

Amplify New York City Science Benchmark Assessments

NYC User Guide

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Overview

Amplify's New York City Benchmark Assessments are designed to help teachers measure student progress toward the three dimensions and performance expectations of the New York State P-12 Science Learning Standards. The assessments provide important insight into how students are progressing toward proficiency of different standards ahead of the annual administration of state science tests.

Amplify's New York City Benchmarks are similar in structure to Amplify's NGSS Benchmarks but have been updated to closely mirror New York state elementary and intermediate science tests.

Among notable changes:

- Added more question "clusters" that ladder to an overarching storyline
- Introduced new technology-enhanced item types that appear with frequency on NY state tests
- Provided a digital platform, in addition to print formats, in which to administer the assessments

Administering the assessments

The Amplify New York City Science Benchmark Assessments are intended to show progress at various points in time across a school year, and are therefore not cumulative in nature. They are given 3–4 times per year, depending on grade level, and are built to be delivered after specific units targeting their focal performance expectations. Refer to the table below for guidance.

We suggest planning for 90 minutes of instructional time to administer the first benchmark of the school year, and then adjusting the time as needed for subsequent assessments.

Elementary-Level Assessments

Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5
Benchmark 3A <i>Recommended after unit: Balancing Forces</i>	Benchmark 4A <i>Recommended after unit: Energy Conversions</i>	Benchmark 5A <i>Recommended after unit: Patterns of Earth and Sky</i>
Benchmark 3B <i>Recommended after unit: Inheritance and Traits</i>	Benchmark 4B <i>Recommended after unit: Vision and Light</i>	Benchmark 5B <i>Recommended after unit: Modeling Matter</i>
Benchmark 3C <i>Recommended after unit: Environments and Survival</i>	Benchmark 4C <i>Recommended after unit: Earth's Features</i>	Benchmark 5C <i>Recommended after unit: The Earth System</i>
Benchmark 3D <i>Recommended after unit: Weather and Climate</i>	Benchmark 4D <i>Recommended after unit: Waves, Energy, and Information</i>	Benchmark 5D <i>Recommended after unit: Ecosystem Restoration</i>

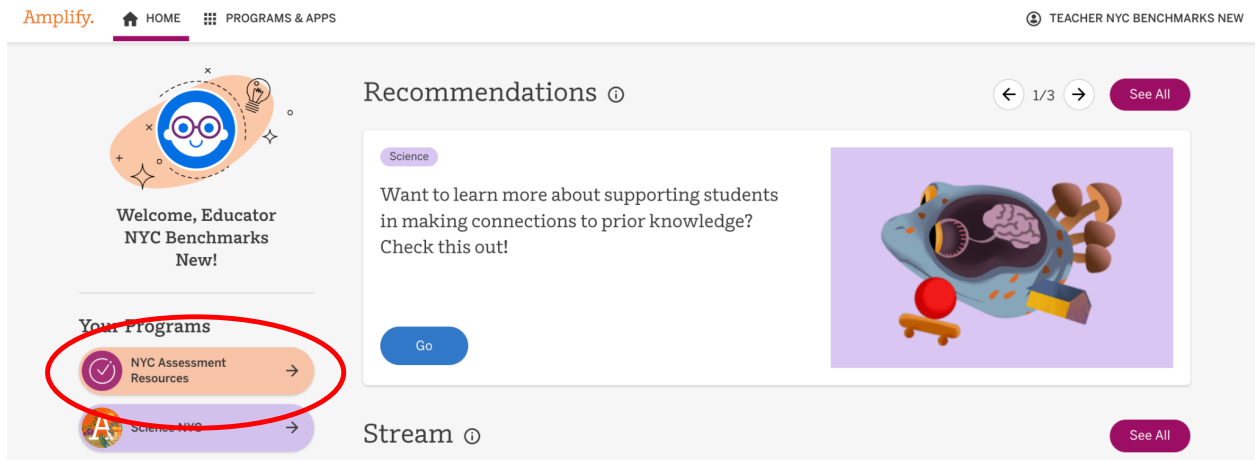
Intermediate-Level Assessments

Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8
Benchmark 6A <i>Recommended after units: Harnessing Human Energy; Thermal Energy; and Populations and Resources</i>	Benchmark 7A <i>Recommended after units: Microbiome; Metabolism; and Phase Change</i>	Benchmark 8A <i>Recommended after units: Geology on Mars; Earth, Moon, and Sun; and Force and Motion</i>
Benchmark 6B <i>Recommended after units: Matter and Energy in Ecosystems; and Weather Patterns</i>	Benchmark 7B <i>Recommended after units: Chemical Reactions; and Plate Motion</i>	Benchmark 8B <i>Recommended after units: Force and Motion Engineering Internship; Magnetic Fields; and Light Waves</i>
Benchmark 6C <i>Recommended after units: Ocean, Atmosphere, and Climate; and Earth's Changing Climate</i>	Benchmark 7C <i>Recommended after units: Plate Motion Engineering Internship; Rock Transformations; and Earth's Changing Climate Engineering Internship</i>	Benchmark 8C <i>Recommended after units: Traits and Reproduction; Natural Selection; and Evolutionary History</i>

