



Science
Student Questionnaire

2015
Grade 8

SECTION 3

Section 3

In this section, please tell us about yourself and your family. Please answer questions about your home based on where you live most of the time during the school year. The section has 13 questions. Mark your answers in your booklet. Fill in only **one** oval for each question except where instructed otherwise.

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 3

VB331335

3. About how many books are there in your home?

- Ⓐ Few (0–10)
- Ⓑ Enough to fill one shelf (11–25)
- Ⓒ Enough to fill one bookcase (26–100)
- Ⓓ Enough to fill several bookcases (more than 100)

VB331336

4. Is there a computer at home that you use?

- Ⓐ Yes
- Ⓑ No

VF098664

5. Do you have the following in your home? Fill in ovals for **all** that apply.

- Ⓐ Access to the Internet
- Ⓑ Clothes dryer just for your family
- Ⓒ Dishwasher
- Ⓓ More than one bathroom
- Ⓔ Your own bedroom

TB001101

6. About how many pages a day do you have to read in school and for homework?

- Ⓐ 5 or fewer
- Ⓑ 6–10
- Ⓒ 11–15
- Ⓓ 16–20
- Ⓔ More than 20

VB331339

7. How often do you talk about things you have studied in school with someone in your family?

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

VB331447

8. 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

9. 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

10. 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

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

VF095730

12. Do the following people live in your home? Fill in ovals for **all** that apply.

- Ⓐ Mother
- Ⓑ Stepmother
- Ⓒ Foster mother or other female legal guardian
- Ⓓ Father
- Ⓔ Stepfather
- Ⓕ Foster father or other male legal guardian

VE102537

13. Write the ZIP code of your home address in the boxes.

| | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|



SECTION 4

Section 4

This section has 19 questions. Mark your answers in your booklet. Fill in only **one** oval for each question except where instructed otherwise.

VC304978

1. In your science class this year, which of the following topics have been covered? Fill in **one** oval on each line.

| | Yes | No | |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|----------|
| a. Life science (for example, biology, the human body, or ecology) | <input type="radio"/> A | <input type="radio"/> B | VC304982 |
| b. Physical science (for example, energy, physics, or chemistry) | <input type="radio"/> A | <input type="radio"/> B | VC304983 |
| c. Earth and space science (for example, geology or astronomy) | <input type="radio"/> A | <input type="radio"/> B | VC304984 |
| d. Engineering and technology (for example, designing solutions to problems) | <input type="radio"/> A | <input type="radio"/> B | VC304985 |

VF633079

2. In your science class this year, how often have you done hands-on activities or projects with any of the following? Fill in **one** oval on each line.

| | Never | Rarely | Sometimes | | |
|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|----------|
| a. Living things (for example, plants, animals, bacteria) | <input type="radio"/> A | <input type="radio"/> B | <input type="radio"/> C | <input type="radio"/> D | VF633080 |
| b. Electricity (for example, circuits, batteries, and light bulbs) | <input type="radio"/> A | <input type="radio"/> B | <input type="radio"/> C | <input type="radio"/> D | VF633083 |
| c. Chemicals (for example, mixing or dissolving sugar or salt in water) | <input type="radio"/> A | <input type="radio"/> B | <input type="radio"/> C | <input type="radio"/> D | VF633082 |
| d. Rocks or minerals (for example, identifying types) | <input type="radio"/> A | <input type="radio"/> B | <input type="radio"/> C | <input type="radio"/> D | VF633087 |
| e. Simple machines (for example, pulleys and levers) | <input type="radio"/> A | <input type="radio"/> B | <input type="radio"/> C | <input type="radio"/> D | VF633086 |
| f. Magnifying glass or microscope (for looking at small things) | <input type="radio"/> A | <input type="radio"/> B | <input type="radio"/> C | <input type="radio"/> D | VF633084 |
| g. Thermometer or barometer (for making measurements) | <input type="radio"/> A | <input type="radio"/> B | <input type="radio"/> C | <input type="radio"/> D | VF633085 |

Section 4

VC305292

3. In your science class this year, how often do you do each of the following? Fill in **one** oval on each line.

| | Never or hardly ever | Once every few weeks | About once a week | Two or three times a week | Every day or almost every day | |
|---|----------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------|---|----------|
| a. Read a science textbook, in class or at home | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) | (E) | VC546510 |
| b. Read a book or magazine about science topics | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) | (E) | VF633095 |
| c. Use the Internet to learn about science topics | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) | (E) | VF633097 |
| d. Watch a movie, video, or DVD about science topics | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) | (E) | VF633099 |

