PIRLS 2021
20 Years of PIRLS
Transitioning to digital PIRLS: Preparing for the Field Test

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Participation Options in PIRLS 2021

digitalPIRLS

• Literary and informational passages in digital format
• ePIRLS online informational reading operationally integrated as part of digitalPIRLS

paperPIRLS

• Literary and informational passages in paper format
Countries Planning to Participate

Albania  Albania  Germany
Australia  Austria  Hong Kong SAR
Azerbaijan  Bahrain  Hungary
Belgium (Fl.)  Belgium (Fr.)  Iran
Bosnia and Herzegovina  Brazil  Ireland
Bulgaria  Canada  Israel
Chile  Chinese Taipei  Italy
Croatia  Cyprus  Kazakhstan
Czech Republic  Denmark  Kuwait
Denmark  Montenegro  Latvia
Egypt  England  Lithuania
England  Finland  Macao SAR
France  Georgia  Malta
Norway  Oman  Morocco
Pakistan  Peru  New Zealand
Papua New Guinea  Philippines  Netherlands
Paraguay  Portugal  North Macedonia
Qatar  Romania  Pakistan
Romania  Saudi Arabia  Panama
Russian Federation  Serbia  Qatar
Saudi Arabia  Slovak Republic  Qatar
Serbia  Slovenia  Russia
Singapore  South Africa  Russian Federation
Slovak Republic  Spain  Russia
South Africa  Sweden  Russian Federation
Spain  United Arab Emirates  Sweden
United States  Uzbekistan  Switzerland
Uzbekistan  Vietnam  Switzerland

60 countries planning to participate

Benchmarking Participants

Ontario, Canada  Quebec, Canada
Denmark 3rd grade  Moscow City, Russia
South Africa 5th grade  Abu Dhabi, UAE
Dubai, UAE

Digital  –  32 + 6
Paper  –  28 + 1
PIRLS 2021 Assessment Frameworks

• Published online April 30, 2019

• Chapter 1: Reading purposes and comprehension processes to be assessed by PIRLS 2021

• Chapter 2: Aspects of the educational context to be addresses by PIRLS context questionnaires

• Chapter 3: Assessment Design - deferred
Enhancing the PIRLS 2021 Design
- Group Adaptive Approach

- Expand the range of assessment difficulty
- Better align with achievement of our student populations
- Aim for three levels of passage difficulty
  - Difficult, Medium, Easy
- Combine into two levels of booklet difficulty
  - 9 More Difficult booklets (Difficult and Medium passages)
  - 9 Less Difficult booklets (Medium and Easy passages)
Group Adaptive Approach – cont.

- All countries take all 18 booklets, but in varying proportions
- Higher performing countries
  - Proportionally more of the more difficult booklets
- Lower performing countries
  - Proportionally more of the less difficult booklets
- Goal is better match between assessment difficulty and student achievement in each country
Adapting the Assessment

600
70% More Difficult
30% Less Difficult

500
50% More Difficult
50% Less Difficult

400
30% More Difficult
70% Less Difficult

IEA
PIRLS
2021
TIMSS & PIRLS
International Study Center
Lynch School of Education
BOSTON COLLEGE
Advantages of Group Adaptive Design

• Better measurement at all levels
• All countries participate in the same assessment (no need for PIRLS Literacy)
• Better descriptions of reading at all levels
• More student engagement
• Less student frustration
• Possibility of targeting subpopulations
Developing Field Test Passages  
- Since Last General Assembly

Design requires 6 new passages, so field test 12

- Developed storyboards for 12 passages (Sep-Oct)
  - Liked by NRCs; Address assessment framework

- RDG online review of the 12 passages
  - Needed more passages with women as main characters

- RDG working group, October 2018, Boston
  - Incorporated RDG feedback
  - Considered 2 ePIRLS tasks
    - *Oceans* storyboards and *Silk Road* idea
Excellent support from RDG - Reading Development Group