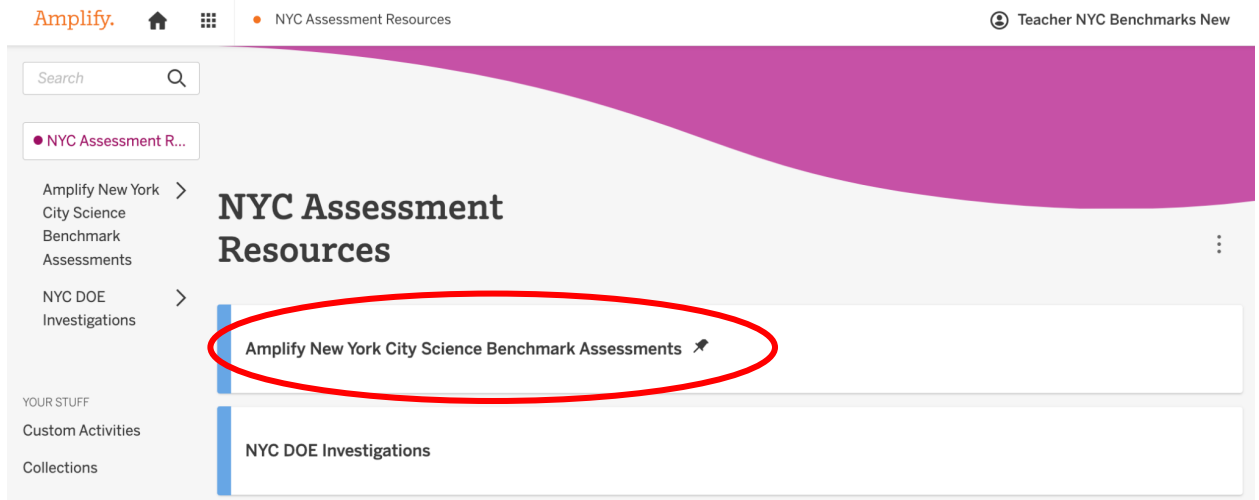
Accessing the assessments

Teacher access

1. Teachers will get to the benchmarks via Clever and the teacher home screen (learning.amplify.com)
2. Select “NYC Assessment Resources” housed under your program menu.



3. This will open up a new tab that includes access to two folders: Benchmark Assessments and Investigations. Click on the first.



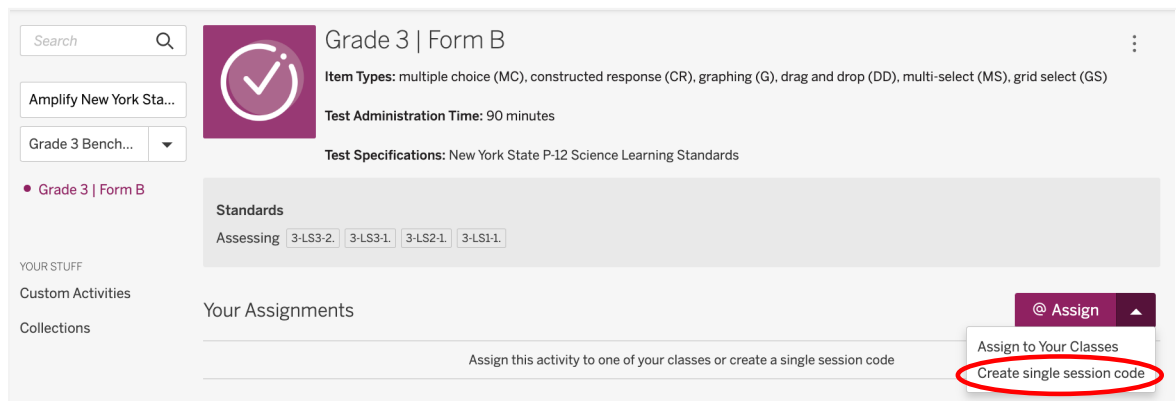
4. You will see access to assessments for grades 3 through 8. Choose the folder that contains the appropriate grade.



Student access: If students do NOT have individual logins

Teachers can provide access to these students through the following steps.

1. Navigate to NYC Benchmark Assessments.
2. Click on the appropriate grade and assessment.
3. Click on "Assign."
4. Click on "Create single session code."



5. Customize the settings for single session invite codes.
 - a. Ensure the box is selected for "Allow users to join without signing in."
 - b. Keep the code active for 48 hours, 2 weeks, or 1 year.
 - c. Click "Create Invite Code."

P-12 Science Learning Standards

Single Session Invite Codes

Tips:

- To save student work, assign activities to your classes or require student sign-in.
- For security, deactivate the code once all students have joined the session.

