PROGRESS IN INTERNATIONAL READING LITERACY STUDY

PIRLS 2021

PIRLS now available in digital format – digitalPIRLS!

20 Years of Trends

IEA PIRLS 2021

TIMSS & PIRLS International Study Center
Lynch School of Education
BOSTON COLLEGE

20 Years of Trends in International Reading Achievement

Conducted every five years since 2001, IEA's PIRLS (Progress in International Reading Literacy Study) provides trends in reading achievement at the fourth grade for about 60 countries around the world. PIRLS is a valuable vehicle for monitoring the impact of new or revised policies on students' educational achievement.

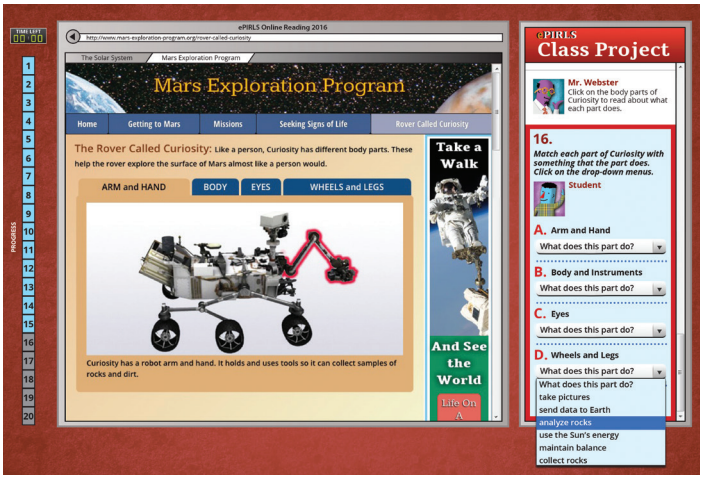
Transitioning to Digitally Based Assessment

After reading a digitalPIRLS passage about sea turtles, students click on a tab to access and answer questions.

To keep up to date, PIRLS evolves with each assessment cycle. For the first time, PIRLS 2021 will be presented via a digital web-based delivery system.

The digitalPIRLS reading assessment will include a variety of reading texts presented in an engaging and visually attractive format that will motivate students to read and interact with the texts and answer comprehension questions. The texts address the two overarching purposes for reading that account for most of the reading done by young students both in and out of school: for literary experience, and to acquire and use information. In addition, PIRLS assesses four broad-based comprehension processes within each of the two purposes for reading: focus on and retrieve explicitly stated information, make straightforward inferences, interpret and integrate ideas and information, and evaluate and critique content and textual elements. digitalPIRLS will include the ePIRLS assessment of online reading initiated in 2016.

ePIRLS monitors how well students read, interpret, and critique online information in an environment that looks and feels like the internet. With the guidance of a teacher avatar, students navigate within and across webpages to answer questions, explain relationships, and interpret and integrate information.



The webpages contain visual data including photos, charts, and maps, as well as navigational and dynamic features such as animations, hyperlinks, and pop-up boxes. Taken together as one seamless digitally based endeavor, digitalPIRLS provides a state-of-the-art assessment of 21st century reading skills.

Countries that administer digitalPIRLS can take advantage of the benefits of a computer-based assessment, including greater operational efficiency in translation and translation verification, data entry, and scoring, without the need for printing or shipping. digitalPIRLS will be offered as a web-based system via school-based or IEA web servers, or via a USB drive connected locally to a PC with the Windows Operating System.

As an alternative to digitalPIRLS, countries may administer PIRLS 2021 in paper format. ePIRLS is available only in conjunction with digitalPIRLS.

Informs Evidence-Based Decision-Making

Like previous cycles, PIRLS 2021 will continue to collect trends in an extensive array of policy-relevant information about students' home and school experiences in learning to read:

- *The Home Questionnaire gathers data related to students' "head start" before entering primary school, with an emphasis on learning early literacy skills and the level of preprimary education students received*
- *The Student, Teacher, and School Questionnaires focus on issues such as school safety, emphasis on academic success, school and classroom resources for learning, use of technology, and effective instruction*
- *Authored by the participating countries, the PIRLS 2021 Encyclopedia provides a comprehensive picture of reading education around the world*

Benefits of PIRLS 2021

PIRLS 2021 offers countries the opportunity to participate in a world-class assessment of reading comprehension. The high-quality internationally comparative data enable countries to:

- Monitor system-level achievement trends in a global context
- Monitor the impact of new or revised educational policies
- Pinpoint any areas of weakness, and stimulate curriculum reform
- Improve teaching and learning through research and analysis of *PIRLS* data
- Obtain rich questionnaire data about the home and school contexts for teaching and learning reading
- Conduct related studies, such as monitoring equity or assessing students in additional grades

The Flexibility of PIRLS 2021

In countries where most children still are developing basic reading skills, students can participate in the less difficult version of *PIRLS*. It has passages in common with *PIRLS*, as well as some shorter and simpler texts. The results are reported on the *PIRLS* achievement scale, just as in *PIRLS*.

Also, *PIRLS* has a benchmarking component whereby entities such as regions (e.g., states or provinces), additional grades (e.g., third or fifth grade), or additional language groups can participate in the same ways as countries.

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IEA

PIRLS is a project of IEA. With offices in Amsterdam and Hamburg, IEA pioneered international comparative studies. It has been conducting international assessments of educational achievement since 1959.

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PIRLS is directed by the TIMSS & PIRLS International Study Center at Boston College. *PIRLS*, together with *TIMSS*, which assesses mathematics and science, comprise IEA's core cycle of studies designed to provide countries with regular information about achievement in three fundamental subjects—reading, mathematics, and science.

pirls.bc.edu