

PEW RESEARCH CENTER
March 7-10, 2013 OMNIBUS
FINAL TOPLINE
N=1,006

PEW.1 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED**ASK ALL:**

PEW.2 Thinking about what's being taught in kindergarten-through-12th-grade schools these days, what ONE subject should schools emphasize more than they do now? **[OPEN END. ACCEPT ONLY ONE RESPONSE. USE PRECODED LIST IF RESPONSE CLEARLY FITS. OTHERWISE RECORD VERBATIM RESPONSE. PROBE FOR CLARITY – DO NOT PROBE FOR ADDITIONAL MENTIONS.]**

March 7-10

2013

30	Math/Mathematics/Arithmetic
19	English/Grammar/Writing/Reading
11	Science
10	History/Social studies/Civics/Politics/Current events/Government
6	Art/Arts/Music
4	Computers/Computer science
2	Physical education/Health/Sex education/Abstinence
2	Religion/Christianity/Bible/Prayer/Creationism
2	Economics/Finances
1	Foreign languages
1	Manner/Respect/Anti-bullying
3	Other
7	Don't know/No answer

45 (NET) STEM subjects**ASK ALL:**

PEW.3 What's the main reason many young people don't pursue degrees in math and science? Is it mostly because they think these subjects ... **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]**

March 7-10

2013

46	Are too hard
20	Are too boring
22	Are not useful for their careers
7	Other (VOL.)
4	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

PEW.4-PEW.5 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED**NO QUESTION PEW.6****ASK ALL:**

Here are some questions about things you might have learned in school or seen in the news

PEW.7 For each statement that I read, please tell me if it is true or false. If you don't know, just tell me so, and we will skip to the next question. First, **[INSERT FIRST ITEM, RANDOMIZE]**...is that true or false? Next, **[INSERT ITEM, RANDOMIZE]** **[IF NECESSARY: Is that true or false?]**

	<u>True</u>	<u>False</u>	<u>(VOL.)</u> <u>DK/Ref</u>
a. All radioactivity is man-made			
March 7-10, 2013	22	66	12
June 18-21, 2009	21	63	16
TREND FOR COMPARISON:			
<i>General Social Survey, 2012</i>	18	70	12
<i>General Social Survey, 2010</i>	20	67	13

PEW.7 CONTINUED...

		True	False	(VOL.) DK/Ref
b.	Electrons are smaller than atoms			
	<i>General Social Survey, 2008</i>	18	70	12
	<i>General Social Survey, 2006</i>	14	70	17
	March 7-10, 2013	47	27	25
	June 18-21, 2009	46	24	30
	TREND FOR COMPARISON:			
	<i>General Social Survey, 2012</i>	53	20	27
	<i>General Social Survey, 2010</i>	51	20	29
	<i>General Social Survey, 2008</i>	52	23	25
	<i>General Social Survey, 2006</i>	53	19	28
c.	Lasers work by focusing sound waves			
	March 7-10, 2013	19	48	34
	June 18-21, 2009	22	47	31
	TREND FOR COMPARISON:			
	<i>General Social Survey, 2012</i>	24	45	31
	<i>General Social Survey, 2010</i>	19	48	33
	<i>General Social Survey, 2008</i>	24	48	28
	<i>General Social Survey, 2006</i>	17	45	38
d.	The continents on which we live have been moving their location for millions of years and will continue to move in the future			
	March 7-10, 2013	77	10	13
	June 18-21, 2009	76	10	13
	TREND FOR COMPARISON:			
	<i>General Social Survey, 2012</i>	81	7	12
	<i>General Social Survey, 2010</i>	79	9	12
	<i>General Social Survey, 2008</i>	77	10	13
	<i>General Social Survey, 2006</i>	79	8	13

Correct answers for each trend in bold

ASK ALL:

PEW.8 Which one of the following types of solar radiation does sunscreen protect the skin from? [READ AND RANDOMIZE]

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2013

3	X-rays
5	Infrared
83	Ultraviolet (Correct)
2	Microwaves
8	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

ASK ALL:

PEW.9 Does nanotechnology deal with things that are extremely [READ AND RANDOMIZE]

March 7-10

2013

65	Small (Correct)
3	Large
2	Cold
4	Hot
26	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

ASK ALL:

PEW.10 Which gas makes up most of the Earth's atmosphere? **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]**

March 7-10

2013

- | | |
|----|------------------------------------|
| 14 | Hydrogen |
| 20 | Nitrogen (<i>Correct</i>) |
| 19 | Carbon dioxide |
| 36 | Oxygen |
| 11 | Don't know/Refused (VOL.) |

ASK ALL:

PEW.11 What is the main function of red blood cells? Is it... **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]**

March 7-10

2013

- | | |
|----|---|
| 9 | To fight disease in the body |
| 78 | To carry oxygen to all parts of the body (<i>Correct</i>) |
| 6 | To help the blood to clot |
| 7 | Don't know/Refused (VOL.) |

ASK ALL:

PEW.12 Which of these is a major concern about the overuse of antibiotics? **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]**

March 7-10

2013

- | | |
|----|---|
| 77 | It can lead to antibiotic-resistant bacteria (<i>Correct</i>) |
| 6 | Antibiotics are very expensive |
| 10 | People will become addicted to antibiotics |
| 7 | Don't know/Refused (VOL.) |

ASK ALL:

PEW.13 Which is an example of a chemical reaction? **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]**

March 7-10

2013

- | | |
|----|------------------------------------|
| 12 | Water boiling |
| 12 | Sugar dissolving |
| 66 | Nails rusting (<i>Correct</i>) |
| 10 | Don't know/Refused (VOL.) |

ASK ALL:

PEW.14 Which is the better way to determine whether a new drug is effective in treating a disease? If a scientist has a group of 1,000 volunteers with the disease to study, should she **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]**

March 7-10

2013

- | | |
|----|---|
| 19 | Give the drug to all of them and see how many get better |
| 75 | Give the drug to half of them but not to the other half, and compare how many in each group get better (<i>Correct</i>) |
| 6 | Don't know/Refused (VOL.) |

ASK ALL:

PEW.15 What gas do most scientists believe causes temperatures in the atmosphere to rise? Is it **[RANDOMIZE AND READ]**?

March 7-10		June 18-21	April 28-May 12
<u>2013</u>		<u>2009</u>	<u>2009</u>
58	Carbon dioxide (<i>Correct</i>)	65	66
10	Hydrogen	7	7
8	Helium	4	4
7	Radon	5	6
16	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	20	17

ASK ALL:

PEW.16 Which natural resource is extracted in a process known as "fracking"? Is it **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]**?

March 7-10	
<u>2013</u>	
51	Natural gas (<i>Correct</i>)
12	Coal
5	Diamonds
4	Silicon
28	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

ASK ALL:

PEW.17 On standardized tests of science knowledge, do average American 15 year olds rank at **[READ IN REVERSE ORDER FOR HALF THE SAMPLE: the top, the middle, or the bottom]** compared with 15 year olds in other developed nations?

March 7-10	
<u>2013</u>	
7	Top
35	Middle (<i>Correct</i>)
44	Bottom
13	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)