Launching PIRLS 2021

Ina V.S. Mullis and Michael O. Martin

Executive Directors
TIMSS & PIRLS International Study Center
Boston College

58th IEA General Assembly
October 2017, Budapest
PIRLS 2021

IEA’s PIRLS assesses trends in reading comprehension at Grade 4 every five years in countries worldwide.
PIRLS 2021
20 Years of Trend Data

• PIRLS 2021 is the fifth assessment
• 20 year trend line
• Literary and informational reading achievement
• Parents’ reports on home support for reading
• Contexts for learning to read
  – School and classroom environments
  – Students’ home and school experiences

• PIRLS 2021 Encyclopedia
PIRLS 2021
Available in Digital Format

All “e” environment

- PIRLS literary and informational reading on a digital device – previously on paper

- ePIRLS online informational reading

Can be administered together as one computer based assessment
eAssessment Is the Future of Assessment

Benefits

• ePIRLS 2016 online reading a good foundation for 2021

• Stimulate motivation through interactive and animated tasks

• Increase operational efficiency
  – e-assessment systems for translation and verification, data entry, scoring
PIRLS 2021 Also Available

- paperPIRLS + ePIRLS online reading
  - Literary and informational reading in paper format like previous assessments
  - ePIRLS online informational reading via computer like in 2016

- paperPIRLS only
  - Literary and informational reading in paper format like previous assessments
Icelandic Horses
By Pernille Stensgaard

There is only one kind of horse in Iceland—the Icelandic Horse. It is one of the oldest types of horses in the world.

Carried to a New Land

One summer day in the year 870, a group of Vikings left Norway in search of a new home. The Vikings were people who lived in northern Europe many centuries ago.

Their journey would take them to the deserted island that we now call Iceland.

These Vikings sailed to Iceland in heavy wooden cargo boats. The Vikings used these boats instead of their fast and light warships, because they had to take all of the things they would need to survive on an island where there were no people.

Their boats were small, though. They were only 16 meters long, or as long as three cars. They had to choose their cargo carefully.

Most importantly, they brought horses. These horses were only 135 centimeters tall, or as high as a car; but they could carry a full grown man.
1. According to the article, in which year did the group of Vikings leave Norway?

2. According to the article, why did the Vikings have to choose their cargo carefully?
   A. They wanted to take the best of everything.
   B. Their journey would be long and dangerous.
   C. The boats were heavy and made of wood.
   D. They did not have much space on the boats.

3. Why did Iceland soon have thousands of horses?
Icelandic Horses
By Pernille Stensgaard

There is only one kind of horse in Iceland—the Icelandic Horse. It is one of the oldest types of horses in the world.

Carried to a New Land

One summer day in the year 870, a group of Vikings left Norway in search of a new home. The Vikings were people who lived in northern Europe many centuries ago.

Their journey would take them to the deserted island that we now call Iceland.

These Vikings sailed to Iceland in heavy wooden cargo boats. The Vikings used these boats instead of their fast and light warships, because they had to take all of the things they would need to survive on an island where there were no people.

Their boats were small, though. They were only 16 meters long, or as long as three cars. They had to choose their cargo carefully.

Most importantly, they brought horses. These horses were only 135 centimeters tall, or as high as a car, but they could carry a full-grown man.
My name is Pemba and I am a Sherpa.

The Sherpa people are world famous for their work as guides. They lead climbers trying to reach the tops of the Himalayan Mountains.

Like every other boy in my village, I dream of becoming a guide.

One morning, I had to get up early to get firewood for the school.

My little sister, Yang Ki, wanted to gather wood, too.

“You are too little to carry wood,” I told her.
PIRLS 2021
Two Versions

- PIRLS and Less Difficult PIRLS (PIRLS Literacy)
- Both versions have some passages in the PIRLS format and the literacy format
- PIRLS has more passages in the PIRLS format
- Less Difficult PIRLS has more passages in literacy format
- Both reported on the PIRLS achievement scale
PIRLS 2021
Two Versions (cont.)

• Weaker readers like the literacy format more than the PIRLS format

• More motivated to persevere when assessment is more enjoyable

• Complete more items - results in better demonstration of their reading ability

• Can get discouraged when taking PIRLS
ePIRLS Online Reading

• Assess Internet reading and research skills
  – Required for many school projects

• Very successful debut in 2016
  – Well liked by students

• Trends for countries that participated in 2016

• Available with paperPIRLS as well as digital PIRLS
Transitioning to All “e”

• paperPIRLS to digitalPIRLS
  – Not planning an item equivalent pilot
  – Field test newly developed items in digital mode
  – Bridge sample (≈1500 students) in 2021 to link to PIRLS 2016

• ePIRLS in 2021
  – Field test newly developed tasks (3)
  – No bridge necessary
Progress to Date

• Presented brochure to promote participation (June 2017)
  – 8th NRC meeting, Riga, Latvia

• Established PIRLS 2021 RDG (Reading Development Group) (Sept 2017)

• RDG currently reviewing PIRLS 2016 assessment framework to recommend updates for 2021
Progress to Date (cont.)

• Arranging for NFER to help with development tasks

• RDG Working Group to begin work on updating assessment framework for 2021 (Oct 2017)

• 1st PIRLS 2021 NRC meeting scheduled for Hamburg (Feb 2018)
  – Review draft PIRLS 2021 Assessment Framework
  – Review potential reading passages

Review PIRLS questionnaires for updating for 2021
Thank You!

Ina V.S. Mullis and Michael O. Martin

Executive Directors
TIMSS & PIRLS International Study Center
Boston College

58th IEA General Assembly
October 2017, Budapest