

STOP

**PLEASE DO NOT TURN THE PAGE
UNTIL INSTRUCTED TO DO SO.**

IEA Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study

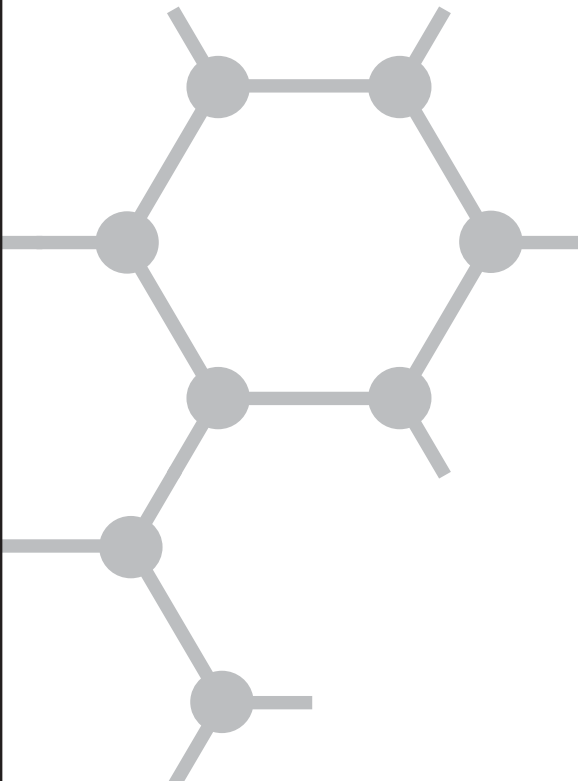
T I M S S

2003

Main Survey

**Student
Questionnaire**

Grade 8



General Directions

In this booklet, you will find questions about yourself. Some questions ask for facts while other questions ask for your opinions.

Read each question carefully and respond as accurately as possible. You may ask for help if you do not understand something or are not sure how to respond.

Each of the questions is followed by possible choices indicated with a circle with a number in it. For these questions, shade in the circle with the response of your choice as shown in Examples 1, 2, and 3.

Example 1

Do you go to school?

Fill in **one** circle only

- Yes ●
No ②

Example 2

How often do you do these things?

Fill in **one** circle for each line

- | | Every day | At least once a week | Once or twice a month | A few times a year | Never |
|---------------------------------|-----------|----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|-------|
| a) I listen to music | ↓ | ↓ | ↓ | ↓ | ↓ |
| b) I talk with my friends | ↓ | ↓ | ↓ | ↓ | ↓ |
| c) I play sports | ↓ | ↓ | ↓ | ↓ | ↓ |
- ① ----- ② ----- ● ----- ④ ----- ⑤
..... ● ----- ② ----- ③ ----- ④ ----- ⑤
..... ① ----- ● ----- ③ ----- ④ ----- ⑤

Example 3

Indicate how much you agree with each of these statements.

Fill in **one** circle for each line

| | Agree a lot | Agree a little | Disagree a little | Disagree a lot |
|----------------------------------|----------------|-------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| | ↓ | ↓ | ↓ | ↓ |
| a) Watching movies is fun | ① | ● | ③ | ④ |
| b) I like eating ice cream | ● | ② | ③ | ④ |

Read each question carefully and pick the answer you think is best. Fill in the circle that shows your answer. If you decide to change your answer, erase your first answer and then fill in the circle next to or under your new answer. Ask for help if you do not understand something or are not sure how to answer.

Thank you for your time, effort, and thought in completing this questionnaire.

About You

1

When were you born?

