



Student Background Questionnaire

2007

Grade 8 for Alaska



DIRECTIONS

This booklet contains two sections of questions. You will be asked about yourself, your education, and your family. There are no wrong answers to any of the questions.

For some questions, the choices will be written **down** the page. Here is an example. Read the example and fill in the oval for the best answer.

Example 1

1. Which of these do you enjoy doing the most? Ⓐ Watching television Ⓑ Playing a game with friends
--

You should have filled in the oval beside the activity you enjoy doing the most.

The choices for some other questions will be written **across** the page. Here is an example. Read the example and fill in one oval on each line.

Example 2

2. How often do you do each of the following things? Fill in one oval on each line.				
	Never or hardly ever	Once or twice a month	Once or twice a week	Almost every day
a. Watch television	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	Ⓓ
b. Play a game with friends	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	Ⓓ

Make your answer marks clear and dark in the ovals. If you make a mistake or want to change your answer, be sure to completely erase any unwanted marks.

You will be told when it is time to begin and end.

National Indian Education Study

Grade 8 Student Questionnaire

SECTION 1

In this section, please tell us about yourself and your family. The section has 13 questions. Mark your answers in your booklet.

1. Are you Hispanic or Latino? Fill in **one or more ovals**. VB331330
- Ⓐ No, I am not Hispanic or Latino.
 - Ⓑ Yes, I am Mexican, Mexican American, or Chicano.
 - Ⓒ Yes, I am Puerto Rican or Puerto Rican American.
 - Ⓓ Yes, I am Cuban or Cuban American.
 - Ⓔ Yes, I am from some other Hispanic or Latino background.
2. Which of the following best describes you? Fill in **one or more ovals**. VB331331
- Ⓐ White
 - Ⓑ Black or African American
 - Ⓒ Asian
 - Ⓓ American Indian or Alaska Native
 - Ⓔ Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander

For the rest of the questions in this section, fill in only **one** oval for each question.

- VB331333
3. Does your family get a newspaper at least four times a week?
- Ⓐ Yes
 - Ⓑ No
 - Ⓒ I don't know.

- VB331334
4. Does your family get any magazines regularly?
- Ⓐ Yes
 - Ⓑ No
 - Ⓒ I don't know.

- VB331335
5. About how many books are there in your home?
- Ⓐ Few (0–10)
 - Ⓑ Enough to fill one shelf (11–25)
 - Ⓒ Enough to fill one bookcase (26–100)
 - Ⓓ Enough to fill several bookcases (more than 100)

- VB331336
6. Is there a computer at home that you use?
- Ⓐ Yes
 - Ⓑ No

- VB331337
7. Is there an encyclopedia in your home? It could be a set of books, or it could be on the computer.
- Ⓐ Yes
 - Ⓑ No
 - Ⓒ I don't know.

- VB330870
8. How far in school did your mother go?
- Ⓐ She did not finish high school.
 - Ⓑ She graduated from high school.
 - Ⓒ She had some education after high school.
 - Ⓓ She graduated from college.
 - Ⓔ I don't know.

- VB330871
9. How far in school did your father go?
- Ⓐ He did not finish high school.
 - Ⓑ He graduated from high school.
 - Ⓒ He had some education after high school.
 - Ⓓ He graduated from college.
 - Ⓔ I don't know.

SECTION 2

Some of the questions are about your American Indian or Alaska Native background. When you answer these questions, think about the American Indian or Alaska Native group to which you and your family belong. You may call this group a tribe, a nation, a village, a band, or a community.

If you are connected to more than one American Indian tribe or Alaska Native group, answer for the one you know best.

VC190344

1. How much do you know about each of the following? Fill in **one** oval on each line.

	A lot	Some	Nothing or not very much	
a. Your American Indian or Alaska Native history	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	VC190345
b. Your American Indian or Alaska Native traditions	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	VC190346
c. Issues in the world today that are important to American Indians or Alaska Natives	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	VC190347

VC190348

2. How often have you participated in each of the following American Indian or Alaska Native activities? Fill in **one** oval on each line.

	Several times a year	At least once a year	Less than once a year	Never	
a. Ceremonies and gatherings for people from your American Indian or Alaska Native group	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	VC190349
b. Ceremonies and gatherings that bring together people from many different American Indian or Alaska Native groups	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	VC190350
c. Other American Indian or Alaska Native activities	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	VC190351

VC190317

3. How often do members of your family talk to each other in your American Indian or Alaska Native language?

- Ⓐ Most of the time
- Ⓑ About half of the time
- Ⓒ Once in awhile
- Ⓓ Never

VC190352

4. Since you have been in 8th grade, how often have **any of your teachers** talked to you in class about culture, traditions, and other things that are important to American Indians or Alaska Natives?

- Ⓐ Almost every day
- Ⓑ Once or twice a week
- Ⓒ Once or twice a month
- Ⓓ Never or hardly ever

VC190392

5. Since you have been in 8th grade, has your school, or **any of your teachers**, provided you with any of the following resources? Fill in **one** oval on each line.

