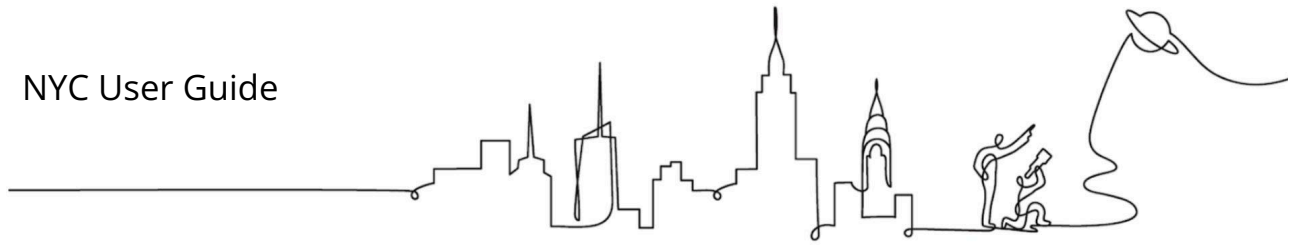


# Amplify New York City Science Benchmark Assessments

## 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

### *Upcoming improvements in 2025-26*

In the 2025-26 school year, we have a few major improvements underway.

1. **Pedagogical enhancements.** Based on NYC student performance on the Benchmarks in the first year of administration, we are implementing pedagogical enhancements to the questions to improve:
  - a. Scientific accuracy and clarity
  - b. Level of difficulty (e.g., if questions were deemed to be too difficult)
  - c. Ability to successfully discern student ability
2. **Spanish translations.** We will also provide Spanish translations of the student-facing assessments. This will be released at the same time as the updated English assessments.
3. **Technical improvements.** The platform will support teachers' ability to add manual scores to constructed response items and download scores in CSV file format.

## Suggested timeline for 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.

You can find more details on pacing guidance and suggestions for administering the benchmarks for your grade level in the pacing and implementation guides from NYCPS [here](#).

