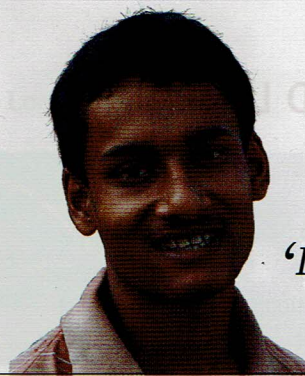


Babur Ali



*'I love teaching.
I am never tired.'*

He's 16 years old and a head teacher!

Babur Ali comes from West Bengal in India. He is 16 years old and lives in the small village of Bhabta. His village doesn't have a school, but Babur is lucky because he goes to a private school in the next village. His school costs 1,000 rupees, £12 a year. This is too expensive for many children in Babur's village, but they want to learn, so Babur teaches them everything that he learns. More and more children want to learn, so Babur's friends help him teach. The classes are in bamboo huts, but sometimes they sit outdoors. The school is free and now has a name, the Anand Shiksha Niketan School, and Babur is the head teacher.

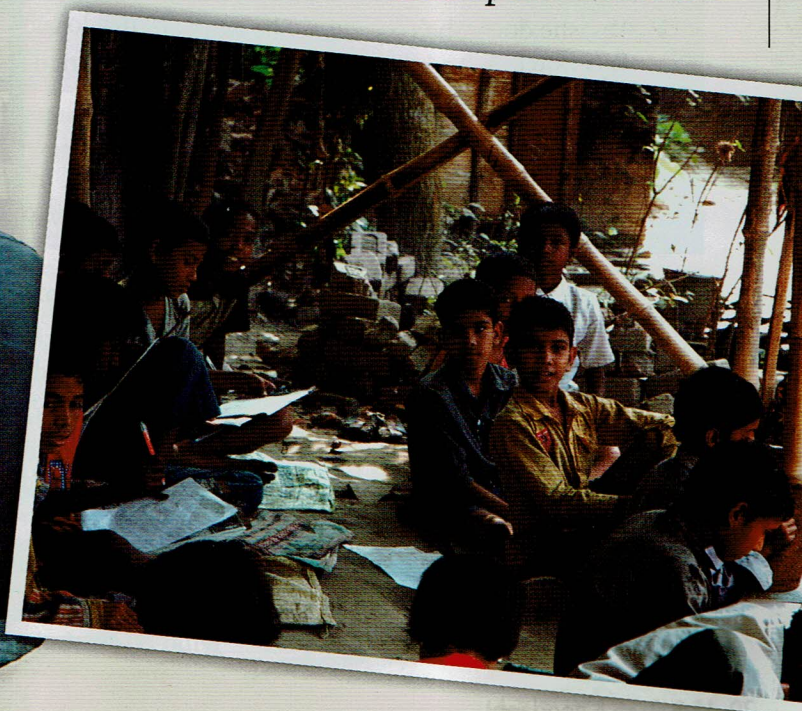
Busy days

Babur's days are very busy. He has no free time. He gets up at 5 o'clock in the morning and helps his mother with the housework. At 8 o'clock he goes by bus to his school three miles away. He studies hard all day until 4.00 in the afternoon. Then he travels back to his village and at 5.00 he begins the classes. He teaches English, Bengali, history, and maths until 8.00 in the evening. He says, 'I love teaching. I am never tired.'

Babur's ambitions

Now the school has 650 students and ten teachers. Babur wants to study at university, but he doesn't want to stop teaching. He says,

*'I always want to
teach poor children.'*



READING AND SPEAKING

A really good job

1 Look at the pictures. Read these sentences about Babur Ali. Underline what you think is true.

- 1 Babur gets up at 5 a.m. / 8 a.m.
- 2 He helps his *mother in the house* / *father at work*.
- 3 He goes to school by *bus* / *car*.
- 4 He studies hard until 1 p.m. / 4 p.m.
- 5 He begins *his homework* / *the classes* at 5 p.m.
- 6 He *likes* / *doesn't like* his work.
- 7 He *speaks* / *doesn't speak* English.
- 8 He *wants* / *doesn't want* to go to university.

