



Science
Student Background Questionnaire

2009
Grade 4

DIRECTIONS

In the next two sections, 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 4

Section 4

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

VB331330

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 4

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

1. In this school year, how often have you done activities or projects in science?

VC315287

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

2. In this school year, how often have you done activities or projects to learn about living things (for example, plants, animals, bacteria)?

VC315208

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

3. In this school year, how often have you done activities or projects to learn about electricity (for example, batteries and light)?

VC519362

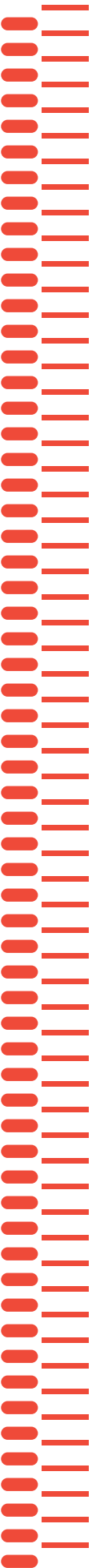
- Ⓐ Never or hardly ever
- Ⓑ Once every few weeks
- Ⓒ About once a week
- Ⓓ Two or three times a week
- Ⓔ Every day or almost every day

4. In this school year, how often have you done activities or projects to learn about chemicals (for example, mixing sugar or salt in water)?

VC315219

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

5. In this school year, how often have you done activities or projects to learn about rocks or minerals (for example, looking at different rocks)? VC315221
- (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 or almost every day
6. In this school year, how often have you done activities or projects using a magnifying glass or microscope (for looking at small things)? VC315222
- (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 or almost every day
7. In this school year, how often have you done activities or projects using a thermometer or barometer (for making measurements)? VC315227
- (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 or almost every day
8. In this school year, how often have you done activities or projects using simple machines (for example, pulleys and levers)? VC315229
- (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 or almost every day
9. In this school year, how often have you read a science textbook? VC315232
- (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 or almost every day
10. In this school year, how often have you read a book or magazine about science? VC315239
- (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 or almost every day



11. In this school year, how often have you read about science on the computer? VC519400
- Ⓐ Never or hardly ever
 - Ⓑ Once every few weeks
 - Ⓒ About once a week
 - Ⓓ Two or three times a week
 - Ⓔ Every day or almost every day
12. In this school year, how often have you watched a movie, video, or DVD about science? VC315248
- Ⓐ Never or hardly ever
 - Ⓑ Once every few weeks
 - Ⓒ About once a week
 - Ⓓ Two or three times a week
 - Ⓔ Every day or almost every day
13. In this school year, how often have you discussed news stories about science? VC315249
- Ⓐ Never or hardly ever
 - Ⓑ Once every few weeks
 - Ⓒ About once a week
 - Ⓓ Two or three times a week
 - Ⓔ Every day or almost every day
14. In this school year, how often have you worked with other students on a science activity or project? VC315270
- Ⓐ Never or hardly ever
 - Ⓑ Once every few weeks
 - Ⓒ About once a week
 - Ⓓ Two or three times a week
 - Ⓔ Every day or almost every day
15. In this school year, how often have you been asked to solve a science problem? VC315267
- Ⓐ Never or hardly ever
 - Ⓑ Once every few weeks
 - Ⓒ About once a week
 - Ⓓ Two or three times a week
 - Ⓔ Every day or almost every day
16. In this school year, how often have you presented what you learned about science to your class? VC315259
- Ⓐ Never or hardly ever
 - Ⓑ Once every few weeks
 - Ⓒ About once a week
 - Ⓓ Two or three times a week
 - Ⓔ Every day or almost every day

Section 4

17. In this school year, how often have you taken a science test or quiz? VC315256
- (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 or almost every day
18. In this school year, how often have you talked about measurements or results from your science activities or projects? VC315288
- (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 or almost every day
19. In this school year, how often have you written a report on your science activities or projects? VC315265
- (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 or almost every day
20. In this school year, how often have you been asked to write long answers to questions on tests or assignments for science? VC315289
- (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 or almost every day
21. In this school year, how often have you talked with your teacher about how you are doing in science? VC546453
- (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 or almost every day
22. In this school year, how often have you used library resources for science? VC315266
- (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 or almost every day



23. In this school year, how often have you used computers for science? VC546463
- Ⓐ Never or hardly ever
 - Ⓑ Once every few weeks
 - Ⓒ About once a week
 - Ⓓ Two or three times a week
 - Ⓔ Every day or almost every day
24. How often do you feel you can understand what the teacher talks about in science class? VC315291
- Ⓐ Never or hardly ever
 - Ⓑ Sometimes
 - Ⓒ Often
 - Ⓓ Always or almost always
25. How often do you do science activities that are not for schoolwork? VC315410
- Ⓐ Never or hardly ever
 - Ⓑ Sometimes
 - Ⓒ Often
 - Ⓓ Always or almost always
26. How often do you feel you can do a good job on your science tests? VC315292
- Ⓐ Never or hardly ever
 - Ⓑ Sometimes
 - Ⓒ Often
 - Ⓓ Always or almost always
27. How often do you feel you can do a good job on your science assignments? VC315294
- Ⓐ Never or hardly ever
 - Ⓑ Sometimes
 - Ⓒ Often
 - Ⓓ Always or almost always
28. How much do you like studying science? VC315299
- Ⓐ Very little
 - Ⓑ Some
 - Ⓒ Quite a bit
 - Ⓓ Very much

Section 4

29. How often do you feel science is one of your favorite subjects?

VC315302

- Ⓐ Never or hardly ever
- Ⓑ Sometimes
- Ⓒ Often
- Ⓓ Always or almost always

30. 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

31. 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

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

VB595184

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

