

School Around the World

with Kate & Mack

Hi, kids! So chances are that you've already started school, and if you haven't, you're probably starting any day now. After all, August and September are two of the most popular months for the new school year to begin. But did you know that not every country in the world starts their new school year in the fall? It's true!

We learned earlier this summer that seasons are different because the northern hemisphere (the top part of the world) and the southern hemisphere (the bottom part of the world) are opposite of each other. So if it's summer break for our hemisphere when it's winter vacation for countries like Australia and New Zealand, then that means our school years are different too! Whew, that kind makes your head hurt, doesn't it, Mack?

That's why Mack and I thought it would be fun to learn about what school is like around the world. Not everyone goes to schools that are kindergarten through 12th grade, and not everyone has to stay in school until they're done with high school. We'll learn more about what school is like in different countries around the world as we get ready to begin the new school year.



Are you
ready to get your
thinking caps on?
Let's go!



AFRICA



Kenya

- 🌐 The Kenyan school year isn't divided into semesters like it is in the U.S. Instead, it's divided into three sections called trimesters. And there's a month-long break between each trimester. How nice!
- 🌐 Lots of schools give lunch to their students every day. Sometimes, students will save their lunches to share with their families too.



Nigeria

- 🌐 School starts in January and ends in December in Nigeria, and it is also divided into trimesters with a month of vacation between each trimester (just like Kenya).
- 🌐 Students have to learn one of the three main languages spoken in Nigeria — Hausa, Yoruba or Ibo.



AMERICAS



Brazil

- 🌐 Kids usually go to school from 7 a.m. to noon. A lot of the time, they go home to eat lunch with their families (like in Kenya). That's fun!
- 🌐 Math, geography, history, science, Portuguese (that's the main language spoken in Brazil) and physical education are normal subjects that students learn.



Costa Rica

- 🌐 Costa Rica was one of the first countries in Central and Southern America to make public education free. That makes going to school a lot easier!
- 🌐 Students have to wear uniforms for the nine years that they go to school (they start when they're six years old and finish when they're 15 years old). Then they can start college when they're 15!



ASIA



Iran

- From 5 years old to 18 years old, boys and girls go to separate schools. That means girls are taught by female teachers, and boys are taught by male teachers. If they go to college (or what they call university), then men and women go to classes together.
- From the first time they attend school, students have to pass a test every year to move up to the next grade. I bet that really makes you learn your stuff, doesn't it, Mack?

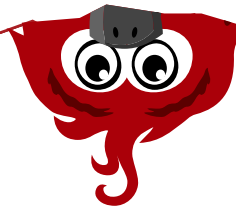


South Korea

- School starts at 8 a.m. and goes until 4 p.m., but lots of students stay later. They also help clean up the classroom before going home. After 5 p.m., students have a short dinner at home (or they can eat at school) before they start study groups or other activities in the evening. Students go to school Monday through Friday, but they also have some Saturday classes.
- Once they reach 3rd grade, students start learning how to speak, read and write English for two hours every week.

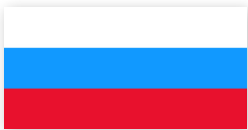


EUROPE



France

- 🌐 The school year starts in August and ends in June, and it's divided into four terms that last seven weeks each. Students usually have one or two weeks of vacation in between terms. How great is that?
- 🌐 The school days usually start at 8 a.m. and end at 4 p.m., with a half day of school on Saturday. School on Saturdays might not sound like a lot of fun, but students don't have to go to school on Wednesdays, so I guess it makes up for it, huh, Mack?



Russia

- 🌐 School starts September 1st and ends late May. Students go to school from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- 🌐 10th grade is the last year where students have to go to school. But 11th and 12th grade lets them have the chance to learn skills that will help them get jobs. Students can keep studying for tests that will help them get into university.



PACIFIC



Australia

- 🌐 Kids go to school 200 days a year here! The school year starts in late January and ends in the middle of December. (So when we're on our Christmas break, they're on their summer vacation.)
- 🌐 Students go to school for at least 11 years, but lots of people go for 12. And instead of calling them "grades," they call them "years." So year one through year six (or 1st grade through 6th grade in the U.S.) is called primary schooling. Year seven to year 12 is called secondary schooling. Then students graduate when they're around 18 years old (just like we do in the U.S.).



