

## Reading comprehension

founded is state significantly federal names means higher level of  
the their into range describe several provides than take from how  
general educates enter individual hands not different age  
kindergarten all attend which compulsory opposite are from middle  
national own called years high includes each like free elementary  
religious

In the United States, \_\_\_\_\_ in most developed nations in \_\_\_\_\_ world, the education system is divided \_\_\_\_\_ two levels: \_\_\_\_\_ education (for children below 18) and \_\_\_\_\_ education (for adults over 18). But the US system differs \_\_\_\_\_ those of most other developed nations in \_\_\_\_\_ crucial ways. First of \_\_\_\_\_, the US does \_\_\_\_\_ have a \_\_\_\_\_ system of education. Since the Constitution does not \_\_\_\_\_ that education is a responsibility of the \_\_\_\_\_ government, all educational matters \_\_\_\_\_ left to the \_\_\_\_\_ states. The control and regulation of education at any level is in the \_\_\_\_\_ of the states. Each of the 50 state sets its \_\_\_\_\_ requirements for schools and teachers, and it \_\_\_\_\_ its own funding for public education.

Therefore, it is extremely difficult to \_\_\_\_\_ American education in general terms. The system of education varies \_\_\_\_\_ state to state. Children switch schools at \_\_\_\_\_ ages, their schools have different \_\_\_\_\_, and they learn a wide \_\_\_\_\_ of different subjects at school in various states. Attending school is \_\_\_\_\_ up to the \_\_\_\_\_ of 16. Public education normally begins at age 4 or 5, with \_\_\_\_\_. Kindergarten consists of one or two preparatory \_\_\_\_\_ at school before proper teaching begins. After kindergarten, students \_\_\_\_\_ grade 1 (also called first grade) and they normally continue until grade 12. The so-called K-12 system (from kindergarten to grade 12) is \_\_\_\_\_, financed by the taxpayers' money in all states. Schools that are part \_\_\_\_\_ the K-12 system are normally \_\_\_\_\_ public schools by Americans; the term simply \_\_\_\_\_ 'schools open to the public', where no tuition is required. (Note that the term 'public school' has the \_\_\_\_\_ meaning in Britain!)

There \_\_\_\_\_ considerable variety, however, in \_\_\_\_\_ the 12 grades are divided up between schools in \_\_\_\_\_ state. The lowest \_\_\_\_\_ is usually called \_\_\_\_\_ school in the US, and it may include grades 1–4 (age 6–10) or grades 1–6 (age 6–12). The next level may be called \_\_\_\_\_ school in some states or junior \_\_\_\_\_ school in others; a middle school typically \_\_\_\_\_ grades 5–8 (age 11–14), whereas a junior high school \_\_\_\_\_ children in grades 7–9 (age 13–15). The highest level of the public school

system is the high school, which may \_\_\_\_\_ four years after middle school, grades 9–12 (age 15–18), or three years after junior high school, grades 10–12 (age 16–18).

About 88% of all children \_\_\_\_\_ public elementary and high schools. There are also more \_\_\_\_\_ 29,000 private primary and secondary schools, \_\_\_\_\_ are attended by 12% of the school-age population. Private schools are not uncommon in the US, but \_\_\_\_\_ character is \_\_\_\_\_ different from the exclusive and often elitist atmosphere of most British independent schools. About 75% of private schools are sectarian schools, \_\_\_\_\_ and maintained by a \_\_\_\_\_ denomination. Catholic schools alone represent 28% of all private schools in the US.