



# **Student Background Questionnaire**

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**2000 Science  
Grade 8**

This section has 20 questions. Mark your answers in your booklet. Fill in only **one** oval for each question.

TB003001

1. Which best describes you?

- Ⓐ White (not Hispanic)
- Ⓑ Black (not Hispanic)
- Ⓒ Hispanic ("Hispanic" means someone who is from a Mexican, Mexican American, Chicano, Puerto Rican, Cuban, or other Spanish or Hispanic background.)
- Ⓓ Asian or Pacific Islander ("Asian or Pacific Islander" means someone who is from a Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Filipino, Vietnamese, or other Asian or Pacific Island background.)
- Ⓔ American Indian or Alaskan Native ("American Indian or Alaskan Native" means someone who is from one of the American Indian tribes, or one of the original people of Alaska.)
- Ⓕ Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

TB003101

2. If you are Hispanic, what is your Hispanic background?

- Ⓐ I am not Hispanic.
- Ⓑ Mexican, Mexican American, or Chicano
- Ⓒ Puerto Rican
- Ⓓ Cuban
- Ⓔ Other Spanish or Hispanic background

LC000006

3. How long have you lived in the United States?

- Ⓐ All my life
- Ⓑ More than 5 years but not all my life
- Ⓒ 3-5 years
- Ⓓ Less than 3 years

TB003201

4. How often do the people in your home speak a language other than English?

- Ⓐ Never
- Ⓑ Sometimes
- Ⓒ Always

HE002514

5. How much education did your mother receive? ("Mother" can be a mother, stepmother, or female guardian.)

- Ⓐ 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.

Section 3

HE002515  
6. How much education did your father receive? ("Father" can be a father, stepfather, or male guardian.)

- Ⓐ 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.

HE002534  
7. About how many books are in your home?

- Ⓐ None
- Ⓑ 1-10 (Few)
- Ⓒ 11-25 (Enough to fill one shelf)
- Ⓓ 26-100 (Enough to fill one bookcase)
- Ⓔ More than 100 (Enough to fill several bookcases)

TB000901  
8. Does your family get a newspaper regularly?

- Ⓐ Yes
- Ⓑ No
- Ⓒ I don't know.

TB000903  
9. Is there an encyclopedia in your home?

- Ⓐ Yes
- Ⓑ No
- Ⓒ I don't know.

TB000905  
10. Does your family get any magazines regularly?

- Ⓐ Yes
- Ⓑ No
- Ⓒ I don't know.

TB001801  
11. On a school day, about how many hours do you usually watch TV or videotapes outside of school hours?

- Ⓐ None
- Ⓑ 1 hour or less
- Ⓒ 2 hours
- Ⓓ 3 hours
- Ⓔ 4 hours
- Ⓕ 5 hours
- Ⓖ 6 hours or more

TB006601

12. How much time do you usually spend on homework each day?

- Ⓐ I don't usually have homework assigned.
- Ⓑ I have homework but I don't usually do it.
- Ⓒ 1/2 hour or less
- Ⓓ 1 hour
- Ⓔ More than 1 hour

QK070706

13. How many hours of additional reading do you do each week on your own outside school, NOT in connection with school work?

- Ⓐ None
- Ⓑ 1-2 hours
- Ⓒ 3-4 hours
- Ⓓ 5-6 hours
- Ⓔ 7-8 hours
- Ⓕ 9-10 hours
- Ⓖ More than 10 hours

TS004001

14. How many days of school did you miss last month?

- Ⓐ None
- Ⓑ 1 or 2 days
- Ⓒ 3 or 4 days
- Ⓓ 5 to 10 days
- Ⓔ More than 10 days

QK070693

15. Since you started first grade, how many times have you changed schools, not counting when you were promoted to the next grade?

- Ⓐ None
- Ⓑ 1
- Ⓒ 2
- Ⓓ 3
- Ⓔ 4
- Ⓕ 5
- Ⓖ 6
- Ⓗ 7 or more

### Section 3

HE002540

16. How often do you discuss things you have studied in school with someone at home?

- Ⓐ Almost every day
- Ⓑ Once or twice a week
- Ⓒ Once or twice a month
- Ⓓ Never or hardly ever

HE002795

17. How often do you use a computer at home for schoolwork?

- Ⓐ Almost every day
- Ⓑ Once or twice a week
- Ⓒ Once or twice a month
- Ⓓ Never or hardly ever
- Ⓔ There is no computer at home.

ID110020

18. Do you use the Internet at home?

- Ⓐ Yes
- Ⓑ No

HE002541

19. How safe do you feel at school?

- Ⓐ Very safe
- Ⓑ Somewhat safe
- Ⓒ Somewhat unsafe
- Ⓓ Very unsafe

QK070697

20. How much education do you think you will complete?

- Ⓐ I will not finish high school.
- Ⓑ I will graduate from high school.
- Ⓒ I will have some education after high school.
- Ⓓ I will graduate from college.
- Ⓔ I will go to graduate school.
- Ⓕ I don't know.