A. Fill in the circle next to the year you were born

Year

- ① 1985
- ② 1986
- ③ 1987
- ④ 1988
- ⑤ 1989
- ⑥ 1990
- ⑦ 1991
- ⑧ 1992
- ⑨ Other

B. Fill in the circle next to the month you were born

Month

- ① January
- ② February
- ③ March
- ④ April
- ⑤ May
- ⑥ June
- ⑦ July
- ⑧ August
- ⑨ September
- ⑩ October
- ⑪ November
- ⑫ December

2

A. Are you a girl or a boy?

Fill in **one** circle only

Girl ①

Boy ②

B. Are you Hispanic or Latino?

*Fill in **one** circle only*

Yes, I am Hispanic or Latino. ----- ①

No, I am not Hispanic or Latino. ----- ②

C. Which of the following best describes you?

*Fill in **as many** circles as you need to*

White ----- ①

Black or African American ----- ②

Asian ----- ③

American Indian or Alaska Native ----- ④

Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander ----- ⑤

...About You (Continued)

3

How often do you speak English at home?

*Fill in **one** circle only*

- Always ①
- Almost always ②
- Sometimes ③
- Never ④

4

About how many books are there in your home? (Do not count magazines, newspapers, or your school books.)

*Fill in **one** circle only*

- None or very few
(0-10 books) ①
- Enough to fill one shelf
(11-25 books) ②
- Enough to fill one bookcase
(26-100 books) ③
- Enough to fill two bookcases
(101-200 books) ④
- Enough to fill three or more bookcases
(more than 200 books) ⑤

5

Do you have any of these items in your home?

Fill in **one** circle for each line

- | | Yes | No |
|--|-----|----|
| | ↓ | ↓ |
| a) Calculator | ① | ② |
| b) Computer (do not include PlayStation®, GameCube®, XBox®, or other TV/video game system) | ① | ② |
| c) Study desk/table for your use | ① | ② |
| d) Dictionary | ① | ② |
| e) Encyclopedia (as a book or CD) | ① | ② |
| f) PlayStation®, Game Cube®, XBox®, or other TV/video game system | ① | ② |
| g) DVD player | ① | ② |
| h) Three or more cars, small trucks, or sport utility vehicles | ① | ② |

...About You (Continued)

6

A. What is the highest level of education completed by your mother (or stepmother or female guardian)?

*Fill in **one** circle only*

- Did not complete elementary school or did not go to school ----- ①
- Completed elementary school ----- ②
- Some high school ----- ③
- Completed high school ----- ④
- Completed a vocational/technical certificate after high school ----- ⑤
- Completed an Associate's degree (AA) in a vocational/technical program ----- ⑥
- Completed a 2-year or 4-year college or university degree (i.e., Associate's or Bachelor's degree) ----- ⑦
- Completed a Master's degree, teaching certificate program, or professional degree (e.g., law, medicine, dentistry) ----- ⑧
- Completed a doctorate (Ph.D. or Ed.D) ----- ⑨
- I don't know ----- ⑩

B. What is the highest level of education completed by your father (or stepfather or male guardian)?

*Fill in **one** circle only*

- Did not complete elementary school or did not go to school ----- ①
- Completed elementary school ----- ②
- Some high school ----- ③
- Completed high school ----- ④
- Completed a vocational/technical certificate after high school ----- ⑤
- Completed an Associate's degree (AA) in a vocational/technical program ----- ⑥
- Completed a 2-year or 4-year college or university degree (i.e., Associate's or Bachelor's degree) ----- ⑦
- Completed a Master's degree, teaching certificate program, or professional degree (e.g., law, medicine, dentistry) ----- ⑧
- Completed a doctorate (Ph.D. or Ed.D) ----- ⑨
- I don't know ----- ⑩

How far in school do you expect to go?

*Fill in **one** circle only*

- Finish high school ----- ①
- Finish vocational/technical education after high school ----- ②
- Finish community or junior college ----- ③
- Complete a bachelor's degree at a college or university ----- ④
- Beyond bachelor's degree ----- ⑤
- I don't know ----- ⑥

Mathematics in School

8

How much do you agree with these statements about learning mathematics?

