



Science

Student Background Questionnaire

2005
Grade 8

SECTION 3

Section 3

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 3

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.

HE002996

1. How much do you agree with the following statements? Fill in **one** oval on each line.

	Disagree	Not sure	Agree	
a. I like science.	<input type="radio"/> (A)	<input type="radio"/> (B)	<input type="radio"/> (C)	HE002997
b. I am good at science.	<input type="radio"/> (A)	<input type="radio"/> (B)	<input type="radio"/> (C)	HE002998
c. Science is useful for solving everyday problems.	<input type="radio"/> (A)	<input type="radio"/> (B)	<input type="radio"/> (C)	HE003000
d. Science is boring.	<input type="radio"/> (A)	<input type="radio"/> (B)	<input type="radio"/> (C)	HE003003

LC000166

2. Which best describes the science course you are taking?

- (A) I am not taking a science course this year.
- (B) Life science (for example, biology)
- (C) Physical science (for example, physics or chemistry)
- (D) Earth science (for example, geology or astronomy)
- (E) General science (several content areas of science taught separately)
- (F) Integrated science (several content areas of science combined and taught together throughout the year)

HE003014

3. When you study science in school, how often do you do each of the following? 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. Read a science textbook	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	HE003015
b. Read a book or a magazine about science	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	HE003016
c. Discuss science in the news	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	HE003017
d. Work with other students on a science activity or project	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	WO001033
e. Give an oral science report	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	WO001034
f. Prepare a written science report	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	WO001035
g. Do hands-on activities or investigations in science	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	LD001451
h. Talk about the measurements and results from your hands-on activities or investigations	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	LD001477
i. Use a computer for science	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	WO001038
j. Take a science test or quiz	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	WO001039
k. Use library resources for science	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	WO001040

WO001042

4. When you study science in school, how often does your teacher do each of the following? 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. Do a science demonstration	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	WO001044
b. Use computers for science (e.g., science software, telecommunications)	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	WO001046

HE003005

5. Have you ever done hands-on activities or projects in school with any of the following?
Fill in **all** ovals that apply.

- a. Living things (for example, plants, animals, bacteria) HE003006
- b. Electricity (for example, batteries and flash bulbs) HE003007
- c. Chemicals (for example, mixing or dissolving sugar or salt in water) HE003008
- d. Rocks or minerals (for example, identifying types) HE003009
- e. Magnifying glass or microscope (for looking at small things) HE003010
- f. Thermometer or barometer (for making measurements) HE003011
- g. Simple machines (for example, pulleys and levers) HE003012
- h. None of the above HE003013

LC000147

6. Do you ever do science projects in school that take a week or more?

- Yes
- No

QK070712

7. This year in school, how often have you been asked to write long answers to questions on tests or assignments for science?

- Never
- Once or twice this year
- Once or twice a month
- At least once a week

VB595182

8. How hard was this test compared to most other tests you have taken this year in school?

- Ⓐ Easier than other tests
- Ⓑ About as hard as other tests
- Ⓒ Harder than other tests
- Ⓓ Much harder than other tests

VC034559

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?

- Ⓐ 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

VB595184

10. How important was it to you to do well on this test?

- Ⓐ Not very important
- Ⓑ Somewhat important
- Ⓒ Important
- Ⓓ Very important