# SECTION 4

## Section 4

This section has 16 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.

	Agree	Not Sure	Disagree	
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. Learning science is mostly memorizing.	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	HE002999
d. All students can do well in science if they try.	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	QK070708
e. Science is boring.	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	HE003003

HE003005

2. 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)	<input type="radio"/> A	HE003006	e. Magnifying glass or microscope (for looking at small things)	<input type="radio"/> A	HE003010
b. Electricity (for example, batteries and flashlight bulbs)	<input type="radio"/> A	HE003007	f. Thermometer or barometer (for making measurements)	<input type="radio"/> A	HE003011
c. Chemicals (for example, mixing or dissolving sugar or salt in water)	<input type="radio"/> A	HE003008	g. Simple machines (for example, pulleys and levers)	<input type="radio"/> A	HE003012
d. Rocks or minerals (for example, identifying types)	<input type="radio"/> A	HE003009	h. None of the above	<input type="radio"/> A	HE003013

## Section 4

LC000166

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

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

WO001050

4. If you are taking a science course this year, about how much time do you spend doing science homework each week?

- Ⓐ I am not taking a science course.
- Ⓑ None
- Ⓒ 1/2 hour
- Ⓓ 1 hour
- Ⓔ 2 hours
- Ⓕ 3 hours
- Ⓖ More than 3 hours

LC000147

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

- Ⓐ Yes
- Ⓑ No

WO001032

6. In the last two years, have you participated in a science fair, festival, or special science day?

- Ⓐ Yes
- Ⓑ No

QK070714

7. When you do science experiments or investigations in school, do you use a lab book or notebook for keeping your records, logs, and comments?

- Ⓐ I am not taking science this year.
- Ⓑ Yes
- Ⓒ No
- Ⓓ I don't know.

QK070681

8. About how often do you do each of the following in your class? Fill in only **one** oval on each line.

	I am Not Taking Science	Once a Month or More	Sometimes but Less than Once a Month	Never	
a. Design <b>your own</b> science experiment or investigation	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	QK070682
b. Carry out the science experiment or investigation you designed	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	QK070683
c. Write up the results of the experiment or investigation you designed	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	QK070684
d. Talk to the class about the results of your experiment or investigation	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	QK070685

QK070686

9. When you work on science experiments or investigations do you usually work with other students?
- ☐ A I am not taking science this year.
- ☐ B Yes
- ☐ C No
- ☐ D We do not do science experiments or investigations in class.

QK070687

10. In your science class this year, does your teacher ask you to make comments or suggestions about other students' experiments or investigations?
- ☐ A I am not taking science this year.
- ☐ B Yes
- ☐ C No
- ☐ D We do not do science experiments or investigations in class.



## Section 4

QK070688

11. If you are taking a science class this year, about how often do you use a computer to do the following? Fill in only **one** oval on each line.

	I am Not Taking Science	Once a Month or More	Sometimes but Less than Once a Month	Never	
a. Collect data using lab equipment that interfaces with computers (for example, probes)	<input type="radio"/> Ⓐ	<input type="radio"/> Ⓑ	<input type="radio"/> Ⓒ	<input type="radio"/> Ⓓ	QK070690
b. Download data and related information from the Internet	<input type="radio"/> Ⓐ	<input type="radio"/> Ⓑ	<input type="radio"/> Ⓒ	<input type="radio"/> Ⓓ	QK070689
c. Analyze data using the computer	<input type="radio"/> Ⓐ	<input type="radio"/> Ⓑ	<input type="radio"/> Ⓒ	<input type="radio"/> Ⓓ	QK070691
d. Use the Internet to exchange information with other students or scientists about science experiments or investigations	<input type="radio"/> Ⓐ	<input type="radio"/> Ⓑ	<input type="radio"/> Ⓒ	<input type="radio"/> Ⓓ	QK070692

QK070709

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

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

QK070710

13. How hard did you try on this test compared to how hard you tried on most other science tests you have taken this year in school?

- Ⓐ Much harder than on other science tests
- Ⓑ Harder than on other science tests
- Ⓒ About as hard as on other science tests
- Ⓓ Not as hard as on other science tests



- QK070711
14. How important was it to you to do well on this science test?
- ☐ A Very important
  - ☐ B Important
  - ☐ C Somewhat important
  - ☐ D Not very important

- QK070712
15. This year in school, how often have you been asked to write long answers to questions on tests or assignments for science?
- ☐ A At least once a week
  - ☐ B Once or twice a month
  - ☐ C Once or twice this year
  - ☐ D Never

- ID110144
16. How strongly do you agree with the following statements? Fill in only **one** oval on each line.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	
a. Doing well in school is a goal of most students in my class.	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	ID110146
b. To keep up with my friends, I have to work hard at my schoolwork.	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	ID110147