2 Read the first paragraph about Babur. Ask and answer the questions with a partner.

- 1 Where does Babur come from?
- 2 Where does he live?
- 3 Does his village have a school?
- 4 Why is he lucky? **Because ...**
- 5 How much does his school cost?
- 6 What does he teach the children?
- 7 Are all the classes outdoors?
- 8 What's his school's name? Is it free?

3 Read about Babur's *Busy days*. Ask and answer questions about the times in Babur's day.

What time does he get up?

At 5 o'clock.

4 Read about *Babur's ambitions*. Correct the sentences.

- 1 The school has 60 students.
It doesn't have 60 students. It has ...
- 2 It has five teachers.
- 3 Babur wants to stop teaching.
- 4 He wants to be a doctor.

5 Look back at exercise 1. Were your answers correct?

Roleplay – An interview

6 Work with a partner. Complete the questions.

- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 How many students ... ? | 5 ... your teacher's name? |
| 2 How many teachers ... ? | 6 ... a good teacher? |
| 3 What time ... start/finish? | 7 What ... teach? |
| 4 How much ... cost? | 8 ... he work hard? |

Student A

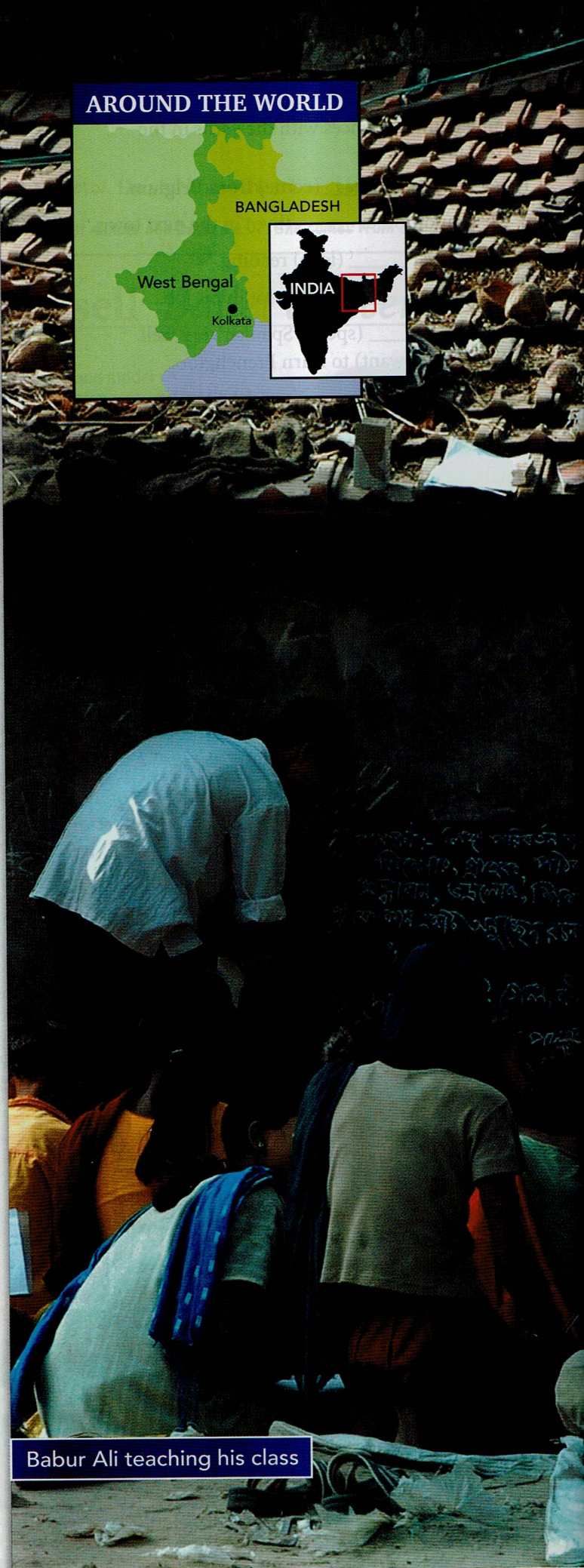
You are a journalist. Ask the questions.

Student B

You are one of Babur's students.
Answer the questions.

T 2.13 Listen and compare.

AROUND THE WORLD



Babur Ali teaching his class