

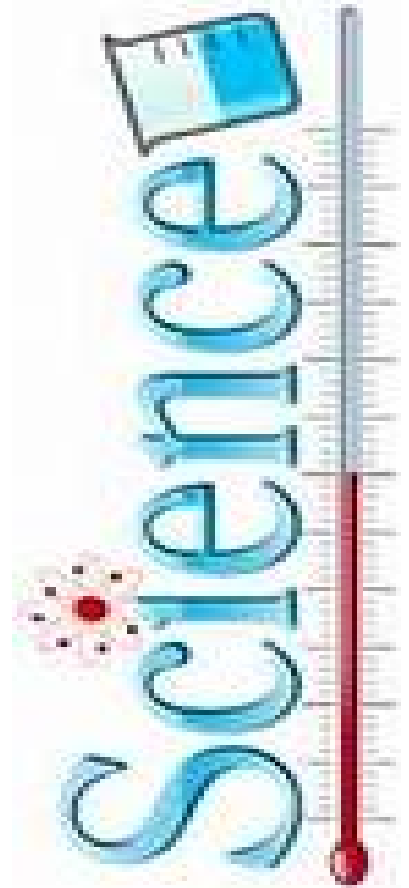
The 
Nation's
Report Card

Science

ABSTRACT

Report 2011

The Science 2011 Report, created by The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), was designed to measure the knowledge and abilities of students in grade 8 in the areas of physical science, life science, and Earth and space sciences. The assessment consisted of a sample of 122,000 students who responded to 144 questions; the questions were divided into nine 25-minute sections. Each section contained between 14 and 18 questions. Because the assessment contained more questions than any student could answer, students responded to two of the nine sections. The items on the assessment consisted of multiple-choice and constructed-response (open-ended) questions. There were 7,290 schools represented in the assessment from public, private, Bureau of Indian Education, and Department of Defense schools. The NAEP scale score results are on average between 0-300. Scores are also reported on the five-point scale: lower (10th and 25th percentile); middle (50th percentile), and higher (75th and 90th percentiles) levels. In addition, NAEP has set forth specific achievement levels of basic, proficient, and advanced for each subject area and grade assessed. The findings showed (in part) the following: the average science score for eighth-grade students was 2 points higher in 2011 than in 2009; white students scored higher on average than all other racial/ethnic groups; male students scored higher than females in 2011; public school students scored higher in 2011 than in 2009 but the private-public gap persists. Results were reported at a statistically significant level of .05 with appropriate adjustments for multiple comparisons.



NATIONAL ASSESSMENT OF EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS AT GRADE 8