

Geography

Student Background Questionnaire

2010
Grade 4

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4
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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.

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1



SECTION 1

Section 1

In this section, please tell us about yourself and your family. The section has 12 questions. Mark your answers in your booklet. Fill in only **one** oval for each question except where instructed otherwise.

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

VB331330

- Ⓐ 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.

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

VB331331

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

Section 1

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

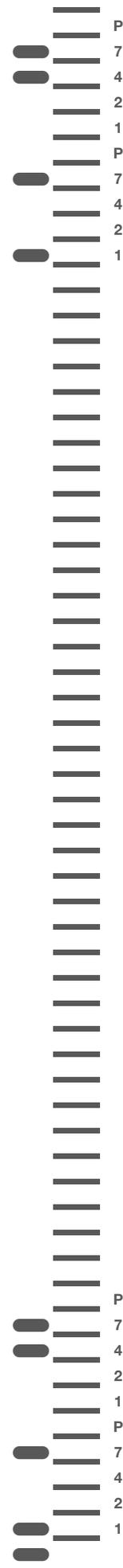
- A Yes
- B No
- C I don't know.

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

VE102537
12. Write the ZIP code of your home address in the boxes.

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SECTION 4

Section 4

This section has 22 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? VB594977
- Ⓐ Never or hardly ever
- Ⓑ Once or twice a month
- Ⓒ Once or twice a week
- Ⓓ Almost every day
2. In this school year, have you studied geography? VC472674
- Ⓐ Yes
- Ⓑ No
- Ⓒ I don't know.
3. When you study social studies in school, how often do you read material from a textbook? VE040257
- Ⓐ Never
- Ⓑ A few times a year
- Ⓒ Once or twice a month
- Ⓓ Once or twice a week
- Ⓔ Almost every day
4. When you study social studies in school, how often do you memorize material for class? VE040260
- Ⓐ Never
- Ⓑ A few times a year
- Ⓒ Once or twice a month
- Ⓓ Once or twice a week
- Ⓔ Almost every day
5. When you study social studies in school, how often do you read extra materials not in your textbook, such as newspapers, magazines, maps, charts, or cartoons? VE040264
- Ⓐ Never
- Ⓑ A few times a year
- Ⓒ Once or twice a month
- Ⓓ Once or twice a week
- Ⓔ Almost every day

Section 4



6. When you study social studies in school, how often do you complete a worksheet? VE040269

- (A) Never
- (B) A few times a year
- (C) Once or twice a month
- (D) Once or twice a week
- (E) Almost every day

7. When you study social studies in school, how often do you write reports? VE040273

- (A) Never
- (B) A few times a year
- (C) Once or twice a month
- (D) Once or twice a week
- (E) Almost every day

8. When you study social studies in school, how often do you discuss current events? VE040279

- (A) Never
- (B) A few times a year
- (C) Once or twice a month
- (D) Once or twice a week
- (E) Almost every day

9. When you study social studies in school, how often do you watch television shows or videos in class? VE040281

- (A) Never
- (B) A few times a year
- (C) Once or twice a month
- (D) Once or twice a week
- (E) Almost every day

10. When you study social studies in school, how often do you discuss television shows or videos in class? VE040284

- (A) Never
- (B) A few times a year
- (C) Once or twice a month
- (D) Once or twice a week
- (E) Almost every day

11. This year in school, how often have you been asked to write long answers to questions or assignments that involved social studies? VB594978

- (A) Never
- (B) Once or twice this year
- (C) Once or twice a month
- (D) At least once a week



12. How often do you use computers at school for social studies?

VB331452

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

Questions 13–18. The following questions are about things you do when you study social studies. Include things you do in class and things you do for homework assignments.

13. Do you do research projects about social studies topics using a CD or the Internet?

VB331555

- Ⓐ Yes
- Ⓑ No

16. Do you use a computer to put social studies information into tables, charts, or graphs?

VB331558

- Ⓐ Yes
- Ⓑ No

14. Do you use computer programs in which you pretend to be an explorer, travel to new places, or do things like build cities?

VB331556

- Ⓐ Yes
- Ⓑ No

17. Do you use a computer to write reports or other things about social studies?

VB331559

- Ⓐ Yes
- Ⓑ No

15. Do you create or use maps using computer programs?

VB331557

- Ⓐ Yes
- Ⓑ No

18. Do you put together words, pictures, and sounds on the computer to create projects about social studies?

VB331560

- Ⓐ Yes
- Ⓑ No

Section 4

VB345590

19. How much do you like studying geography?

- Ⓐ It is one of my favorite subjects.
- Ⓑ I like most other subjects better.
- Ⓒ I have never studied geography.

VB595182

20. 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

21. 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

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

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