[Learn more about invite codes and security.](#)

Session Security Settings Updated ⓘ

☒ Allow users to join without signing in. (No teacher approval needed.)

This code will be active for . . .

☒ 48 hours ☐ 2 weeks ☐ 1 year

Cancel Create Invite Code

6. A new session code will be created. Click on the button with three dots, followed by the button labeled “Student Link.”

Search

Amplify New York Sta...

Grade 3 Bench...

Grade 3 | Form B

YOUR STUFF

Custom Activities

Collections

Grade 3 | Form B

Item Types: multiple choice (MC), constructed response (CR), graphing (G), drag and drop (DD), multi-select (MS), grid select (GS)

Test Administration Time: 90 minutes

Test Specifications: New York State P-12 Science Learning Standards

Standards

Assessing 3-LS3-2 3-LS3-1 3-LS2-1 3-LS1-1

Your Assignments

CLASS 4FZPKR New students can join until Dec 11, 2024

STUDENTS 0

SCHEDULED FOR Dec 9, 2024 at 11:33 am

DUE ON

Teach

Assign

More Session

Student Link

Screens

1 Question 1 Which answer Jamal's cat had three

2 Question 2 Butterflies go Butterfly Life

3 Question 3 Based on Miguel wanted to Miguel's

4 Question 4 African Wild Dogs Make a claim

5 Question 5 Unlike birds, sea statement

7. Copy the link to students.

Hey, students!

Go to learning.amplify.com/join and type in:

4F ZP KR

You can also share this invitation link with your students:

<https://learning.amplify.com/join/#/4FZ> COPY

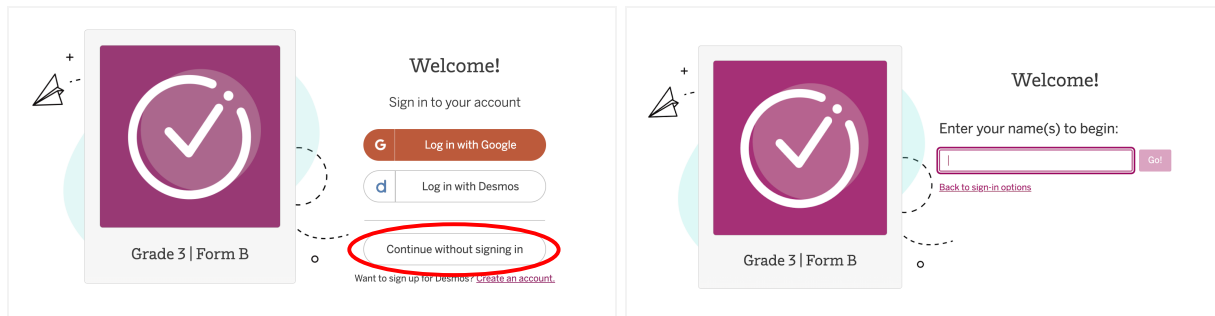
Have all students joined this class?
This prevents additional students from joining. You can always reactivate the code.

Deactivate this invite code

Do additional students need to join the class?
New students can use the code to join until **Dec 11, 2024**

Change Date

8. Students can click “Continue without signing in,” but they **must** be instructed to add their first and last name in order for the teacher to identify their work.



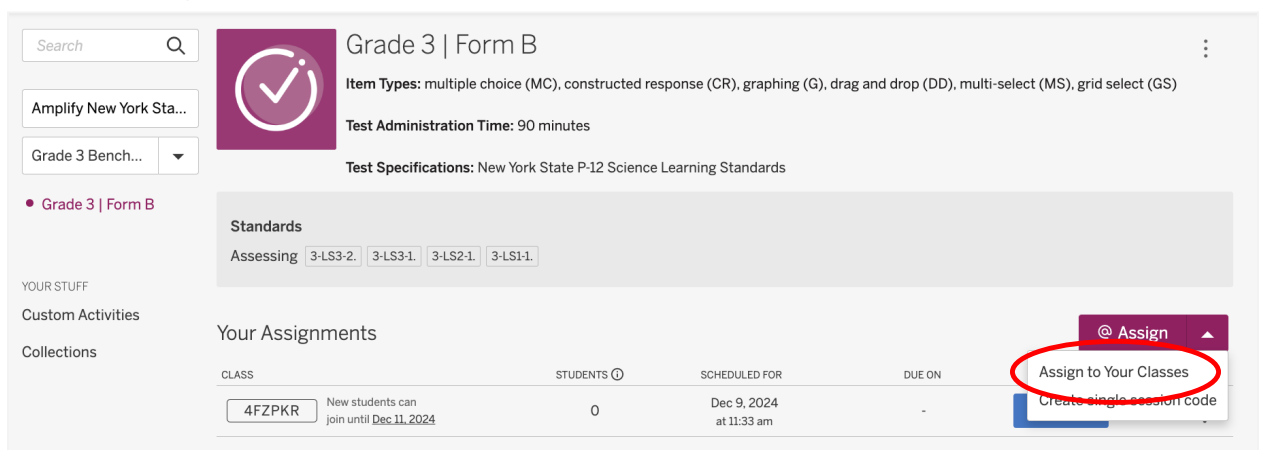
9. Pointers for teachers to be aware of:

- Teachers should instruct students to enter their first and last name, as there will be no other way to identify student responses.
- If there is a desire for retakes, students using the single session code would need to sign in again and start a **new** assessment; they will not be able to return to their original assessment once they have signed out. Teachers do not need to create a new class code if students have to start a new assessment, however, the student's second attempt will show as a different row in the teacher dashboard.

