

prePIRLS 2011 Pilot Test

The prePIRLS assessment was newly developed for 2011 to expand PIRLS and meet the needs of an increasingly diverse group of participating countries. As part of the initial assessment development, a small pilot test was conducted in South Africa in July 2008 to help determine an appropriate level of assessment materials for students participating in prePIRLS. The pilot test was based on passages submitted by countries interested in prePIRLS, and the PIRLS development team wrote a set of reading comprehension items to accompany each passage that included multiple-choice and constructed-response formats. The results of this pilot test ultimately shaped the format of the prePIRLS booklet and item design, including passage length and booklet directions. For example, the pilot results suggested that students were able to provide short answers of a word or so more easily than they could read through multiple-choice options. As a result, the proportion of constructed-response items is higher in prePIRLS than in PIRLS, and many of these require students to retrieve a piece of information and provide a one or two word response. The number of items, participating students, and responses collected in this pilot are provided below.

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Number of Items	36
Number of Booklets	2
Number of Students (approx.)	200
Responses per Item (approx.)	100