

## Back to school around the world (worksheet)

### Activity 1

What can you see in the pictures?



What do people usually do to get ready for the first day at school?  
What about you?

### Activity 2

Back-to-school traditions around the world.

Read the text, in which countries the school year never begins in September?

It's always hard to start a new school year after a summer of leisure, and many cultures have special first day of school traditions to help students to get back to studies. Here are a few.

#### **Bulgaria**

The first day of school in Bulgaria is September 15 or the first Monday after it. It's really a great tradition in Bulgaria where the whole town turns out for the first day of school to celebrate the beginning of the new school year. Children bring the teachers flowers and there is a long program that includes singing, speeches, poetry readings and dancing, and younger kids even play games. The games are silly and generally aimed at getting the students to work together, to get to know each other and to catch up with their school friends before we require that they sit still and silently in their chairs.

### Germany

In Germany, lucky children receive a *schultuete*, which translates to “school bag.” But this is no a backpack! Schultuetes are cone-shaped packages filled with school supplies and candy, to make the school year sweet! You can buy these packages in stores in August and September, but many parents make them at home. The academic year starts usually in the second half of September or in the beginning of October.



### India

In India, kids also get special gifts on the first day of school, or Admission Day, as it's called there (it's in March-April or in mid-June depending on type of school). Because the first day of school is also the beginning of rainy season, the gifts often have a brand new umbrella.

### Japan

In Japan the school year is usually April through March. There is about 1.5 month break from end July to August but the year officially ends in March. There are about 40 students in each classroom. On the first day of elementary school, kids receive a *randoseru* or backpack. These hard-sided bags are hard and usually are handed down from one generation to the next, for example from mother to her daughter.



### Kazakhstan

In Kazakhstan students each bring a single flower for the teacher on the first day of school (on the 1st of September). The teacher then gathers all the flowers together to make a bouquet. Kids also get a present from their parents containing sweets, a pencil and a candle.



### the USA

Most kids wear a new, first day of school outfit and pose for a picture, sometimes holding a sign which has the grade they are entering written on it. Although there are no special celebrations, everyone get very excited about what they will wear on the first day of school. Children usually go to the mall with your parents in the month before school and pick new clothes for school as well as new supplies.

### the UK

School year starts 1st week of September each year and finishes beg-mid July (in private schools), mid-end July (in public schools). There were no real celebrations for beginning of the school year (only end).

### Turkey

The school year starts in mid-September. The start day is always a Monday. It ends in mid-June, always on a Friday. Brand new uniforms are worn on the first day of the school; students bring flowers to the teachers. Lessons don't start yet and children don't have a lot of celebration for the start of the year.

**Read the text again and choose the country (countries):**

- 1) Students bring flowers to teachers.
- 2) Students get stationery and sweets from parents as a gift for the first day at school.
- 3) The first day of the academic year is always on Monday.
- 4) Students get an umbrella as a gift for the first academic day.
- 5) There is a long break in the middle of the school year.
- 6) The most important for the first at school is to wear new clothes.
- 7) Students get a backpack from their parents.
- 8) There is a big special celebration with songs and games.

**Which traditions are similar to the traditions in your country?****Which traditions would you like to have?**Activity 2**Different countries have different classroom rules.****Make a list of classroom rules in your country.**

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)
- 5)

**Watch the video with classroom rules in the USA. Compare with your list.**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ddvTFgzkS5M>