- Australia – Julian Fraillon
- Denmark – Jan Mejding
- England – Liz Twist
- France – Marc Colmant
- Russian Federation – Galina Zukerman
- Singapore – Elizabeth Pang
- Spain – Veronica Diez Girado
- Sweden – Jenny Wiksten Folkyrd
- United Arab Emirates – Latifa Alfaalası
- United States – Karen Wixson
At 2nd NRC meeting Taipei City, Dec. 2018

- Reviewed 18 passages; ePIRLS *Oceans* task; ePIRLS *Silk Road* task idea
- Selected 16 passages for item writing
  - Deleted *Baby Flamingo* and *Kon Tiki*
- Drafted items – 126 NRCs and item writing specialists
  - 607 PIRLS items
  - 22 ePIRLS items – *Oceans* task
Reading Passages and Items

- Jan – Mar 2019: updated passages/drafted items
  - *Penguins*, *Everest*, and *Shadowy Figure* did not support enough items
  - Resulting in 13 passages and items for internal review
  - Added three voyage websites to *Silk Road*

- RDG Working Group, Boston, March 2019
  - Reviewed 13 passages and items
  - Reviewed *Oceans* task and items
  - Worked on *Voyages* - deleted silk road website; added to *Space* website and wrote items
Reading Passages and Items

• Implemented revisions from Working Group for RDG review

• 2\textsuperscript{nd} RDG Meeting, Dubai, U.A.E., April 2019
  – Reviewed and revised 13 passages and items
  – Reviewed and revised 2 ePIRLS tasks and items, *Oceans* and *Voyages*
  – Reviewed new assessment design

• Implement revisions from RDG meeting

• Posted 13 passages and items, 2 ePIRLS tasks and items for review at 3\textsuperscript{rd} NRC meeting, Rome
Developing Context Questionnaires

• Updated questionnaires for PIRLS 2021
  – More emphasis on reading instruction, especially in a digital context

• Questionnaire Development Group (QDG) reviewed draft questionnaires
  – 1st meeting, Liege, Feb 2019

• Then, revised draft questionnaires for NRC review at 3rd meeting, Rome
Excellent support from QDG - Questionnaire Development Group

- Belgium (French) – Anne Matoul
- Chinese Taipei – Hwa Wei Ko
- Finland – Kaisa Leino
- Oman – Fathiya Mohammed Amur Al Mawali
- New Zealand – Megan Chamberlain
- South Africa – Surette von Staden
- United States – Bridget Dalton
New Direction for digitalPIRLS eAssessment Platform

Since June 2019,

- digitalPIRLS, including ePIRLS, has been implemented on SoNET’s Assessment Master web platform

- PIRLS International Team has been working well with SoNET on the field test instruments
Preparing for PIRLS 2021 field test:

- Reviewed passages, items, and scoring guides for PIRLS and ePIRLS
- Reviewed proposed questionnaires – parent, student, teacher, principal
- Reviewed operational procedures – sampling, translation, administration, data management
- Introduced to SoNet assessment system
  - Web-based delivery
Finalizing the Field Test Instruments – June to Sept.

- Incorporated NRC suggestions to passages, items, ePIRLS tasks, and questionnaires
- Worked with SoNet to import the field test instruments into their assessment system
- Produced paperPIRLS versions of the field test instruments
- September 5 – Distributed field test materials to countries to begin translation and verification
Visually Attractive and Engaging Passages

• Matching digital and paper formats

• Literary passages – variety of stories
  – Contemporary, fables, historical events, biography

• Informational passages – variety of content and ideas
  – Science, environmental issues, personal experiences
Looking Ahead

• Prepare training materials for scoring field test constructed responses
  – English-speaking countries collecting example responses – Sep-Oct 2019
  – RDG Working Group – Nov 2019

Field Test March-April 2020

• Conduct field test scoring training
  – 4th NRC meeting, Belgrade, Serbia, March 2020
Looking Ahead (cont.)

Review field test results and finalize assessment instruments

• TIMSS & PIRLS International Study Center, June 2020
• 3rd RDG meeting, Paris, July 2020
• 2nd QDG meeting, Hamburg, July 2020
• 5th NRC meeting, Warsaw, August 2020
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