### 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>

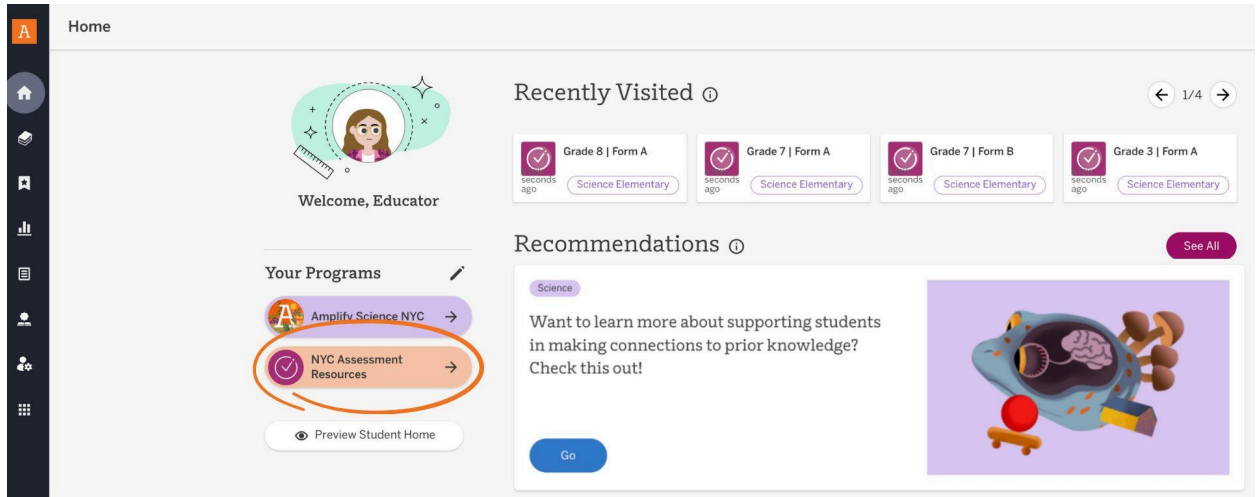
*Intermediate-Level Assessments*

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>

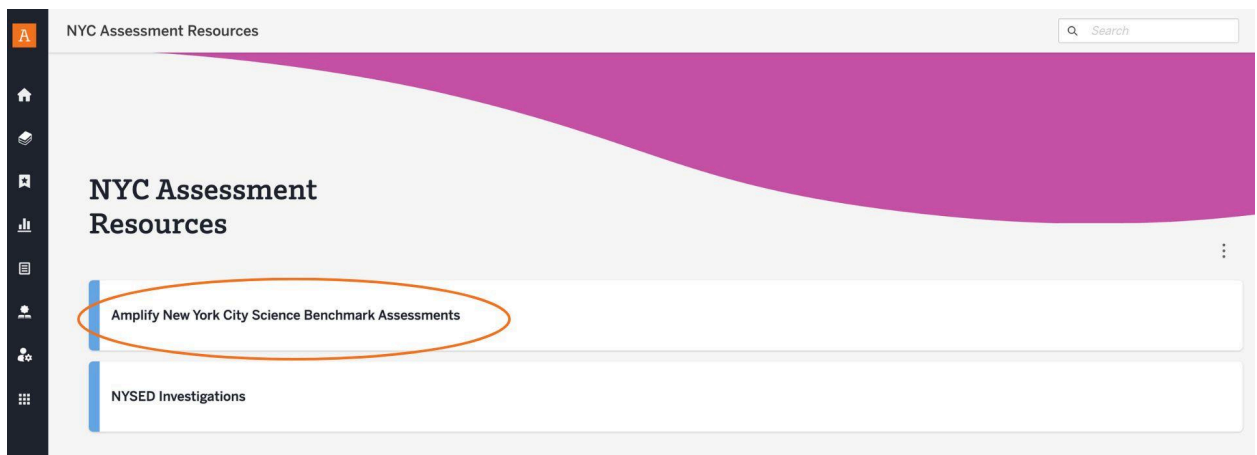
## Accessing the assessments

### Teacher access

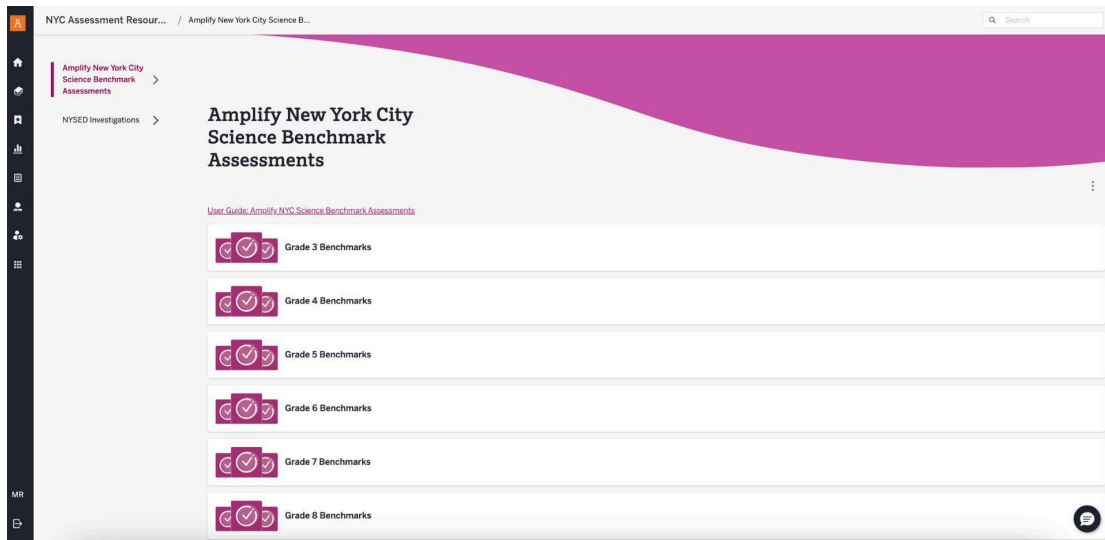
1. Teachers will get to the benchmarks via [TeachHub and Clever](#) or the teacher home screen (learning.amplify.com)
2. Select “NYC Assessment Resources” housed under your program menu.



