



Education

TYPES OF SCHOOLS AND SCHOOL SYSTEM

Does your country have middle schools?

What is the age that children begin school?

How old are students they when they graduate?

Did you go to a good high school? What was it like?

What do you remember about your teachers?

Who was your favourite? What teacher impressed you the most?

Did you have any teachers you didn't like?

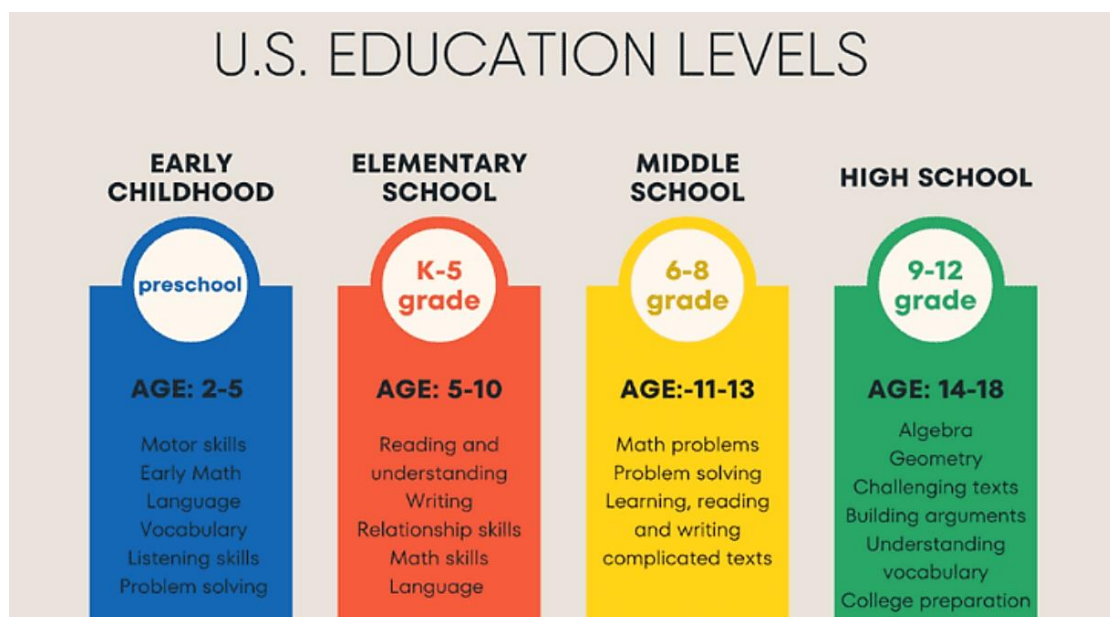
What subjects were you good at? And bad?

Are there any subjects you wanted to study but they weren't available at your school?

What do you think of home schooling?

Do you know anyone who was home schooled?

Do you wish you had been home schooled?



III Compare the following extract with your experience of the educational system in your country. Are there any differences? What is your opinion?

The American approach to teaching may seem unfamiliar to many, not only because it is informal, but also because there is less emphasis on learning facts than is true in the systems of many other countries. Instead, Americans try to teach their children to think for themselves, to analyze, to explore, to develop their own intellectual and creative abilities. Students spend much time learning how to use resource materials, libraries,

statistics, and computers. Americans believe that if children are taught to reason and to research well, they will be able to find whatever facts they need throughout the rest of their lives. Knowing how to solve problems is considered more important than the accumulation of facts, which often grow obsolete.

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The American educational system is based on the idea that as many people as possible should have access to as much education as possible. This fact alone distinguishes the U.S. system from most others, since in most others the objective is as much to screen people out as it is to keep them in. The U.S. system has no standardized examinations whose results systematically prevent students from going on to higher levels of study,

as the British and many other systems do. Through secondary school and sometimes in post-secondary institutions as well, the American system tries to accommodate students even if their academic aspirations and aptitudes are not high, even if they are physically (and in some cases mentally) handicapped, and even if their native language is not English.

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IV Read the text below and fill in the following expressions.

BEYOND FOR IN WHOSE DURING OF FROM AND IN CONTRAST TO BY

21 _____ the United Kingdom, public school, also called independent school, is one of a relatively small group of institutions educating secondary-level students 22 _____ a fee and independent 23 _____ the state system as regards both endowment 24 _____ administration. The term "public school" emerged in the 18th century when the reputation of certain grammar schools spread 25 _____ their immediate environs. They began taking students 26 _____ parents could afford residential fees and thus became known as public, 27 _____ local, schools. By the late 20th century the term "independent school" was increasingly preferred 28 _____ the institutions themselves. The typical great public school – such as Eton, Harrow, Winchester, Westminster, Rugby, Shrewsbury, or Charterhouse – evolved 29 _____ an institution founded by a single benefactor 30 _____ the late European Middle Ages or Renaissance.

V Read the text below and fill in the following expressions.

APPROXIMATELY TO THROUGH OR BY OF IN THROUGHOUT MOST HOWEVER

In most school systems 21 _____ the United States, high school is any three- to six-year secondary school serving students 22 _____ 13 (or fourteen or fifteen) through 18 years 23 _____ age. Often in four-year schools the different levels are designated, in ascending order, freshman, sophomore, junior, and senior.

Most American high schools are public – meaning that they are tuition-free, supported 24 _____ state funds. There are, 25 _____, a number of private high schools 26 _____ the country, supported generally 27 _____ a combination of tuition charges and private grants 28 _____ endowments. 29 _____ of these schools offer primarily academic courses 30 _____ college-oriented students, and many are sectarian.