Fill in **one** circle for each line

- | | Agree
a lot | Agree
a little | Disagree
a little | Disagree
a lot |
|---|----------------|-------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| | ↓ | ↓ | ↓ | ↓ |
| a) I usually do well in mathematics | ① | ② | ③ | ④ |
| b) I would like to take more mathematics in school | ① | ② | ③ | ④ |
| c) Mathematics is more difficult for me than for many of my classmates | ① | ② | ③ | ④ |
| d) I enjoy learning mathematics | ① | ② | ③ | ④ |
| e) Sometimes, when I do not initially understand a new topic in mathematics, I know that I will never really understand it | ① | ② | ③ | ④ |
| f) Mathematics is not one of my strengths..... | ① | ② | ③ | ④ |
| g) I learn things quickly in mathematics | ① | ② | ③ | ④ |

How much do you agree with these statements about mathematics?*Fill in **one** circle for each line*

| Agree a lot | Agree a little | Disagree a little | Disagree a lot |
|----------------|-------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| ↓ | ↓ | ↓ | ↓ |

- a) I think learning mathematics
will help me in my daily life ----- ① ----- ② ----- ③ ----- ④
- b) I need mathematics to
learn other school subjects ----- ① ----- ② ----- ③ ----- ④
- c) I need to do well in mathematics
to get into the university or college
of my choice ----- ① ----- ② ----- ③ ----- ④
- d) I would like a job that involves
using mathematics ----- ① ----- ② ----- ③ ----- ④
- e) I need to do well in mathematics to
get the job I want ----- ① ----- ② ----- ③ ----- ④

...Mathematics in School (Cont.)

10

How often do you do these things in your mathematics lessons?

Fill in **one** circle for each line

- | | Every or
almost
every
lesson | About
half the
lessons | Some
lessons | Never |
|--|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------|-------|
| | ↓ | ↓ | ↓ | ↓ |
| a) We practice adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing without using a calculator ----- | ① ----- | ② ----- | ③ ----- | ④ |
| b) We work on fractions and decimals ----- | ① ----- | ② ----- | ③ ----- | ④ |
| c) We interpret data in tables, charts, or graphs ----- | ① ----- | ② ----- | ③ ----- | ④ |
| d) We write equations and functions to represent relationships ----- | ① ----- | ② ----- | ③ ----- | ④ |
| e) We work together in small groups ----- | ① ----- | ② ----- | ③ ----- | ④ |
| f) We relate what we are learning in mathematics to our daily lives ----- | ① ----- | ② ----- | ③ ----- | ④ |
| g) We explain our answers ----- | ① ----- | ② ----- | ③ ----- | ④ |
| h) We decide on our own procedures for solving complex problems ----- | ① ----- | ② ----- | ③ ----- | ④ |
| i) We review our homework ----- | ① ----- | ② ----- | ③ ----- | ④ |
| j) We listen to the teacher give a lecture-style presentation ----- | ① ----- | ② ----- | ③ ----- | ④ |
| k) We work on problems on our own ----- | ① ----- | ② ----- | ③ ----- | ④ |
| l) We begin our homework in class ----- | ① ----- | ② ----- | ③ ----- | ④ |
| m) We have a quiz or test ----- | ① ----- | ② ----- | ③ ----- | ④ |
| n) We use calculators ----- | ① ----- | ② ----- | ③ ----- | ④ |

Science in School

11

How much do you agree with these statements about learning science?

Fill in **one** circle for each line

- | | Agree
a lot | Agree
a little | Disagree
a little | Disagree
a lot |
|---|----------------|-------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| | ↓ | ↓ | ↓ | ↓ |
| a) I usually do well in science | ① | ② | ③ | ④ |
| b) I would like to take more science in school | ① | ② | ③ | ④ |
| c) Science is more difficult for me than for many of my classmates | ① | ② | ③ | ④ |
| d) I enjoy learning science | ① | ② | ③ | ④ |
| e) Sometimes, when I do not initially understand a new topic in science, I know that I will never really understand it | ① | ② | ③ | ④ |
| f) Science is not one of my strengths | ① | ② | ③ | ④ |
| g) I learn things quickly in science | ① | ② | ③ | ④ |

...Science in School (Continued)

12

How much do you agree with these statements about science?