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



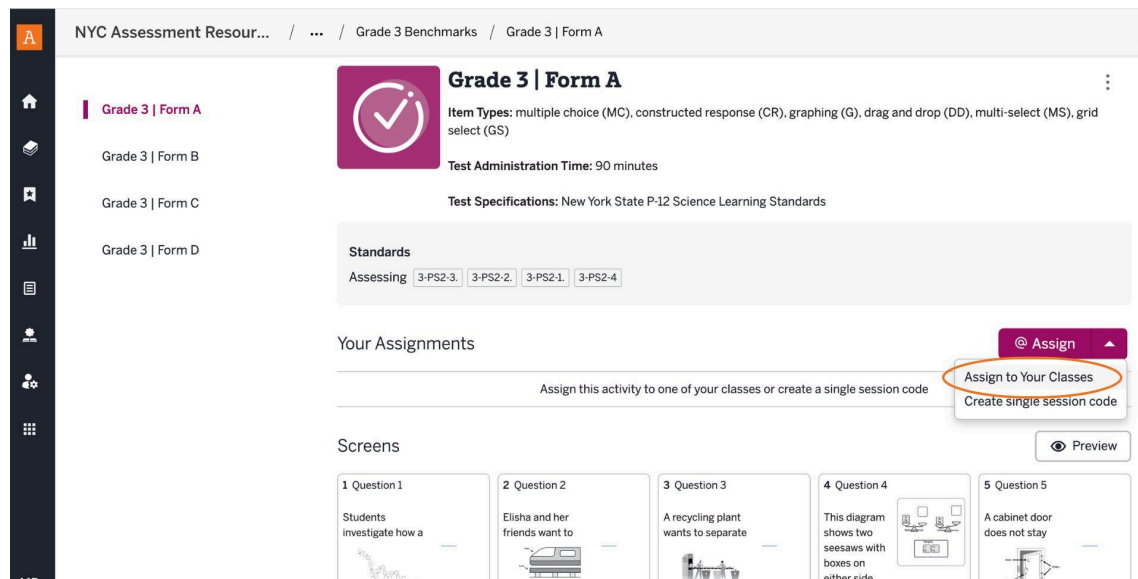
4. You will see access to assessments for grades 3 through 8. Choose the folder that contains the appropriate grade.



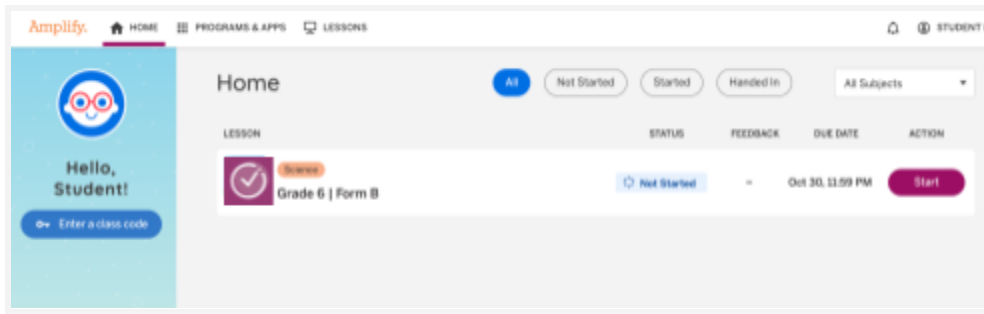
*Student access: Using individual logins (preferred method)*

Teachers can provide access to 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 “Assign to Your Classes.”



5. Schedule when students will see the assessment, add a due date, and click “Assign lesson.”
6. The student will see the assessment on their home screen.

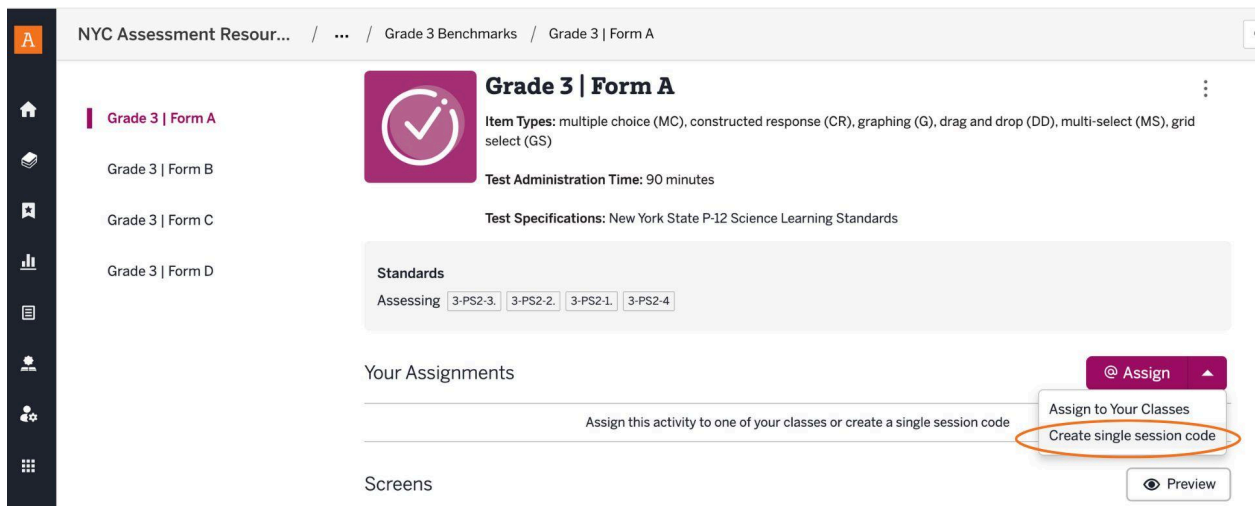


*Student access: Single session code*

*NOTE: All students in grades K-8 can now log in through Clever. There is still an option to use single session codes if students are unable to navigate to student home on their own; however, students will still need to log in.*

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. Keep the code active for 48 hours, 2 weeks, or 1 year.
  - b. Leave unchecked the setting to "Allow users to join without signing in"
  - c. Click "Create Invite Code."