VC304769

4. In your science class this year, how often do you do each of the following? Fill in **one** oval on each line.

| | Never or hardly ever | Once every few weeks | About once a week | Two or three times a week | Every day or almost every day | |
|---|----------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------|---|----------|
| a. Discuss events in the news that are related to what you are learning in science class | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) | (E) | VC304771 |
| b. Work with other students on a science project or activity | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) | (E) | VC304772 |
| c. Present what you learned about science to your class | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) | (E) | VC304778 |
| d. Take a science test or quiz | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) | (E) | VC720564 |

VC720622

5. In your science class this year, how often do you do each of the following? Fill in **one** oval on each line.

| | Never or hardly ever | Once every few weeks | About once a week | Two or three times a week | Every day or almost every day | |
|--|----------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------|---|----------|
| a. Identify questions that can be addressed through science experiments | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) | (E) | VC720623 |
| b. Design a science experiment | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) | (E) | VC720634 |
| c. Talk about measurements you took for your science project or activity | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) | (E) | VC720635 |
| d. Talk about the results of your science project or activity | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) | (E) | VC720636 |
| e. Watch your teacher do a science experiment or activity | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) | (E) | VC720638 |
| f. Make graphs or charts of the results from your science project or activity | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) | (E) | VC720639 |
| g. Write about your science activities or projects (such as reports, science journals, or lab write-ups) | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) | (E) | VF633111 |

Section 4

VH142438

6. In this school year, how often have you been asked to write long answers (several sentences or paragraphs) to questions on tests or assignments for science?

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

VC546453

7. In this school year, how often have you talked with your teacher about how you are doing in science?

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

VH157884

8. In this school year, how often have you used your school library or media center resources for science (such as books, magazines, computers, and audio-video materials)?

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

VC546463

9. In this school year, how often have you used computers for science?

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



VC315291

10. How often do you feel you can understand what the teacher talks about in science class?

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

VC315294

12. How often do you feel you can do a good job on your science assignments?

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

VC315292

11. How often do you feel you can do a good job on your science tests?

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

Section 4

VC305330

13. Please indicate how much you DISAGREE or AGREE with the following statements about science. Fill in **one** oval on each line.

| | Strongly disagree | Disagree | Agree | Strongly agree | |
|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|----------|
| a. I do science-related activities that are not for schoolwork. | <input type="radio"/> A | <input type="radio"/> B | <input type="radio"/> C | <input type="radio"/> D | VC305348 |
| b. I like science. | <input type="radio"/> A | <input type="radio"/> B | <input type="radio"/> C | <input type="radio"/> D | VC305350 |
| c. Science is one of my favorite subjects. | <input type="radio"/> A | <input type="radio"/> B | <input type="radio"/> C | <input type="radio"/> D | VC305351 |
| d. I take science only because I have to. | <input type="radio"/> A | <input type="radio"/> B | <input type="radio"/> C | <input type="radio"/> D | VC305352 |
| e. I need to do well in science to get the job I want. | <input type="radio"/> A | <input type="radio"/> B | <input type="radio"/> C | <input type="radio"/> D | VH142495 |
| f. I would like a job that involves using science. | <input type="radio"/> A | <input type="radio"/> B | <input type="radio"/> C | <input type="radio"/> D | VH142499 |

VF633128

14. In this school year, have you participated in any of the following activities? Fill in **one** oval on each line.

| | Yes | No | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|----------|
| a. Science fair | <input type="radio"/> A | <input type="radio"/> B | VF633132 |
| b. Science club | <input type="radio"/> A | <input type="radio"/> B | VF633134 |
| c. Science competition | <input type="radio"/> A | <input type="radio"/> B | VF633135 |

VF633304

15. In this school year, have you visited a museum, zoo, or aquarium to learn about science on a school trip?

- ☐ A Yes
☐ B No

VF633276

16. In this school year, have you visited a museum, zoo, or aquarium to learn about science that was **not** on a school trip?

- ☐ A Yes
☐ B No

VB595182

17. 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

18. 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

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

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

