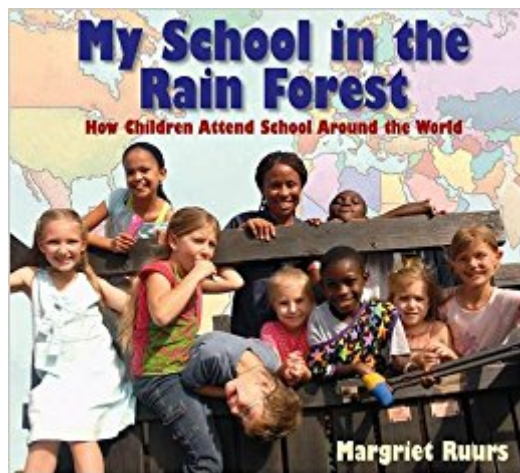




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My School In The Rain Forest: How Children Attend School Around The World



Synopsis

At a school that sits on the edge of the Sahara, students are learning to speak English from a teacher who stands in front of a Webcam in North America. These students are learning in a virtual classroom. In another part of the world, kids aren't waiting to ride the bus to school; they are waiting to hop in a boat that will take them to a school that floats on a river. And some kids don't mind heights, especially those who attend a school on the slope of a mountain in the Himalayas, in one of the most remote corners of the earth. Margriet Ruurs contacted teachers and volunteers, many of whom took cameras in hand to photograph their schools and students. In this lively photo-essay, readers get to know students; from the arid plains of southern Afghanistan to the rain forests of Guatemala; who are pursuing their dreams of a brighter future.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 960L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: Boyds Mills Press (September 1, 2009)

Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 0.5 x 10.2 x 9.2 inches

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Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 8 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #201,496 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #53 in [Books > Science & Math > Nature & Ecology > Forests & Rainforests](#) #646 in [Books > Education & Teaching > Schools & Teaching > Education Theory > Administration](#) #1459 in [Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World](#)

Age Range: 7 - 9 years

Grade Level: 2 - 4

Customer Reviews

Grade 1 – 4 • From stories and photos she received from people around the world, Ruurs chose 13 school situations to share with readers. She shows the great contrasts that exist, even in a geographic region, where an international school in Malaysia has a library with 16,000 books while the Rajgir Monastery School in nearby Myanmar has "almost no teaching materials such as maps, posters, or even books." The book also demonstrates that children learn in a variety

of settings by featuring a boarding school in Scotland and classes provided by radio and the Internet in the Australian outback. An inset box on each spread includes a map, flag, and a few facts about the featured area. Ruurs mentions the work of charitable organizations and volunteer groups in countries including Guatemala and India and notes setbacks such as the destruction of a school in Afghanistan. Still, the overriding tone is optimistic that more children, girls as well as boys, will participate in education around the world. This book might also be paired with *Listen to the Wind* (Dial, 2009), Greg Mortenson's personal account of establishing schools in Pakistan and Afghanistan. —Kathy Piehl, Minnesota State University, Mankato END

"Accessible and inspiring. . . . Impressive in scope. . . . An excellent choice for the classroom and a strong introduction to such topics as global diversity and the importance of education." --Kirkus Reviews
"Gives a good sense of the vastly different educational experiences of children around the world." --Booklist

This book provides a nice introduction to the variety of different ways that students go to school. It was fascinating to read about schools on boats, over the radio, in a monastery, etc. The book focuses on the schools themselves rather than on the children. I would have liked more information about the students, but overall it provides a glimpse into the variety of ways the world has found to educate her children.

When I gave "My School in the Rain Forest" to my grandson (age 10) for his birthday, along with other gifts, he looked through it quickly and said he would be taking it to school as he knew his teacher would also love it. After he read it, he did take it to school, and the whole class was able to enjoy this wonderful, entertaining, and informative book.

A wonderful book-- highly recommended!

Got this for our grand daughter. It's a great introduction to different cultures and schools. Very nice book.

The concept of this book works well for teaching about diversity in the daily life of children around the world. The 13 schools are each given a two-page spread with color photos and a text box showing a map of the region with the particular country shown in a box, a picture of the country's

flag, and about five sentences about the country itself. Readers learn about students who live far from a population center using computers to connect with teachers, students who are home-schooled, students who paddle small boats from home to a larger boat that serves as their school, and students whose schools are monasteries and castles. A couple issues with the book struck me immediately: the title, "My School in the Rain Forest," seems to indicate that the book is solely about one school in the rain forest, which it is not. The subtitle, "How Children Attend School Around the World," is a better representation of the book's contents. Also, there are two mistakes relating to country maps. The world map at the beginning of the book correctly shows the countries that include the schools being discussed, but on the two-page spreads, Afghanistan and Myanmar are incorrectly labelled in the box. This lack of editing brings my original rating of 4 stars to 3.

Join Margriet Ruurs for a trip around the world to see the wide variation in school facilities and resources to which some children have access. The reader can learn about children attending school behind a wall in Afghanistan, Cambodian children who paddle their own small boats to a floating school, students in a remote Indian village who sit on a roof-less dirt floor for their lessons, and Nepalese children who attend a boarding school high in the Himalayas. Not only does a country's general level of economic development play a role in the type and quality of schooling to which children have access, but parental preferences can also determine if children are home-schooled, go away to boarding school, rely on the internet for distance learning, use public transportation to get to school, or attend school in a more unusual setting. This book provides a refreshing look at school resources and emphasizes the importance of getting an education no matter where in the world one lives.

"My School in the Rain Forest" (part of the Boyds Mills Press 'How Children Attend School Around the World' series) is a nonfiction hardcover book with color photos that teaches students age 7-9 about children going to school all over the world. There are pictures and chapters about children in school in Scotland, Egypt, Afghanistan, Nepal, Cambodia, Guatemala, Kenya, India, Myanmar, Malaysia, Australia, and the United States. A handy map in the introduction shows where all these children live on the globe. Each country has an informative insert that gives pertinent data such as the country's capital, estimated population, flag, and description of its past and present, plus languages spoken in the country. Children travel in many different ways to attend their schools. Some go by boat, some even attend school on a ship. Others walk, or attend the School of the Air or virtual school on computer. Some go to school in a jungle, or under a tree. All children learn, and

learning in different settings and different languages is a fascinating subject. "My School in the Rainforest" will appeal to children age 7-9.

A great good for your world literature collection. It gives a wonderful picture of schooling for young learners in other parts of the world.

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