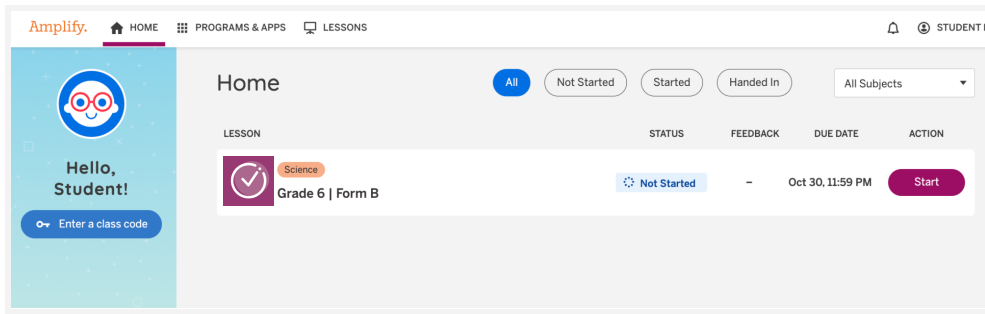
Student access: If students DO have individual logins

Teachers can provide access to middle school students through the following steps.

- Navigate to NYC Benchmark Assessments.
- Click on the appropriate grade and assessment.
- Click on "Assign."
- Click on "Assign to Your Classes."



- Schedule when students will see the assessment, add a due date, and click "Assign lesson."
- The student will see the assessment on their home screen.



Accessing print versions of the assessments

Each digital assessment is accompanied by a printable version. This is at the bottom of the landing page for each assessment. It opens as a PDF and can be printed out.

Amplify New York Sta...
Grade 3 Bench...

Grade 3 | Form B

YOUR STUFF

Custom Activities

Collections

Grade 3 | Form B

Item Types: multiple choice (MC), constructed response (CR), graphing (G), drag and drop (DD), multi-select (MS), grid select (GS)

Test Administration Time: 90 minutes

Test Specifications: New York State P-12 Science Learning Standards

Standards

Assessing 3-LS3-2, 3-LS3-1, 3-LS2-1, 3-LS1-1

Your Assignments

CLASS	STUDENTS	SCHEDULED FOR	DUE ON	
844WXD	New students can join until Dec 11, 2024 3	Dec 9, 2024 at 2:02 pm	-	Teach
Dashboards below are for earlier versions of this activity.				
Class A	1 of 1	Dec 9, 2024 at 12:28 pm	-	Teach
4FZPKR	New students can join until Dec 11, 2024 0	Dec 9, 2024 at 11:33 am	-	Teach

Screens

1 Question 1

Jamal's cat had three kittens. Each kitten has four legs, two eyes, a tail, and whiskers. One of

Which answer best

2 Question 2

Butterflies go through a complete metamorphosis during their

Butterfly Life Cycle

3 Question 3

Miguel wanted to compare flamingos living in the zoo to flamingos living in the wild. He created a

Based on Miguel's diagram,

4 Question 4

African Wild Dogs

Make a claim about

5 Question 5

Unlike birds, sea turtles do not stay

Which statement is true

Paper Resources

Grade 3 Form B Assessment

Grade 3 Form B Scoring Guide

Scoring assessments

The Benchmarks are all structured similarly to ensure a consistent measurement of student progress toward the New York State P-12 Science Learning Standards.

Scoring via print

Each assessment is accompanied by a teacher-facing scoring guide. The scoring guide includes an answer key, the point value per item, the standards alignment of every question (including the PE, DCI, SEP, and CCC), the item type, and the depth of knowledge (DOK) students would need to answer each question correctly.

Rationales are provided for all answer choices, and sample responses are provided for all constructed response items.

Grade 3 | Form B

Item Types: multiple choice (MC), constructed response (CR), graphing (G), drag and drop (DD), multi-select (MS), grid select (GS)

Test Administration Time: 90 minutes

Test Specifications: New York State P-12 Science Learning Standards

Standards

Assessing 3-LS3-2 3-LS3-1 3-LS2-1 3-LS1-1

Your Assignments

CLASS	STUDENTS	SCHEDULED FOR	DUE ON	Teach
844WXD New students can join until Dec 11, 2024	3	Dec 9, 2024 at 2:02 pm	-	Teach
Dashboards below are for earlier versions of this activity.				
Class A	1 of 1	Dec 9, 2024 at 12:28 pm	-	Teach
4FZPKR New students can join until Dec 11, 2024	0	Dec 9, 2024 at 11:33 am	-	Teach

Screens

1 Question 1: Jamal's cat had three kittens. Each kitten has four legs, two eyes, a tail, and whiskers. One of... Which answer best?