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

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

NYC Assessment Resour... / ... / Grade 3 Benchmarks / Grade 3 | Form A

Grade 3 | Form A

Grade 3 | Form B
Grade 3 | Form C
Grade 3 | Form D

Grade 3 | Form A

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-PS2-3, 3-PS2-2, 3-PS2-1, 3-PS2-4

Your Assignments
@ Assign

CLASS	STUDENTS ⓘ	SCHEDULED FOR	DUE ON	
JETVCJ	Student sign-in required. New students can join until <b>Aug 15, 2025</b>	0	Aug 13, 2025 at 10:54 am	Teach <div> Pause Session Student Link Archive </div>

Screens
1 Question 1
2 Question 2
3 Question 3
4 Question 4
5

- Copy the link to students.

Hey, students!

Go to [learning.amplify.com/join](https://learning.amplify.com/join) and type in:

4F ZP KR

You can also share this invitation link with your students:

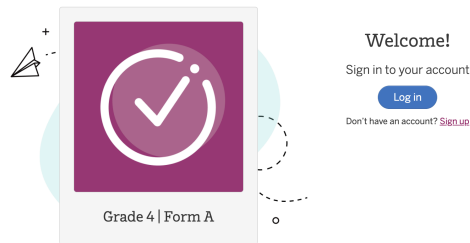
<https://learning.amplify.com/join/#/4FZ> COPY

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 will be prompted to log in and should do so via Clever.



### *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.

A screenshot of the NYC Assessment Resource Center landing page for Grade 3 Form A. The page has a dark sidebar on the left with various icons. The main content area has a header with the text "NYC Assessment Resour... / Amplify New York City Science B... / Grade 3 Benchmarks / Grade 3 | Form A". Below this is a section for "Grade 3 | Form A" with a purple icon and a list of item types: multiple choice (MC), constructed response (CR), graphing (G), drag and drop (DD), multi-select (MS), grid select (GS). It also shows "Test Administration Time: 90 minutes" and "Test Specifications: New York State P-12 Science Learning Standards". There is a "Standards" section with "Assessing" and a list of standards: 3-PS2-3, 3-PS2-2, 3-PS2-1, 3-PS2-4. Below this is a "Your Assignments" section with an "Assign" button and a link to "Assign this activity to one of your classes or create a single session code". The "Screens" section shows a grid of 15 question cards, each with a question number and a preview of the question content. The "Paper Resources" section at the bottom shows two PDF documents: "Grade 3 Form A Assessment" and "Grade 3 Form A Scoring Guide". The "Grade 3 Form A Assessment" document is circled in orange.

## 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.

The screenshot displays the NYC Assessment Resource Center interface for Grade 3 Form A. The top navigation bar includes the NYC Assessment Resource Center logo and the path: NYC Assessment Resource... / Amplify New York City Science B... / Grade 3 Benchmarks / Grade 3 | Form A.

The main content area is titled "Grade 3 | Form A" and includes a checkmark icon. Below the title, it lists "Item Types: multiple choice (MC), constructed response (CR), graphing (G), drag and drop (DD), multi-select (MS), grid select (GS)" and "Test Administration Time: 90 minutes". The "Test Specifications: New York State P-12 Science Learning Standards" are also listed.

The "Standards" section shows "Assessing 3-PS2-3, 3-PS2-2, 3-PS2-1, 3-PS2-4".

