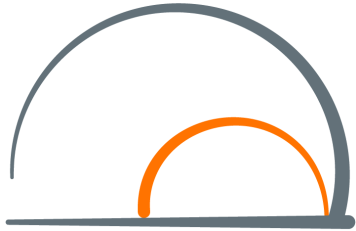


English



IGLU 2026

**P**rogress in  
**I**nternational  
**R**eadin  
**L**iteracy  
**S**tudy

Information brochure



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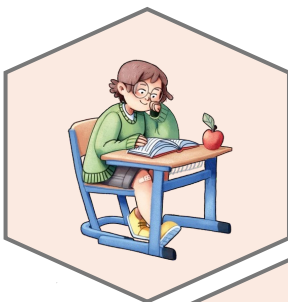


Federal Ministry  
for Education, Family Affairs, Senior Citizens,  
Women and Youth



**KULTUSMINISTER  
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## Why is reading important?



Reading is a fundamental cultural technique.

Reading is the basis for social participation.



Reading is the key to lifelong learning.



Reading skills create more opportunities in education and employment.



... and reading is fun!



Reading creates space for creativity and imagination.

## What is the PIRLS study?

The **Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS)** is an educational monitoring study that analyses the reading literacy of children in the fourth grade. The results of the study provide important information on the development of schools and teaching. In Germany, the Federal Ministry of Education, Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (BMBFSFJ) and the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs of the Länder (KMK) are responsible for PIRLS.

Around 60 countries and regions worldwide have regularly taken part in PIRLS since 2001. The reading achievement of primary school children from Germany can thus be compared with the reading achievement of children from other countries. This is the sixth time that Germany takes part in the study. In Germany, the study is known as **Internationale Grundschul-Lese-Untersuchung (IGLU)**.

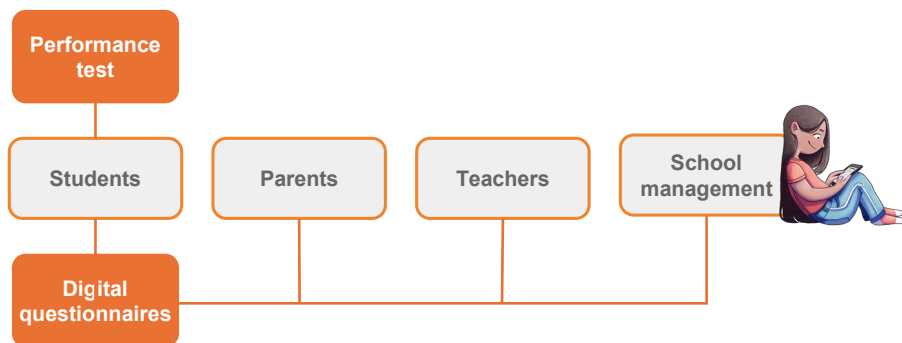


## What are the goals of PIRLS?

- Find out how well fourth-grade children can understand texts
- Show how reading skills have developed since 2001
- Find solutions for improving schools and teaching
- Analyse the organisation and quality of the learning environment
- Compare reading skills internationally

## What is analysed in PIRLS?

PIRLS measures reading literacy using a scientifically developed performance test. This test consists of comprehension questions on illustrated informational and literary texts. The reading test also includes tasks in simulated online environments that are modelled on a website. In addition to the test, the children also answer questions about their attitude to reading, their reading motivation and reading behaviour as well as general questions about school and family.



The performance test and the questionnaire were developed specifically for the PIRLS study and are the same in all participating countries. For the study in Germany, further important questions were added, for example on reading on digital devices and the quality of teaching. The parents, teachers and school principals of the participating children are also surveyed in order to be able to take a more holistic view of reading literacy and the conditions for learning to read.

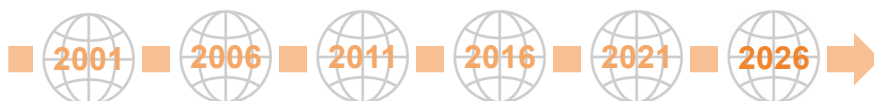
The students taking part in PIRLS work on the questions in class on laptops at their school. All data is analysed anonymously. In addition, the results are not analysed for individual children, but for larger groups (e.g. separated into girls and boys).



Click here for  
the PIRLS  
explanatory  
film!

## What's new in PIRLS 2026?

In 2026, PIRLS will take place in Germany for the sixth time. Thus, changes in the reading performance of students at the end of the fourth grade can be described over a period of 25 years.



In Germany, 4,611 students from 252 fourth-grade classes, their parents, teachers and school principals took part in the last PIRLS study in 2021. Around 400,000 students from 65 countries and regions took part internationally. For PIRLS in 2021, reading literacy was measured digitally for the first time and the use of digital media was captured, which provided many new insights into digitalisation in learning and reading.



In this cycle, reading literacy is not only assessed digitally by having the children work on reading tasks on a laptop. The questionnaires are also being completed digitally for the first time by students, parents, teachers and school administrators. For the first time, a digital version of the questionnaire will be made available to parents in various languages, and a paper version will also be offered in German.

The information obtained from PIRLS will again provide important findings for the future that will help in the development of teaching at primary schools in Germany.

## What exactly does reading literacy mean?

The reading literacy model summarises the skills of students that are examined in PIRLS:



### Reading Literacy

Use of  
information  
contained in the  
text

Drawing on  
external  
knowledge

Use independent  
individual  
information

Establish  
relationships  
between  
passages and  
sections of text

Reflecting on  
content

Reflecting on  
structures

Localise  
explicitly  
specified  
information

Draw simple  
conclusions

Drawing complex  
conclusions or  
interpreting and  
combining them

Checking and  
evaluating the  
content and use of  
language

### Reading comprehension processes in PIRLS

## Responsible for PIRLS

Scientific lead researcher of PIRLS 2026 in Germany,  
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## Further Information

Further information on PIRLS can be found on the project websites of TU Dortmund University and the international study center at Boston College:



**Project website TU Dortmund University:**

<https://ifs.ep.tu-dortmund.de/forschung/projekte-am-ifs/iglu-2026/>



**International study center:**

<https://timssandpirls.bc.edu/pirls2026/>

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