list of benefits and disadvantages of various schools featured in the book. What did students like? What are they glad their schools don't adopt? Then, ask students to write an essay on what elements would make up the perfect school. In the perfect school: What topics do students study? How are their days structured? What activities do they participate in? How big are the classes? Encourage students to approach the project with a "sky's the limit" approach, truly brainstorming about what would make for a good learning experience. When everyone is completed, ask students to share their ideas with the class.

Answer Keys

Where in the World...?

X	E	G	Y	P	T	H	G	F	D	S	A	Q	W	E	T	J	Y	T	U	E	I	O	P
C	J	A	S	F	G	H	H	J	J	K	L	Q	E	Y	L	A	T	I	Q	W	E	R	T
S	O	U	T	H	K	O	R	E	A	L	K	J	H	G	F	D	S	A	P	O	U	T	B
V	J	T	B	N	K	J	E	J	H	W	A	C	N	H	G	S	Y	E	K	R	U	T	N
B	H	R	Y	H	J	S	T	X	C	V	B	N	M	Q	W	B	S	D	F	G	H	H	H
N	S	C	W	P	M	A	H	R	W	O	I	U	N	I	T	E	D	S	T	A	T	E	S
M	A	V	D	E	G	C	I	W	R	R	L	Y	L	Y	W	L	T	A	Y	V	R	N	M
Q	R	N	B	R	D	J	O	R	D	A	N	T	Y	W	E	G	N	R	G	A	U	E	F
W	E	M	O	U	A	K	P	H	Y	U	E	A	T	D	H	I	A	C	D	D	S	T	D
E	T	W	T	D	H	P	I	M	A	R	K	S	L	H	C	U	B	E	E	H	S	H	A
T	Y	E	S	I	S	R	A	E	L	I	A	H	U	C	B	M	V	N	E	F	I	E	X
C	J	R	W	C	C	A	I	I	L	N	B	R	S	Q	G	F	M	J	H	J	A	R	C
Y	A	R	A	H	P	O	L	A	N	D	T	A	K	R	E	A	B	V	C	E	N	L	V
H	F	N	N	V	S	T	M	K	E	I	E	M	Y	A	R	T	E	A	J	C	F	A	B
Z	T	H	A	A	C	J	S	E	X	A	F	Y	R	K	M	R	J	C	V	A	E	N	N
H	I	N	F	D	A	P	M	L	A	T	M	E	T	F	A	W	W	I	A	C	D	D	M
D	H	S	V	H	A	I	G	K	M	Y	I	M	B	M	N	C	A	R	E	H	E	S	N
N	H	H	X	I	R	M	E	E	B	R	M	E	A	O	Y	H	X	F	H	R	R	R	D
A	J	B	N	F	A	S	D	H	E	A	A	X	H	N	H	V	W	A	C	W	A	D	N
L	J	W	X	R	J	T	O	B	R	A	Z	I	L	G	A	U	E	H	N	H	T	F	A
G	A	U	S	T	R	A	L	I	A	A	R	C	L	O	B	J	R	T	G	B	I	G	L
N	S	U	J	W	F	E	N	V	R	V	I	O	E	L	R	K	D	U	F	V	O	H	A
E	H	T	H	T	R	V	Y	I	A	I	A	N	Y	I	M	W	E	O	T	W	N	J	E
K	T	F	G	C	A	E	A	M	M	C	H	I	N	A	E	C	H	S	W	X	M	N	Z
I	R	E	L	A	N	D	T	S	T	V	N	R	H	G	C	B	A	V	R	Y	G	M	W
U	W	J	D	V	C	N	R	I	N	A	P	A	J	B	F	H	E	B	E	Q	F	Y	E
J	Q	W	N	B	E	J	A	V	Y	A	B	A	E	A	S	T	T	I	M	O	R	U	N

It's Time to Eat!

Cold rice and vegetables: Xinpei from China

Pita bread, falafel, ful medmaes: Safaa from Egypt

Tuna and rice: Momona from Japan

Pasta and sausages: Yasmin from Brazil

Rice salad, bread, chicken, beans, pineapple, and yogurt: Anna from France

Soy milk and fortified bread: Maria from Peru

Spaghetti and meatballs: Chiara from Italy

Rice and stew: Sibusiso from South Africa

Paratha (flat, pan-fried bread) with jam or pickles: Deepak from India

Rice and fish, with a fresh satsuma for dessert: Sun-Woo from South Korea

International Crossword

Across

1. acupressure
2. Ramadan
3. poupou
4. Dia de Muertos
5. jangu
6. Tetum
7. Gaelic
8. itadakimasu
9. Nepali

Down

10. corroboree
11. map
12. USA
13. Picasso
14. Nenets
15. erhu
16. ger
17. injera
18. Inuktitut
19. Nelson Mandela

Name That Flag

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Peru | 16. Japan |
| 2. Botswana | 17. Canada |
| 3. Italy | 18. Spain |
| 4. China | 19. Turkey |
| 5. Brazil | 20. East Timor |
| 6. England | 21. South Africa |
| 7. Germany | 22. Belgium |
| 8. Mongolia | 23. Jordan |
| 9. Mexico | 24. Australia |
| 10. Ireland | 25. Egypt |
| 11. Poland | 26. The Netherlands |
| 12. South Korea | 27. Israel |
| 13. US | 28. New Zealand |
| 14. France | 29. Ethiopia |
| 15. Russian Federation | 30. Denmark |
| | 31. India |