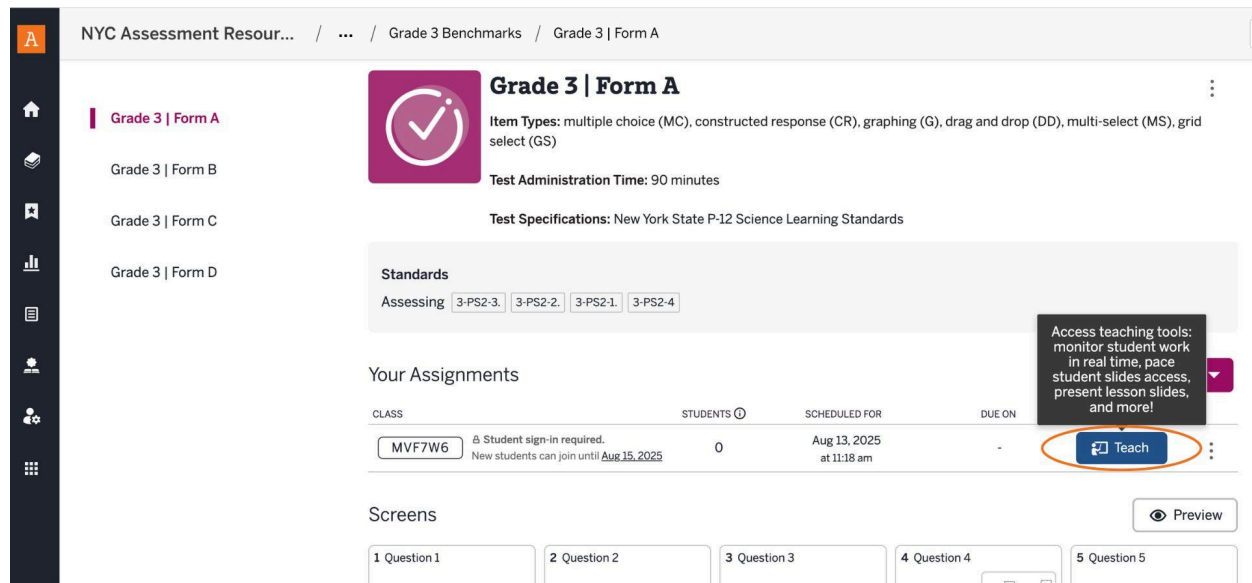
The "Your Assignments" section features an "Assign" button and a link to "Assign this activity to one of your classes or create a single session code".

The "Screens" section displays a grid of 15 question thumbnails, each with a preview image and a "Preview" button. The questions are numbered 1 through 15.

The "Paper Resources" section shows two documents: "Grade 3 Form A Assessment" and "Grade 3 Form A Scoring Guide". The "Grade 3 Form A Scoring Guide" is circled in orange.

## 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.



NYC Assessment Resource Center / ... / Grade 3 Benchmarks / Grade 3 | Form A

### Grade 3 | Form A

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-PS2-3, 3-PS2-2, 3-PS2-1, 3-PS2-4

#### Your Assignments

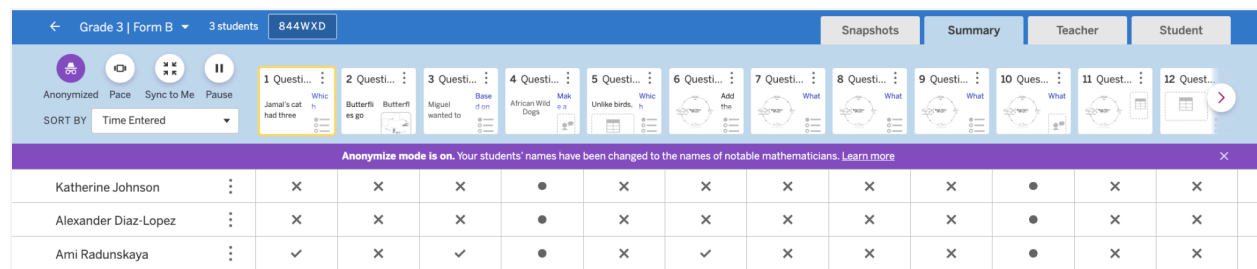
CLASS	STUDENTS	SCHEDULED FOR	DUE ON	
MVF7W6	0	Aug 13, 2025 at 11:18 am	-	<a href="#">Teach</a>

Screens

1 Question 1 2 Question 2 3 Question 3 4 Question 4 5 Question 5

Preview

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



Grade 3 | Form B 3 students 844WXD

Snapshots Summary Teacher Student

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

Anonymous Pace Sync to Me Pause

SORT BY Time Entered

1 Question 1: Jamal's cat had three butterflies. Which butterfly did he have?

2 Question 2: Butterflies go to the garden. Which butterfly did he have?

3 Question 3: Miguel wanted to go to the garden. Which butterfly did he have?

4 Question 4: Base of an African Wild Dog. Which butterfly did he have?

5 Question 5: Unlike birds, which butterfly did he have?

6 Question 6: Add the number of butterflies. Which butterfly did he have?

7 Question 7: What is the number of butterflies? Which butterfly did he have?

8 Question 8: What is the number of butterflies? Which butterfly did he have?

9 Question 9: What is the number of butterflies? Which butterfly did he have?

10 Question 10: What is the number of butterflies? Which butterfly did he have?

11 Question 11: What is the number of butterflies? Which butterfly did he have?

12 Question 12: What is the number of butterflies? Which butterfly did he have?

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

Student	1 Question 1	2 Question 2	3 Question 3	4 Question 4	5 Question 5	6 Question 6	7 Question 7	8 Question 8	9 Question 9	10 Question 10	11 Question 11	12 Question 12
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 Radunskaya	✓	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 844WXD

