



# U.S. History

## Student Background Questionnaire

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**2006**  
**Grade 8**

## DIRECTIONS

In sections 1 and 4, you will be asked questions about yourself and your education. The choices for some questions will be written across the page as shown. Fill in the oval for the best answer.

### Example 1

	Never or hardly ever	Once or twice a month	Once or twice a week	Almost every day
1. How often do you watch movies on TV?	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D

You should have filled in the oval below the answer that best tells how often you watch movies on TV.

The choices for some questions will be written down the page as shown. Now read Example 2 and indicate your answer.

### Example 2

2. Which event would you prefer to attend?
<input type="radio"/> A basketball game
<input type="radio"/> B car show
<input type="radio"/> C concert
<input type="radio"/> D play

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.

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 13 questions. Mark your answers in your booklet.

VB331330

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

- (A) No, I am not Hispanic or Latino.
- (B) Yes, I am Mexican, Mexican American, or Chicano.
- (C) Yes, I am Puerto Rican or Puerto Rican American.
- (D) Yes, I am Cuban or Cuban American.
- (E) 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**.

- (A) White
- (B) Black or African American
- (C) Asian
- (D) American Indian or Alaska Native
- (E) 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

VB330870

11. 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

12. 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.

VB331451

13. 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 10 questions. Mark your answers in your booklet. Fill in only **one** oval for each question.

1. Did you take a United States history course in the following grades? Fill in **one** oval on each line. LC000105
- |              | Yes                     | No                      | I don't know            |          |
|--------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|----------|
| a. 6th grade | <input type="radio"/> A | <input type="radio"/> B | <input type="radio"/> C | LC000106 |
| b. 7th grade | <input type="radio"/> A | <input type="radio"/> B | <input type="radio"/> C | LC000107 |
2. Are you taking a United States history course now? WP000118
- A Yes
- B No
3. Since the beginning of middle school or junior high school, how much have you studied the following periods of United States history? Fill in **one** oval on each line. VB598171
- |   | Not at all              | Some                    | A lot                   |          |
|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|----------|
| a. The period before 1815: beginnings through the Revolution (e.g., colonization, settlement, revolution)   | <input type="radio"/> A | <input type="radio"/> B | <input type="radio"/> C | VB598172 |
| b. The period between 1815 and 1865: the new nation through the Civil War (e.g., expansion, reform, crisis of the Union)  | <input type="radio"/> A | <input type="radio"/> B | <input type="radio"/> C | VB598173 |
| c. The period between 1865 and 1945: the development of modern America (e.g., Reconstruction, industrial growth, United States role in world affairs, the Great Depression, the First and Second World Wars, immigration) | <input type="radio"/> A | <input type="radio"/> B | <input type="radio"/> C | VB598174 |
| d. The period between 1945 and the present: contemporary America (e.g., civil rights movement, women's rights movement, Korean and Vietnam wars, environmental movement)  | <input type="radio"/> A | <input type="radio"/> B | <input type="radio"/> C | VB598175 |

4. 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	<input type="radio"/> (A)	<input type="radio"/> (B)	<input type="radio"/> (C)	<input type="radio"/> (D)	<input type="radio"/> (E)	VB598096
b. Read extra material not in the regular textbook (e.g., biographies or historical stories)	<input type="radio"/> (A)	<input type="radio"/> (B)	<input type="radio"/> (C)	<input type="radio"/> (D)	<input type="radio"/> (E)	VB598097
c. Use letters, diaries, or essays written by historical people	<input type="radio"/> (A)	<input type="radio"/> (B)	<input type="radio"/> (C)	<input type="radio"/> (D)	<input type="radio"/> (E)	VB598098
d. Discuss the material studied	<input type="radio"/> (A)	<input type="radio"/> (B)	<input type="radio"/> (C)	<input type="radio"/> (D)	<input type="radio"/> (E)	VB598099
e. Write short answers (a paragraph or less) to questions	<input type="radio"/> (A)	<input type="radio"/> (B)	<input type="radio"/> (C)	<input type="radio"/> (D)	<input type="radio"/> (E)	VB598100
f. Write a report	<input type="radio"/> (A)	<input type="radio"/> (B)	<input type="radio"/> (C)	<input type="radio"/> (D)	<input type="radio"/> (E)	VB598101
g. Work on a group project	<input type="radio"/> (A)	<input type="radio"/> (B)	<input type="radio"/> (C)	<input type="radio"/> (D)	<input type="radio"/> (E)	VB598162
h. Give a report on the topic being studied	<input type="radio"/> (A)	<input type="radio"/> (B)	<input type="radio"/> (C)	<input type="radio"/> (D)	<input type="radio"/> (E)	VB598163
i. Watch movies, videos, or filmstrips	<input type="radio"/> (A)	<input type="radio"/> (B)	<input type="radio"/> (C)	<input type="radio"/> (D)	<input type="radio"/> (E)	VB598164
j. Take a test or quiz	<input type="radio"/> (A)	<input type="radio"/> (B)	<input type="radio"/> (C)	<input type="radio"/> (D)	<input type="radio"/> (E)	VB598165
k. Go on field trips or have outside speakers	<input type="radio"/> (A)	<input type="radio"/> (B)	<input type="radio"/> (C)	<input type="radio"/> (D)	<input type="radio"/> (E)	VB598166
l. Schoolwork in the library	<input type="radio"/> (A)	<input type="radio"/> (B)	<input type="radio"/> (C)	<input type="radio"/> (D)	<input type="radio"/> (E)	VB598167

5. 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
6. 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
7. When you study history or social studies, to what extent do you use computers to do research projects about history or social studies topics using a CD or the Internet? Include both work in class and homework assignments.
- VB598176
- Ⓐ Not at all
  - Ⓑ Small extent
  - Ⓒ Moderate extent
  - Ⓓ Large extent
8. 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
9. 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
10. How important was it to you to do well on this test?
- VB595184
- Ⓐ Not very important
  - Ⓑ Somewhat important
  - Ⓒ Important
  - Ⓓ Very important