- | | Yes | No | |
|---|-----|----|----------|
| a. American Indian or Alaska Native visitors who talk about history, traditions, or issues that are important to native people today | Ⓐ | Ⓑ | VC190393 |
| b. American Indian or Alaska Native craft demonstrations | Ⓐ | Ⓑ | VC190395 |
| c. Performances of traditional American Indian or Alaska Native music and dance | Ⓐ | Ⓑ | VC190396 |
| d. Field trips to museums, traditional villages, or other places that tell about American Indians or Alaska Natives | Ⓐ | Ⓑ | VC190397 |
| e. Books, videos, or computer software about American Indian or Alaska Native history and traditions | Ⓐ | Ⓑ | VC190400 |
| f. Books, videos, or computer software about issues in the world today that are important to American Indians or Alaska Natives | Ⓐ | Ⓑ | VC190401 |

6. How often do you read for fun on your own time?

- Ⓐ Almost every day
- Ⓑ Once or twice a week
- Ⓒ Once or twice a month
- Ⓓ Never or hardly ever

7. Here are some sentences about reading stories. For each line, fill in **one** oval to show whether the sentence describes a person like you.

	This is a lot like me.	This is a little like me.	This is not like me.	
a. I enjoy reading long stories.	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	VC190323
b. I make pictures in my mind when I read.	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	VC190324
c. I read stories about science fiction and fantasy.	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	VC190327
d. I read a lot of adventure stories.	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	VC190326

VC190328

8. Here are some more sentences about reading. For each line, fill in **one** oval to show whether the sentence describes a person like you.

- | | This is a lot like me. | This is a little like me. | This is not like me. | |
|--|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------|
| a. If the teacher talks about something interesting, I read more about it. | <input type="radio"/> A | <input type="radio"/> B | <input type="radio"/> C | VC190329 |
| b. I enjoy reading about American Indians or Alaska Natives. | <input type="radio"/> A | <input type="radio"/> B | <input type="radio"/> C | VC190330 |
| c. I enjoy reading about people who are different from me. | <input type="radio"/> A | <input type="radio"/> B | <input type="radio"/> C | VC190331 |
| d. I like to read about new things. | <input type="radio"/> A | <input type="radio"/> B | <input type="radio"/> C | VC190332 |

VB517517

9. How do you rate yourself in each of the following areas? Fill in **one** oval on each line.

- | | Excellent | Good | Fair | Poor | |
|----------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|----------|
| a. Reading | <input type="radio"/> A | <input type="radio"/> B | <input type="radio"/> C | <input type="radio"/> D | VB517518 |
| b. Mathematics | <input type="radio"/> A | <input type="radio"/> B | <input type="radio"/> C | <input type="radio"/> D | VB517519 |

VB517507

10. How much will the things you are learning in school prepare you for the life you want to lead?

- Ⓐ Very much
- Ⓑ A fair amount
- Ⓒ Only a little
- Ⓓ Not at all

VC190410

11. Think about different kinds of schools that people go to. Fill in **one** oval for the sentence that describes you best.

- Ⓐ I'll probably go to college.
- Ⓑ I'll probably graduate from high school, but not go to college.
- Ⓒ I probably won't graduate from high school.
- Ⓓ I don't know.

VC190412

12. Which of the following are you likely to do in your **first year** after high school? Fill in **one** oval on each line.

	Likely to do	Not likely to do	
a. Go to college or trade school full time	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	VC190414
b. Go to college or trade school part time	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	VC190421
c. Join the military	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	VC190422
d. Work full time	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	VC190424
e. Work part time	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	VC190425

VC190336

13. How often do your parents, or someone else in your family, help you with your schoolwork? For example, they might help you study for a test, help you with a school project, or go over your homework with you.

- Ⓐ Every day
- Ⓑ Two or three times a week
- Ⓒ About once a week
- Ⓓ Once every few weeks
- Ⓔ Never or hardly ever

VC190338

14. Do any of the following people help you with your schoolwork **before or after school**? Fill in **one** oval on each line.

- | | Yes | No | |
|---|-----|----|----------|
| a. A teacher or another adult from my school | Ⓐ | Ⓑ | VC190339 |
| b. Another student | Ⓐ | Ⓑ | VC190340 |
| c. Someone else who lives in my community or is a friend of my family | Ⓐ | Ⓑ | VC190341 |

VC190427

15. Since you have been in 8th grade, how often have you talked with any of your teachers **outside of regular class periods**? This could be to get extra help with your assignments, to talk about personal issues, or just to visit.

- Ⓐ Almost every day
- Ⓑ Once or twice a week
- Ⓒ Once or twice a month
- Ⓓ Never or hardly ever

VC190429

16. Since you have been in 8th grade, how many times have you talked to a teacher or a school counselor about the classes you should take in high school or about what you want to do after high school?

- Ⓐ Four or more times
- Ⓑ Two or three times
- Ⓒ One time
- Ⓓ Never

VC190430

17. Since you have been in 8th grade, how many times have you talked to someone else—someone who is not part of your school or your family—about the classes you should take in high school or about what you want to do after high school?

- Ⓐ Four or more times
- Ⓑ Two or three times
- Ⓒ One time
- Ⓓ Never

VC190431

18. Since you have been in 8th grade, have you played on a team or belonged to a drama, music, or other club **at school**?

- Ⓐ Yes
- Ⓑ No

VC190337

19. Do you know the name of your American Indian or Alaska Native group? (You may call your group a tribe, a nation, a village, a band, or a community.)

- A Yes
- B No
- C I'm not sure.

VC190342

20. If you know the name of your American Indian or Alaska Native group, or if you think you know it, please print it on the line below. Don't worry about spelling. If you belong to more than one American Indian or Alaska Native group, write the names of as many as you know.

VC190343

21. What else would you like to say about yourself or about American Indians or Alaska Natives? Use these lines to write your ideas.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP. YOUR IDEAS ARE IMPORTANT.

