



U.S. History

Student Background Questionnaire

2006
Grade 4

DIRECTIONS

In sections 1 and 4, you will be asked questions about yourself and your education. We will read the first section together. To answer these questions, fill in the oval beside the answer that is true for you. For example, fill in the oval beside your answer to this question:

How many movies did you see last month on television and in movie theaters?

- Ⓐ None
- Ⓑ 1 to 5
- Ⓒ 6 to 10
- Ⓓ More than 10

You should have filled in the oval beside the answer that best tells how many movies you saw last month on television and in movie theaters. On questions like this, be sure to make your answer mark clear and dark in the oval. 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 each section.

Do not go past the  sign at the end of each section until you are told to do so.

If you finish before time is called, go back and check your work on that section only. Use your time carefully. Do as much as you can in each section.



SECTION 1

Section 1

In this section, please tell us about yourself and your family. The section has 11 questions. Mark your answers in your booklet.

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1. Are you Hispanic or Latino? Fill in **one** or **more ovals**.

- Ⓐ 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.

VB331331

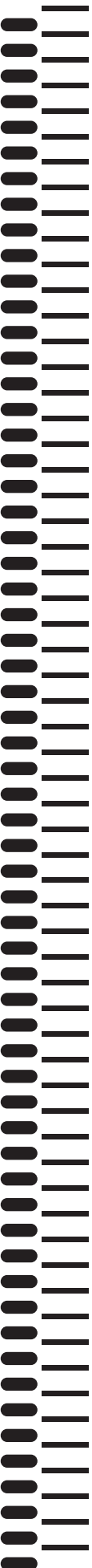
2. Which of the following best describes you? Fill in **one or more ovals**.

- Ⓐ White
- Ⓑ Black or African American
- Ⓒ Asian
- Ⓓ American Indian or Alaska Native
- Ⓔ Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander

Section 1

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

3. Does your family get a newspaper at least four times a week? VB331333
- (A) Yes
(B) No
(C) I don't know.
4. Does your family get any magazines regularly? VB331334
- (A) Yes
(B) No
(C) I don't know.
5. About how many books are there in your home? VB331335
- (A) Few (0–10)
(B) Enough to fill one shelf (11–25)
(C) Enough to fill one bookcase (26–100)
(D) Enough to fill several bookcases (more than 100)
6. Is there a computer at home that you use? VB331336
- (A) Yes
(B) No
7. Is there an encyclopedia in your home? It could be a set of books, or it could be on the computer. VB331337
- (A) Yes
(B) No
(C) I don't know.
8. About how many pages a day do you have to read in school and for homework? TB001101
- (A) 5 or fewer
(B) 6–10
(C) 11–15
(D) 16–20
(E) More than 20
9. How often do you talk about things you have studied in school with someone in your family? VB331339
- (A) Never or hardly ever
(B) Once every few weeks
(C) About once a week
(D) Two or three times a week
(E) Every day



VB331447

10. How many days were you absent from school in the last month?

- Ⓐ None
- Ⓑ 1 or 2 days
- Ⓒ 3 or 4 days
- Ⓓ 5 to 10 days
- Ⓔ More than 10 days

VB331451

11. How often do people in your home talk to each other in a language other than English?

- Ⓐ Never
- Ⓑ Once in a while
- Ⓒ About half of the time
- Ⓓ All or most of the time



SECTION 4

Section 4

This section has 9 questions. Mark your answers in your booklet. Fill in only **one** oval for each question.

1. How often do you study social studies in school?

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

2. Have you ever studied the history of the United States in school?

VB345589

- Ⓐ Yes
- Ⓑ No

3. When you study history or social studies in school, how often do you do each of the following? Fill in **one** oval on each line.

	Never	A few times a year	Once or twice a month	Once or twice a week	About every day	
a. Read material from a textbook	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	VB598096
b. Read extra material not in the regular textbook (e.g., biographies or historical stories)	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	VB598097
c. Use letters, diaries, or essays written by historical people	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	VB598098
d. Discuss the material studied	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	VB598099
e. Write short answers (a paragraph or less) to questions	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	VB598100
f. Write a report	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	VB598101
g. Work on a group project	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	VB598162
h. Give a report on the topic being studied	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	VB598163
i. Watch movies, videos, or filmstrips	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	VB598164
j. Take a test or quiz	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	VB598165
k. Go on field trips or have outside speakers	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	VB598166
l. Schoolwork in the library	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	VB598167

4. This year in school, how often have you been asked to write long answers to questions or assignments for history or social studies?
VB598168
- Ⓐ Never
 - Ⓑ Once or twice this year
 - Ⓒ Once or twice a month
 - Ⓓ At least once a week
5. How often do you use computers at school for history or social studies?
VB598169
- Ⓐ Never or hardly ever
 - Ⓑ Once every few weeks
 - Ⓒ About once a week
 - Ⓓ Two or three times a week
 - Ⓔ Every day
6. When you study history or social studies, do you do research projects about history or social studies topics using a CD or the Internet? Include things you do in class and things you do for homework assignments.
VB598170
- Ⓐ Yes
 - Ⓑ No
7. How hard was this test compared to most other tests you have taken this year in school?
VB595182
- Ⓐ Easier than other tests
 - Ⓑ About as hard as other tests
 - Ⓒ Harder than other tests
 - Ⓓ Much harder than other tests
8. How hard did you try on this test compared to how hard you tried on most other tests you have taken this year in school?
VC034559
- Ⓐ Not as hard as on other tests
 - Ⓑ About as hard as on other tests
 - Ⓒ Harder than on other tests
 - Ⓓ Much harder than on other tests
9. How important was it to you to do well on this test?
VB595184
- Ⓐ Not very important
 - Ⓑ Somewhat important
 - Ⓒ Important
 - Ⓓ Very important