Fill in **one** circle for each line

| Agree a lot | Agree a little | Disagree a little | Disagree a lot |
|----------------|-------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| ↓ | ↓ | ↓ | ↓ |

- a) I think learning science
will help me in my daily life ① ----- ② ----- ③ ----- ④
- b) I need science to learn
other school subjects ① ----- ② ----- ③ ----- ④
- c) I need to do well in science
to get into the university or
college of my choice ① ----- ② ----- ③ ----- ④
- d) I would like a job that
involves using science ① ----- ② ----- ③ ----- ④
- e) I need to do well in science
to get the job I want ① ----- ② ----- ③ ----- ④

How often do you do these things in your science lessons?

Fill in **one** circle for each line

- | | Every or
almost
every
lesson | About
half the
lessons | Some
lessons | Never |
|--|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------|-------|
| | ↓ | ↓ | ↓ | ↓ |
| a) We watch the teacher demonstrate an experiment or investigation | ① | ② | ③ | ④ |
| b) We formulate hypotheses or predictions to be tested | ① | ② | ③ | ④ |
| c) We design or plan an experiment or investigation | ① | ② | ③ | ④ |
| d) We conduct an experiment or investigation | ① | ② | ③ | ④ |
| e) We work in small groups on an experiment or investigation | ① | ② | ③ | ④ |
| f) We write explanations about what was observed and why it happened | ① | ② | ③ | ④ |
| g) We study the impact of technology on society | ① | ② | ③ | ④ |
| h) We relate what we are learning in science to our daily lives | ① | ② | ③ | ④ |
| i) We present our work to the class | ① | ② | ③ | ④ |
| j) We review our homework | ① | ② | ③ | ④ |
| k) We listen to the teacher give a lecture-style presentation | ① | ② | ③ | ④ |
| l) We work problems on our own | ① | ② | ③ | ④ |
| m) We begin our homework in class | ① | ② | ③ | ④ |
| n) We have a quiz or test | ① | ② | ③ | ④ |

Computers

14

A. Do you ever use a computer? (Do not include PlayStation®, GameCube®, Xbox®, or other TV/video game systems).

Yes No
↓ ↓

Fill in **one** circle only ----- ① ----- ②

If **No**, please go to question **15** on next page 

B. Where do you use a computer?

Fill in **one** circle for each line

Yes No
↓ ↓

- a) At home ----- ① ----- ②
- b) At school ----- ① ----- ②
- c) At a library ----- ① ----- ②
- d) At a friend's home ----- ① ----- ②
- e) At an Internet café ----- ① ----- ②
- f) Elsewhere ----- ① ----- ②

C. How often do you do these things with a computer?

Fill in **one** circle for each line

Every day At least once a week Once or twice a month A few times a year Never
↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓

- a) I look up ideas and information for mathematics ----- ① ----- ② ----- ③ ----- ④ ----- ⑤
- b) I look up ideas and information for science ----- ① ----- ② ----- ③ ----- ④ ----- ⑤
- c) I write reports for school ----- ① ----- ② ----- ③ ----- ④ ----- ⑤
- d) I process and analyze data ----- ① ----- ② ----- ③ ----- ④ ----- ⑤

Your School

15

How much do you agree with these statements about your school?

Fill in **one** circle for each line

- | | Agree
a lot | Agree
a little | Disagree
a little | Disagree
a lot |
|---|----------------|-------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| | ↓ | ↓ | ↓ | ↓ |
| a) I like being in school | ① | ② | ③ | ④ |
| b) I think that most students in my school try to do their best..... | ① | ② | ③ | ④ |
| c) I think that most teachers in my school care about the students | ① | ② | ③ | ④ |
| d) I think that most teachers in my school want students to do their best .. | ① | ② | ③ | ④ |

Things You Do Outside of School

16

On a normal school day, how much time do you spend before or after school doing each of these things?