2 Question 2: Butterflies go through a complete metamorphosis during their... Butterfly Life Cycle

3 Question 3: Miguel wanted to compare flamingos living in the zoo to flamingos living in the wild. He created a... Based on Miguel's diagram.

4 Question 4: African Wild Dogs... Make a claim about

5 Question 5: Unlike birds, sea turtles do not stay... Which statement is true?

Paper Resources

Grade 3 Form B Assessment

Grade 3 Form B Scoring Guide

Scoring via digital

Assessment results are available to teachers via the teacher dashboard. To access the dashboard, click on “Teach” next to the class where the assessment has been administered.

Grade 3 | Form B

Item Types: multiple choice (MC), constructed response (CR), graphing (G), drag and drop (DD), multi-select (MS), grid select (GS)

Test Administration Time: 90 minutes

Test Specifications: New York State P-12 Science Learning Standards

Standards

Assessing 3-LS3-2, 3-LS3-1, 3-LS2-1, 3-LS1-1

YOUR STUFF

Custom Activities

Collections

Your Assignments

CLASS	STUDENTS	SCHEDULED FOR	DUE ON	
844WDX	New students can join until Dec 11, 2024	3	Dec 9, 2024 at 2:02 pm	Teach
Dashboards below are for earlier versions of this activity.				
Class A	1 of 1	Dec 9, 2024 at 12:28 pm	-	Teach

This opens the dashboard, which shows a dynamic view of responses as students complete the assessment questions.

Grade 3 | Form B 3 students 844WDX

Snapshots Summary Teacher Student

1 Question... 2 Question... 3 Question... 4 Question... 5 Question... 6 Question... 7 Question... 8 Question... 9 Question... 10 Question... 11 Question... 12 Question...

Anonymous Pace Sync to Me Pause

SORT BY Time Entered

1 Question... What? Katherine Johnson's cat had three

2 Question... What? Butterflies go

3 Question... What? Miguel wanted to

4 Question... What? African Wild Dogs

5 Question... What? Unlike birds, h

6 Question... What? Add the

7 Question... What?

8 Question... What?

9 Question... What?

10 Question... What?

11 Question... What?

12 Question... What?

Anonymous mode is on. Your students' names have been changed to the names of notable mathematicians. [Learn more](#)

	1 Question...	2 Question...	3 Question...	4 Question...	5 Question...	6 Question...	7 Question...	8 Question...	9 Question...	10 Question...	11 Question...	12 Question...
Katherine Johnson	X	X	X	●	X	X	X	X	X	●	X	X
Alexander Diaz-Lopez	X	X	X	●	X	X	X	X	X	●	X	X
Ami Radunskeya	✓	X	✓	●	X	✓	X	X	X	●	X	X

Automatically scored items

For items that can be automatically scored, the dashboard will indicate correctness using a check (correct) or an “X” (incorrect). This is the case for the following item types: multiple choice, multi-select, grid item, drag-and-drop, and graph items.

Grade 3 | Form B 3 students 844WDX

Snapshots Summary Teacher Student

1 Question... 2 Question... 3 Question... 4 Question... 5 Question... 6 Question...

Anonymous Pace Sync to Me Pause

SORT BY Time Entered

1 Question... What? Katherine Johnson's cat had three

2 Question... What? Butterflies go

3 Question... What? Miguel wanted to

4 Question... What? African Wild Dogs

5 Question... What? Unlike birds, h

6 Question... What? Add the

7 Question... What?

8 Question... What?

9 Question... What?

10 Question... What?

11 Question... What?

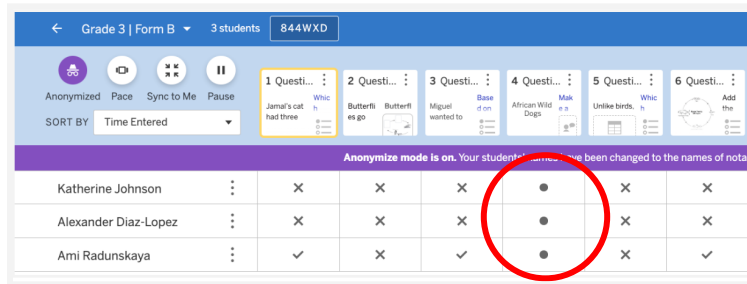
12 Question... What?