Snapshots Summary Teacher Student

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

Anonymous Pace Sync to Me Pause

SORT BY Time Entered

1 Question 1: Jamal's cat had three butterflies. Which butterfly did he have?

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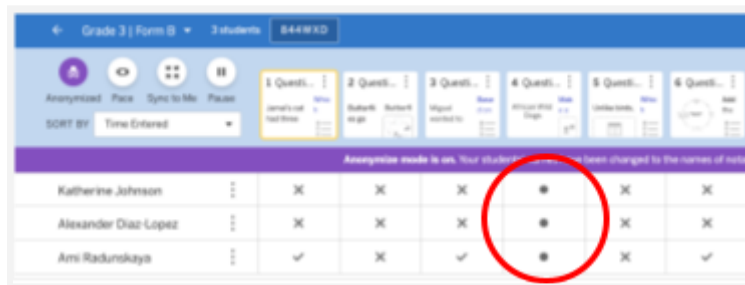
12 Question 12: What is the number of butterflies? Which butterfly did he have?

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

Student	1 Question 1	2 Question 2	3 Question 3	4 Question 4	5 Question 5	6 Question 6	7 Question 7	8 Question 8	9 Question 9	10 Question 10	11 Question 11	12 Question 12
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 Radunskaya	✓	X	✓	●	X	✓	X	X	X	●	X	X

## Manually evaluated items

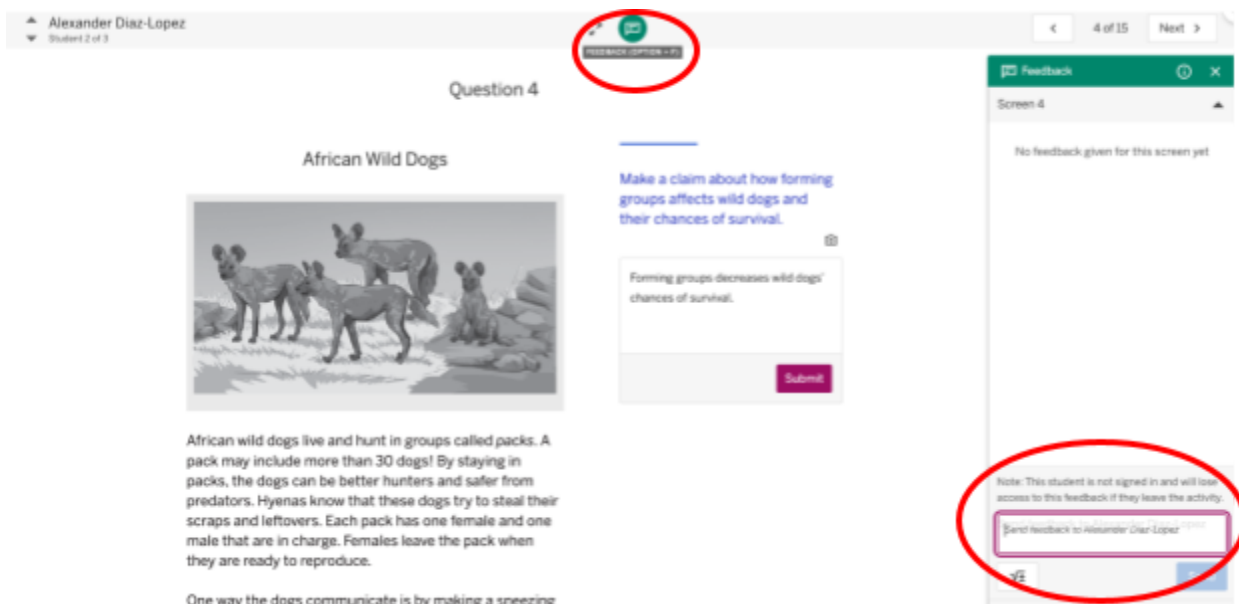
Teachers must evaluate constructed responses manually. Teachers will see a dot in the dashboard when students have entered a response into an item that needs to be teacher scored. Teachers should click on the dot.



	1. 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 Radunskaya	✓	X	✓	*	X	✓

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

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.

3(333)

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.

