

PIRLS 2011 PIRLS 2011 Target Populations

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As described in the [S](#) [D](#) [TIMSS](#) [PIRLS](#), the *international target population* for PIRLS (and prePIRLS) 2011 was defined as the grade that represented 4 years of formal schooling, counting from the first year of primary or elementary schooling.¹ Exhibit 1 presents the grades identified as the target grades for sampling by each country, and includes the number of years of formal schooling that the grades represent and the average age of students in the target grade at the time of testing.

For most countries participating in PIRLS (or prePIRLS), the target grade did indeed turn out to be the grade with 4 years of schooling, i.e., fourth grade. However, in England, Malta, New Zealand, and Trinidad and Tobago, children begin primary school at an early age. Therefore, these countries assessed students in the fifth year of

Country	Country's Name for Grade Tested	Years of Formal Schooling	Average Age at Time of Testing
Australia	Year 4	4	10.0
Austria	Grade 4	4	10.3
Azerbaijan	Grade 4	4	10.2
Belgium (French)	Grade 4	4	10.1
Bulgaria	Grade 4	4	10.7
Canada	Grade 4	4	9.9
Chinese Taipei	Grade 4	4	10.2
Colombia	Grade 4	4	10.4
Croatia	Grade 4	4	10.7
Czech Republic	Grade 4	4	10.4
Denmark	Grade 4	4	10.9
England	Year 5	5	10.3
Finland	Grade 4	4	10.8
France	CM1 (Cours Moyen 1ère année)	4	10.0
Georgia	Grade 4	4	10.0
Germany	Grade 4	4	10.4
Hong Kong SAR	Grade 4	4	10.1
Hungary	Grade 4	4	10.7
Indonesia	Grade 4	4	10.4
Iran, Islamic Rep. Of	Grade 4	4	10.2
Ireland	Fourth class	4	10.3
Israel	Grade 4	4	10.1
Italy	Grade 4	4	9.7
Lithuania	Grade 4	4	10.7
Malta	Year 5	5	9.8
Morocco	Grade 4	4	10.5
Netherlands	Group 6 (Grade 4)	4	10.2
New Zealand	Year 5	4.5 - 5.5	10.1
Northern Ireland	Year 6	4	10.4
Norway	Grade 4	4	9.7
Oman	Grade 4	4	9.9
Poland	Grade 3 of primary school	4	9.9
Portugal	Grade 4	4	10.0
Qatar	Grade 4	4	10.0
Romania	Grade 4	4	10.9
Russian Federation	Grade 4	4	10.8
Saudi Arabia	Grade 4	4	10.0
Singapore	Primary 4	4	10.4