Anonymous mode is on. Your students' names have been changed to the names of notable mathematicians. [Learn more](#)

	1 Question...	2 Question...	3 Question...	4 Question...	5 Question...	6 Question...
Katherine Johnson	X	X	X	●	X	X
Alexander Diaz-Lopez	X	X	X	●	X	X
Ami Radunskeya	✓	X	✓	●	X	✓

Manually evaluated items

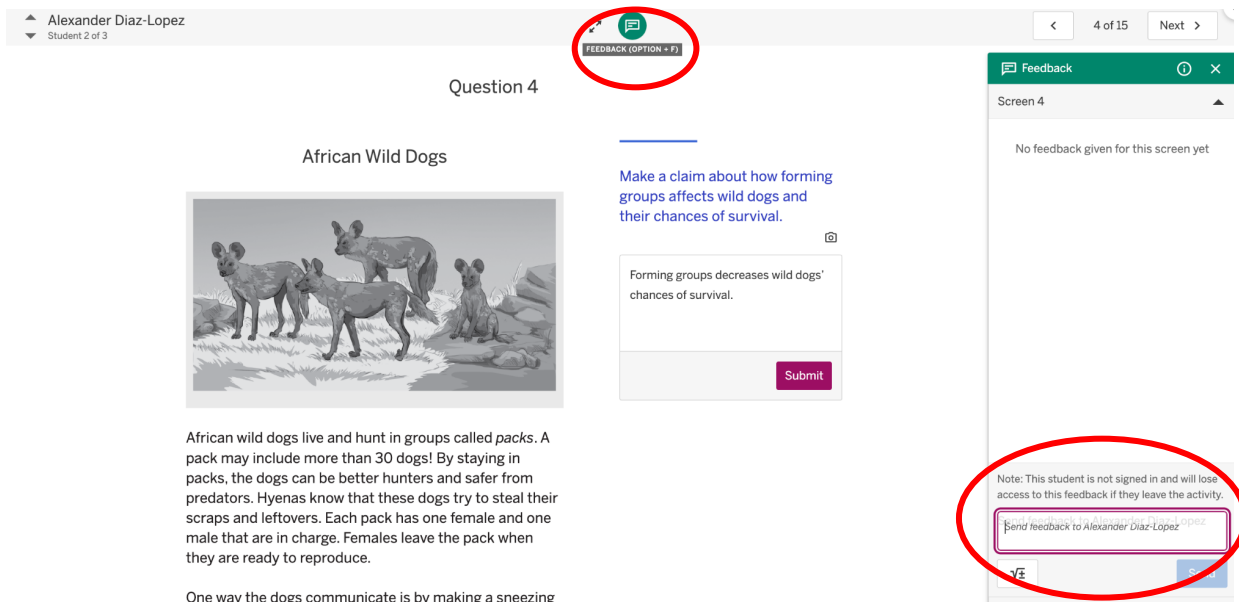
Teachers must evaluate constructed responses manually. Teachers will see a dot in the dashboard when students have entered a response into an item that needs to be teacher scored. Teachers should click on the dot.



	1 Questi...	2 Questi...	3 Questi...	4 Questi...	5 Questi...	6 Questi...
Katherine Johnson	×	×	×	•	×	×
Alexander Diaz-Lopez	×	×	×	•	×	×
Ami Raduns kaya	✓	×	✓	•	×	✓

This opens a screen showing the student's response. Currently, there is no way to apply a score to these items within the teacher dashboard, but the teacher can provide feedback to the student by clicking "Feedback" at the top of the screen.

Feedback is only available to students who log in to the platform. Students who access the assessments via a single session code will not see teacher feedback once they leave the session.



Alexander Diaz-Lopez
Student 2 of 3

Question 4

African Wild Dogs

Make a claim about how forming groups affects wild dogs and their chances of survival.

Forming groups decreases wild dogs' chances of survival.

Submit

African wild dogs live and hunt in groups called *packs*. A pack may include more than 30 dogs! By staying in packs, the dogs can be better hunters and safer from predators. Hyenas know that these dogs try to steal their scraps and leftovers. Each pack has one female and one male that are in charge. Females leave the pack when they are ready to reproduce.

One way the dogs communicate is by making a sneezing

Feedback (OPTIONAL)

Screen 4

No feedback given for this screen yet

Note: This student is not signed in and will lose access to this feedback if they leave the activity.

Send feedback to Alexander Diaz-Lopez

Sample responses

For every item, there is a sample responses tab that discusses the correct answer. Rationales are provided for all answer choices, and sample responses are provided for all constructed response items.

Alexander Diaz-Lopez
Student 2 of 3

Question 4

African Wild Dogs



Make a claim about how forming groups affects wild dogs and their chances of survival.

lkjkkkj

Edit my response

African wild dogs live and hunt in groups called *packs*. A pack may include more than 30 dogs! By staying in packs, the dogs can be better hunters and safer from predators. Hyenas know that these dogs try to steal their scraps and leftovers. Each pack has one female and one male that are in charge. Females leave the pack when they are ready to reproduce.

Sample Responses

Forming groups increases wild dogs' chances of survival. They hunt together to chase down and trap prey.