*Note: Amplify is making updates to these features, including giving teachers the means to add a score to manually evaluated items. This update is anticipated for the winter of 2025 and will not be applied to benchmarks given before the update is released.*

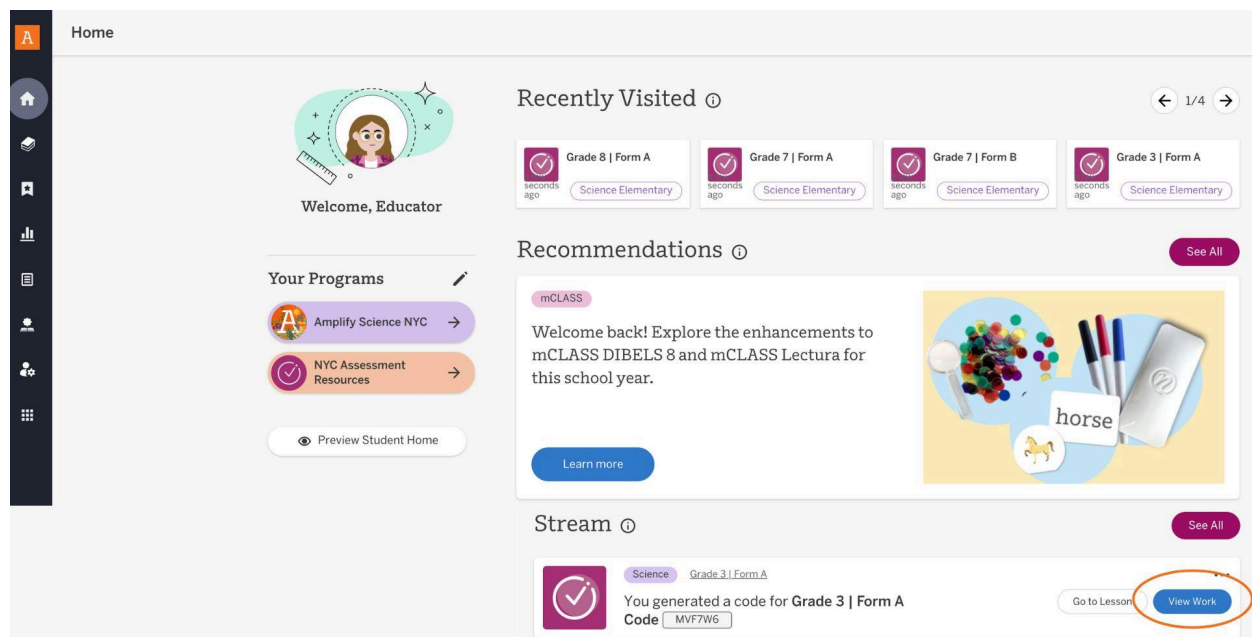
## Reviewing administered assessments

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*

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.



On the landing page for a given assessment, teachers will see all previous classes to which a benchmark has been assigned.

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

NYC Assessment Resour... / ... / Grade 3 Benchmarks / Grade 3 | Form A

**Grade 3 | Form A**

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-PS2-3, 3-PS2-2, 3-PS2-1, 3-PS2-4

Your Assignments

CLASS	STUDENTS	SCHEDULED FOR	DUE ON	
MVF7W6	0	Aug 13, 2025 at 11:18 am	-	Teach

Screens

1 Question 1 2 Question 2 3 Question 3 4 Question 4 5 Question 5

Preview

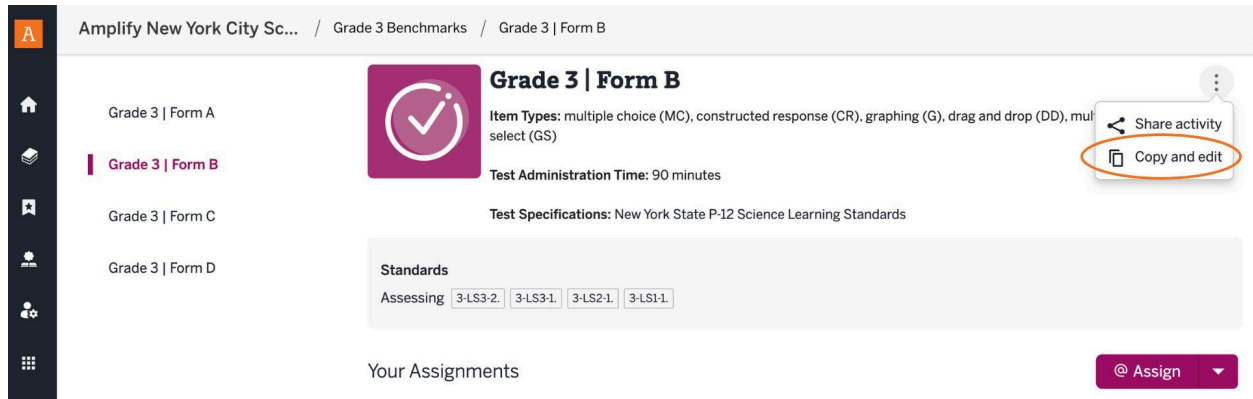
Access teaching tools: monitor student work in real time, pace student slides access, present lesson slides, and more!