Isn't it cool to see
how school is both very
different and a lot alike in countries
around the world, Mack? There are
almost 200 countries, and we've only
learned about nine of them. That
means there's a lot of ways for
people to learn!



Kate & Mack's

Pocket Change Challenge

One of the first things kids learn when they go to school is the alphabet. Once you know the alphabet, you can start learning how to read and write. But there are lots of people who haven't ever learned how to read — even adults!

Can you imagine what it would be like to not know how to read? You wouldn't get to read fun books or cards, or a note that your mom hides in your lunch box. And if you couldn't read, you wouldn't be able to read the Bible for yourself either.

You can help people learn how to read, just by saving up your pocket change! We're calling it "Kate & Mack's Pocket Change Challenge" — easy to remember, right? It's a great way for us to practice giving while also making a difference in kids' lives. After all, shouldn't everyone be able to read?

The best way to learn about our Pocket Change Challenge is by going to **wycliffe.org/kids-give**. You can even ask your mom and dad to give your money online! Or you can make the giving box to keep your coins. For every penny you save, you're helping a kid (or even an adult) learn how to read for the first time. That's pretty cool!

You can save up as long as you want. Maybe as a family you could all join together and set a goal for yourself, like to save up \$100 or to keep adding coins until the end of the school year and see how much you've saved. It's always fun to have goals, and knowing that we're making a difference is a really awesome thing, isn't it, Mack?

Let's help people all around the world learn to read!