Students need to include that forming groups **increases** wild dogs' chances of survival.

Individual items will be scored as correct or incorrect. These items do not include a point value. For example, John has 5 questions correct on this test but not 5 points. Teachers should use the scoring guide to calculate an overall score.

These are the reports that are currently available for all users in NYC.

Reviewing administered assessments

Once students have taken assessments, teachers can review data at a later date throughout the school year. At the end of the school year, this data may not be available. All scores should be reviewed during the current school year.

Administered assessments: For students without individual logins

Teachers will see all previous classes that a Benchmark has been assigned to on the landing page for a given assessment.

Click on “Teach” to access the teacher dashboard for each class to review student assessment results.

The screenshot shows the Amplify teacher dashboard for the 'Grade 3 | Form B' assessment. The top navigation bar includes a search bar, 'Amplify New York Cit...', and a 'Grade 3 Bench...' dropdown. The main content area displays the assessment details: 'Item Types: multiple choice (MC), constructed response (CR), graphing (G), drag and drop (DD), multi-select (MS), grid select (GS)', 'Test Administration Time: 90 minutes', and 'Test Specifications: New York State P-12 Science Learning Standards'. Below this, a 'Standards' section lists 'Assessing 3-LS3-2, 3-LS3-1, 3-LS2-1, 3-LS1-1'. The 'Your Assignments' table shows three classes: '844WXD' (3 students, due Dec 9, 2024 at 2:02 pm), 'Class A' (1 of 1 student, due Dec 9, 2024 at 12:28 pm), and 'Inactive Code' (0 students, due Dec 9, 2024 at 11:33 am). Each class has a 'Teach' button. A red circle highlights the 'Teach' buttons for all three classes.

Administered assessments: For students with individual logins

In addition to the navigation above, teachers with classes that have been assigned the Benchmarks will see the assessments in their stream on their Amplify teacher home.

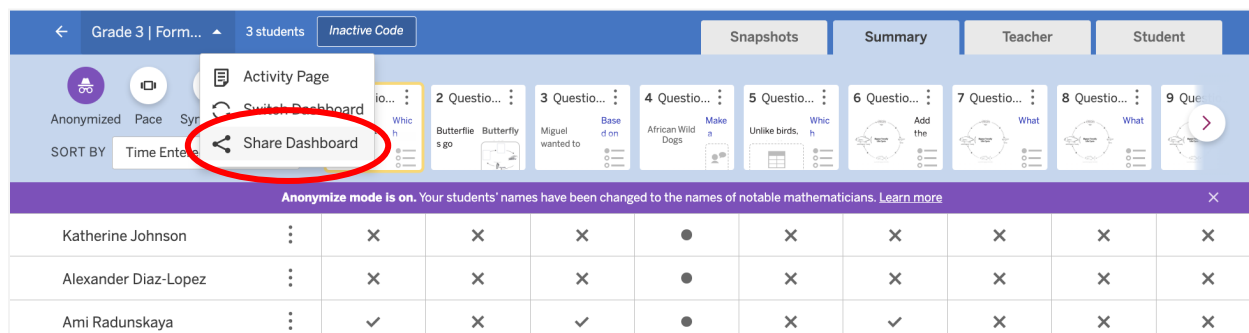
Click on “View Work” to be taken directly to the teacher dashboard, where you can review student work.

The screenshot shows the Amplify teacher home dashboard. The top navigation bar includes 'Amplify', 'HOME', 'PROGRAMS & APPS', and 'TEACHER NYC BENCHMARKS NEW'. The main content area features a 'Recommendations' section with a 'Science' card titled 'Need help planning lessons? Check out a lesson planning template.' and a 'Stream' section. The 'Stream' section shows two assessment entries: 'Math Grade 3 | Form B' assigned to 'Class A' on 'Dec 09' and 'Math Grade 3 | Form B' assigned to 'Class A' on 'Nov 15'. Each entry has a 'Go to Lesson' button and a 'View Work' button. A red circle highlights the 'View Work' button for the 'Dec 09' entry.

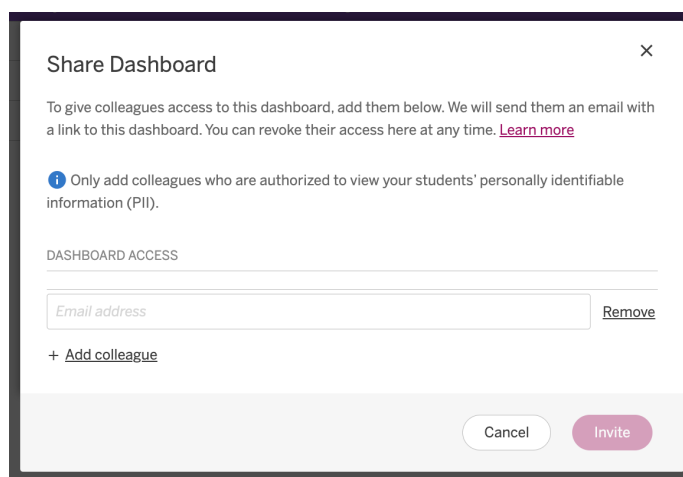
Sharing teacher dashboards

Teacher dashboards can be shared with other Amplify Science users *if the assessment has been administered via single session code*. Sharing the dashboard may be valuable to school leaders and coaches who would like to support teachers and understand the next steps after the assessment.