Fill in **one** circle for each line

| | No time | Less than 1 hour | 1-2 hours | More than 2 but less than 4 hours | 4 or more hours |
|--|------------|------------------------|--------------|---|-----------------------|
| a) I watch television and videos | ↓ | ↓ | ↓ | ↓ | ↓ |
| b) I play computer games | ① | ② | ③ | ④ | ⑤ |
| c) I play or talk with friends | ① | ② | ③ | ④ | ⑤ |
| d) I do jobs or chores at home | ① | ② | ③ | ④ | ⑤ |
| e) I work at a paid job | ① | ② | ③ | ④ | ⑤ |
| f) I play sports | ① | ② | ③ | ④ | ⑤ |
| g) I read a book for enjoyment | ① | ② | ③ | ④ | ⑤ |
| h) I use the Internet | ① | ② | ③ | ④ | ⑤ |
| i) I do homework | ① | ② | ③ | ④ | ⑤ |

A. During this school year, how often have you had tutoring or extra lessons in mathematics that are not part of your regular class?

*Fill in **one** circle only*

- Every or almost every day ----- ①
- Once or twice a week ----- ②
- Sometimes ----- ③
- Never or almost never ----- ④

B. During this school year, how often have you had tutoring or extra lessons in science that are not part of your regular class?

*Fill in **one** circle only*

- Every or almost every day ----- ①
- Once or twice a week ----- ②
- Sometimes ----- ③
- Never or almost never ----- ④

...Outside of School (Continued)

18

A. How often does your teacher give you homework in mathematics?

*Fill in **one** circle only*

Every day ----- ①

3 or 4 times a week ----- ②

1 or 2 times a week ----- ③

Less than once a week ----- ④

Never ----- ⑤

*If **Never**, please go to question **19** on next page*



B. When your teacher gives you mathematics homework, about how long does it take you to complete this homework?

*Fill in **one** circle only*

Less than 15 minutes ----- ①

15–30 minutes ----- ②

31–60 minutes ----- ③

61–90 minutes ----- ④

More than 90 minutes ----- ⑤

A. How often does your teacher give you homework in science?

*Fill in **one** circle only*

- Every day ----- ①
- 3 or 4 times a week ----- ②
- 1 or 2 times a week ----- ③
- Less than once a week ----- ④
- Never ----- ⑤

*If **Never**, please go to question **20** on next page* 

B. When your teacher gives you science homework, about how long does it take you to complete this homework?

*Fill in **one** circle only*

- Less than 15 minutes ----- ①
- 15–30 minutes ----- ②
- 31–60 minutes ----- ③
- 61–90 minutes ----- ④
- More than 90 minutes ----- ⑤

More About You

20

Including yourself, how many people live in your home?

Fill in **one** circle only

- 2-----②
- 3-----③
- 4-----④
- 5-----⑤
- 6-----⑥
- 7-----⑦
- 8 or more-----⑧

21

A. Was your mother (or stepmother or female guardian) born in the United States?*

Yes No
↓ ↓

Fill in **one** circle only ----- ① ----- ②

B. Was your father (or stepfather or male guardian) born in the United States?*

Yes No
↓ ↓

Fill in **one** circle only ----- ① ----- ②

*Note: “United States” includes the 50 states, its territories, the District of Columbia, and U.S. military bases abroad.

A. Were you born in the United States?

Yes No
↓ ↓

Fill in **one** circle only ----- ① ----- ②

If **Yes**, you have completed the questionnaire 

B. If you were not born in the United States, how old were you when you came to the United States?

Fill in **one** circle only

Younger than 5 years old ----- ①

5 to 10 years old ----- ②

Older than 10 years old ----- ③

Thank You

for completing
this questionnaire



TIMSS International Study Center

Boston College
Chestnut Hill, MA 02467

©IEA, Amsterdam (2002)

G8 - Booklet

1