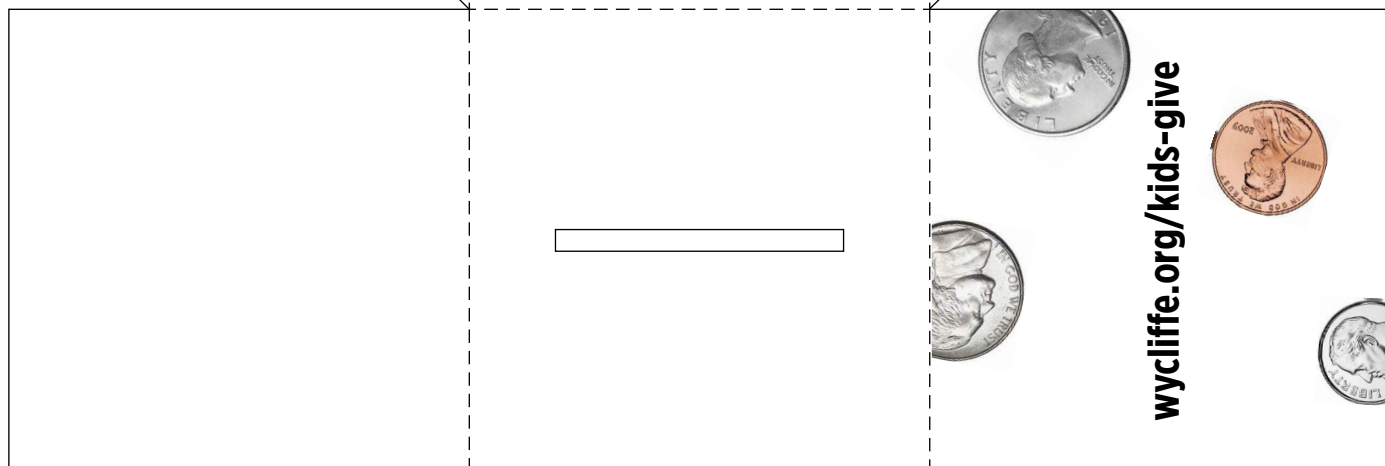
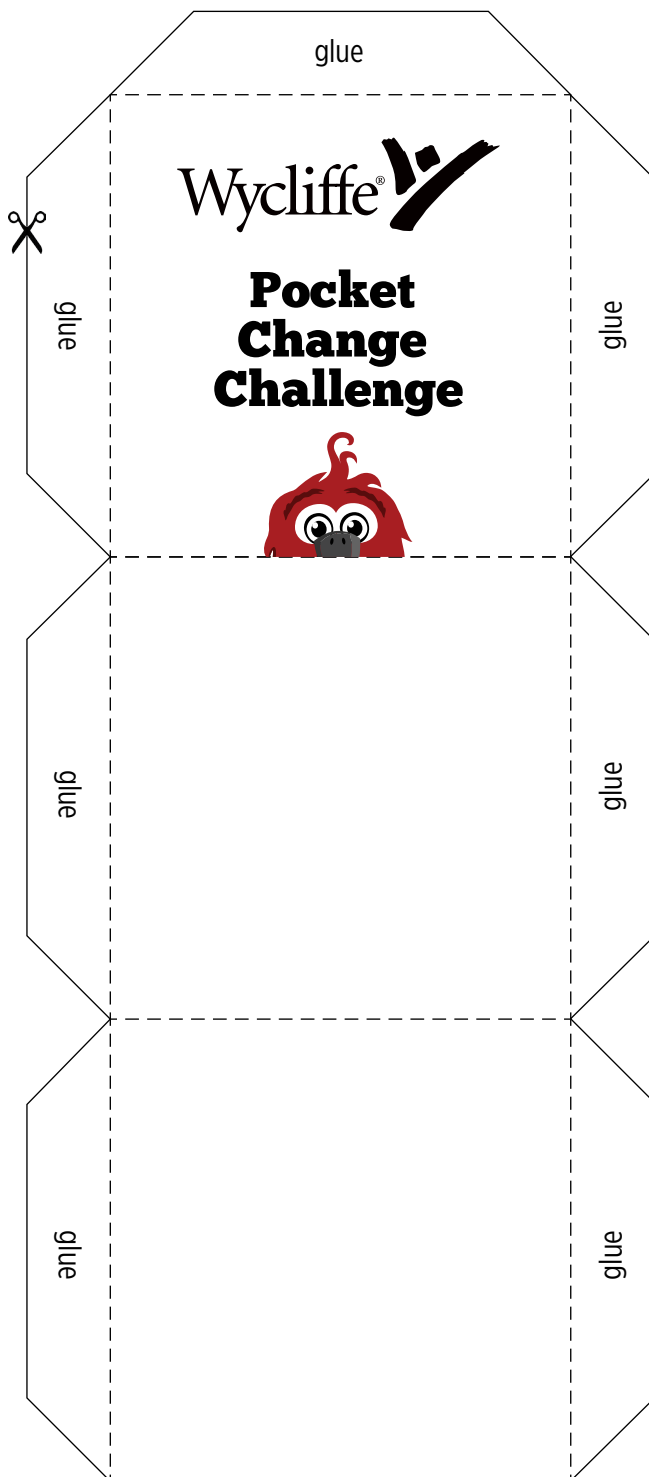


Instructions

1. Glue this sheet to a piece of cardstock paper.
2. Color the box (if you want).
3. Cut out the box along the outside of the solid lines and cut the slit for the coins.
4. Fold on the dotted lines.
5. Put glue on the tabs and form into a cube, with glued tabs inside.
6. Let it dry.

Now you can start putting your pocket change in there! Once it's all full, you can ask your parent to make an online payment for the same amount at **wycliffe.org/kids-give**.

Every penny, nickel, dime and quarter you put in the box is important and helps give kids the chance to learn how to read, just like you do! And when they can learn to read, they get the chance to read the Bible and learn about God's amazing love for them. Now that's awesome!



School Year Goals

Let's Make Some Goals for This School Year!

It's always fun to set a goal and then do it, right? Goals motivate us to keep working, and that's important for school, especially since we all know that sometimes we just want to take a break and have some fun!

What's something you really want to do this school year? Maybe you want to read 10 books (or even 1,000 pages!) or you want to memorize the names of 50 different countries around the world. Whatever they are, think of at least three goals you want to meet by the end of this school year, then write them down. Keep them posted somewhere you'll see them a lot (like the refrigerator or your bedroom wall) and try to make them happen by the end of the school year. Maybe your mom and dad will even come up with a reward for you if you meet your goal, and that'll make these goals that much more fun!



My goals for this year are:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

