

A very unusual school

1 Talk about the infographic with your partner. Answer the questions.

- 1 What information does the infographic give us?
- 2 Which country has 11 years of compulsory education?
- 3 Which country has six years of compulsory education?

2a Read the texts about three unusual schools. Does each person like his or her school?



Compulsory education

Country	Age	Country	Age
Argentina	6–14	Iran	6–12
Australia	6–16	the Netherlands	5–18
Brazil	6–14	Spain	6–16
England	5–18	Sweden	7–16
Hungary	3–16	the US	6–17



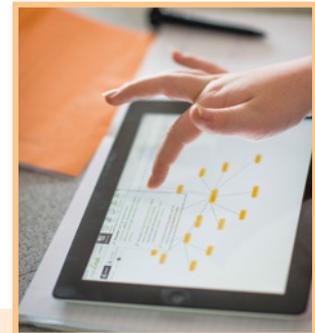
Education and schools are different all over the world. Do you think your school is boring? How could it be more interesting? Read about these unusual schools. Which one would you like to go to?

Vittra International School, Stockholm, Sweden

Do you like the idea of a school where you can use your tablet all day? Then you will like my school! It's the Vittra International School in Stockholm. Technology is at the heart of everything we do in the school: every student has his or her own laptop or tablet and teachers send feedback and tasks online. There are no classrooms; teachers and students move around in groups. It's a bilingual school (Swedish and English) with a strong international perspective. My school aims to give students a strong global awareness and prepare them for the 21st century world.

Lars, 13

Technology is very important at the Vittra International School



Mount Isa School of the Air, Queensland, Australia



Lessons are taught by radio at Mount Isa School of the Air

Australia is a very big country. I live on a farm in the state of Queensland in the north-east. My school is Mount Isa School of the Air, but it's four hundred miles away. So how do I go to my classes? The clue is in the name of my school: 'School of the Air'. My school travels to me – through the air! It's a radio school and I use a radio to listen to my lessons. I can talk to other students in the class, as well as our teacher. I also use my computer to watch lessons, and I've got a webcam so my teacher can see me. Once a year, all the students meet up for a day. I like seeing my classmates face-to-face. I would like to see them every day!

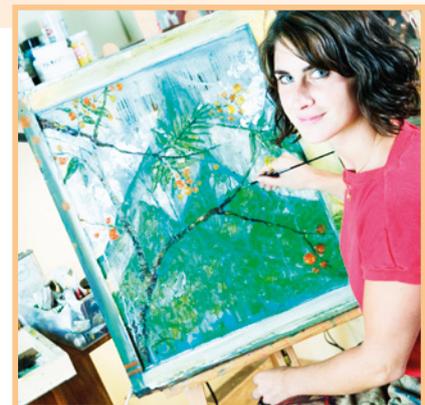
Cora, 13

Lumiar School, São Paulo, Brazil

Do you love your school? I love mine! It's the Lumiar School in São Paulo. There are no fixed classes or timetables. We choose projects to work on every term. If we don't want to take part in projects, we can study, play, go online or read books. It's our choice! There aren't any tests or exams, and there's no homework. The teachers work as advisers and will teach us piano, painting or anything we are interested in.

Learning English is very important in my school, and a lot of our project work is in English. Communication and collaboration are also important. Students work together on projects and decide how to run the school. It's brilliant!

Gabriela, 14



Students can learn art at Lumiar School

2b Read the texts again and circle the best answer.

- 1 At the Vittra International School students
 - a) work on tablets and use books.
 - b) use tablets to do their work.
- 2 Students at the Vittra International School
 - a) have their lessons in classrooms.
 - b) can move around the school.
- 3 Cora doesn't go to school because
 - a) she lives far away from her school.
 - b) she prefers being at home.
- 4 Students at the Mount Isa School of the Air
 - a) do their lessons at home.
 - b) don't have teachers.
- 5 At the Lumiar School, students
 - a) do projects for homework.
 - b) can study what they like.
- 6 The teachers at the Lumiar School
 - a) speak English.
 - b) decide how to run the school.

2c Read the statements and put a tick (✓), a cross (X) or a question mark (?) if not mentioned in the text for each school.

	Vittra International School	Mount Isa School of the Air	Lumiar School
1 There aren't any classrooms.			
2 The students speak English.			
3 The students decide if they want to go to lessons.			
4 The teachers use computers to teach.			
5 There isn't any homework.			
6 The students use computers to study.			

Gateway to culture

3a Work with a partner and answer the questions.

- 1 How are the three schools different to your school?
- 2 What are the positive and negative things about each school?
- 3 Which school would you like to go to? Why?

PROJECT

3b You are going to work on a presentation about schools in different parts of the world. Read the questions and prepare your project research.

- 1 Work in small groups. Choose two countries (one can be your own country) and do some research on the Internet to find information about the following:
 - the number of years of compulsory education
 - a typical school (perhaps your own school) for students of your age
 - an unusual school.
- 2 Work together and discuss what you found out. Decide how to present your information to the class. This can be a slideshow, a presentation or a poster.

3c Present your information to the class. Explain the differences between education and schools in the two countries you chose.