The option to share is in the menu at the top of the teacher dashboard.

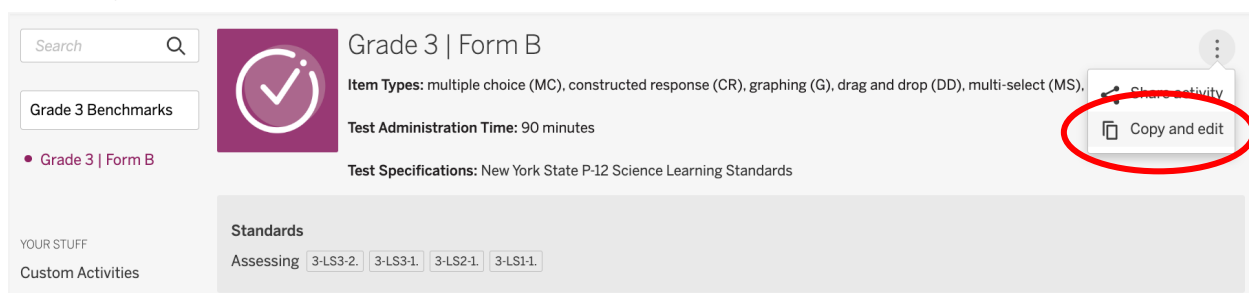


Dashboards should only be shared with colleagues who are authorized to view students' personally identifiable information.



Customization

All Benchmark Assessments can be edited by the teacher in the platform. We recommend taking caution when making edits, as significant changes may undermine the Benchmarks' similarity to New York State science tests.



Language support

At this time, the Benchmarks are only available in English. We plan to make Spanish-language Benchmark Assessments available at a later time. Please review the benchmark release timeline section of this document for more details.

In the interim, we suggest downloading the print version of the assessment and translating externally into the appropriate language(s) needed.

Standards

The landing page of every assessment lists the Performance Expectations (PEs) covered.

Search

Grade 3 Benchmarks

Grade 3 | Form B

Item Types: multiple choice (MC), constructed response (CR), graphing (G), drag and drop (DD), multi-select (MS).

Test Administration Time: 90 minutes

Test Specifications: New York State P-12 Science Learning Standards

Standards

Assessing 3-LS3-2 3-LS3-1 3-LS2-1 3-LS1-1

Share activity

Copy and edit

Teachers may view alignment of individual items to the PEs and three dimensions within the printable scoring guide.

Search

Grade 3 Benchmarks

Grade 3 | Form B

Item Types: multiple choice (MC), constructed response (CR), graphing (G), drag and drop (DD), multi-select (MS), grid select (GS)

Test Administration Time: 90 minutes

Test Specifications: New York State P-12 Science Learning Standards

Standards

Assessing 3-LS3-2 3-LS3-1 3-LS2-1 3-LS1-1

Your Assignments

Assign

Screens

Preview

Paper Resources

Grade 3 Form B Assessment

Grade 3 Form B Scoring Guide

Grade 3 Form B

Item Types: multiple choice (MC), constructed response (CR), graphing (G), drag and drop (DD), multi-select (MS), grid select (GS)

Test Administration Time: 90 minutes

Test Specifications: New York State P-12 Science Learning Standards

Segment A

Item Position	Performance Expectation	DCI	SEP	CCC	DOK	KEY	Item Type	Points
1	3-LS3-1	LS3.B	SEP-6		2	c	MC	1
2	3-LS1-1	LS1.B	SEP-2	CCC-1	2	see below	DD	1
3	3-LS3-2	LS3.A		CCC-2	2	a	MC	1
4	3-LS2-1	LS2.D	SEP-7		3	see below	CR	1
5	3-LS3-2	LS3.B	SEP-4		3	d	MC	1

Benchmark Release Timeline

- Mid-year Benchmarks (6 assessments; English language)
 - Elementary Form B: **Dec. 15, 2024**
 - Middle School Form B: **Jan. 31, 2025**
- End-of-year Benchmarks (9 assessments; English language):
 - Form C (Elementary + Middle School): **April 1, 2025**
 - Form D (Elementary + Middle School): **April 25, 2025**
- Beginning-of-year Benchmarks (Form A; 6 assessments; English language): **July 1, 2025**
- Mid-year and End-of-year Benchmarks (Form B, C, D; 15 assessments; Spanish language): **Sept. 1, 2025**
- Beginning-of-year Benchmarks (Form A; 6 assessments; Spanish language): **Jan 1, 2026**