Grade 3   Form B 3 students Inactive Code														Snapshots	Summary	Teacher	Student
1 Question 1	2 Question 2	3 Question 3	4 Question 4	5 Question 5	6 Question 6	7 Question 7	8 Question 8	9 Question 9	10 Question 10	11 Question 11	12 Question 12	13 Question 13	14 Question 14				
Student 1	X	X	X	●	✓	X	X	X	X	●	✓	X	X				
Student 2																	
Student 3	✓	✓	✓	●	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	●	X	X	✓				

Note: There is currently no option to download or share the dashboard. You can [use this guide](#) to save a dashboard. Amplify is currently working on an update to allow teachers to download and save a dashboard. This is anticipated to be released in winter 2025. Download will not be available on assessments administered before the release.

## 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.



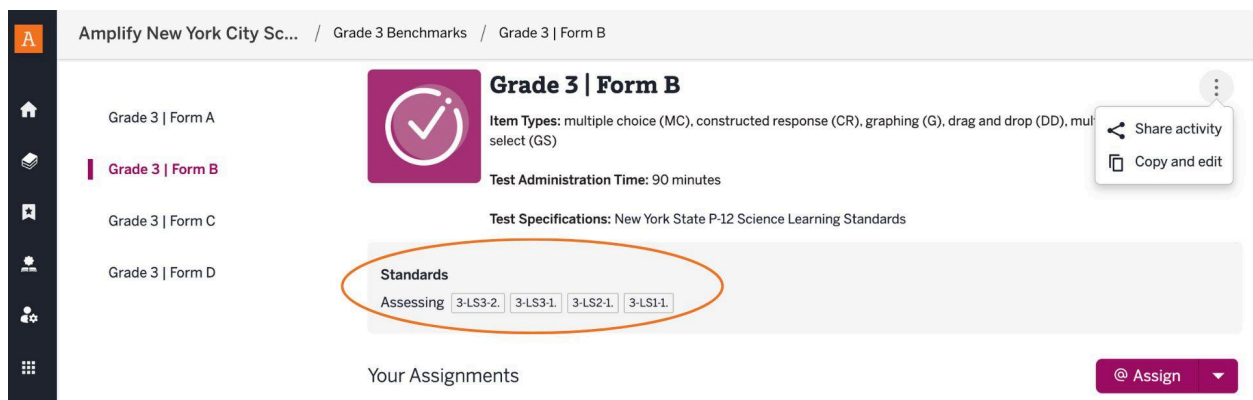
## Language support

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.





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

NYC Assessment Resour... / Amplify New York City Science B... / Grade 3 Benchmarks / Grade 3 | Form A

**Grade 3 | Form A**

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.PS2.3, 3.PS2.2, 3.PS2.1, 3.PS2.4

Your Assignments Assign

Assign this activity to one of your classes or create a single session code

Screens Preview

1 Question 1  
Students investigate how a

2 Question 2  
Esha and her friends want to

3 Question 3  
A recycling plant wants to separate

4 Question 4  
This diagram shows two senses with bones on either side

5 Question 5  
A cabinet door does not stay

6 Question 6  
Click the box to show if each

7 Question 7  
Directions Use the

8 Question 8  
Directions Use the

9 Question 9  
Directions Use the

10 Question 10  
Directions Use the

11 Question 11  
Directions Use the

12 Question 12  
Directions Use the

13 Question 13  
Directions Use the

14 Question 14  
Directions Use the

15 Question 15  
Directions Use the

Paper Resources

Grade 3 Form A Assessment

Grade 3 Form A 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

In the 2025-26 school year, we have a few major improvements underway.

1. **Pedagogical enhancements.** Based on NYC student performance on the Benchmarks in the first year of administration, we are implementing pedagogical enhancements to the questions to improve:
  - a. Scientific accuracy and clarity
  - b. Level of difficulty (e.g., if questions were deemed to be too difficult)
  - c. Ability to successfully discern student ability
2. **Spanish translations.** We will also provide Spanish translations of the student-facing assessments. This will be released at the same time as the updated English assessments.
3. **Technical improvements.** The platform will support teachers' ability to add manual scores to constructed response items and download scores in CSV file format.

Release dates:

- Spanish Benchmarks:
  - Mid-year "Form B" Benchmarks: Dec 19, 2025
  - End-of-year "Form C" Benchmarks: March 30, 2026
  - End-of-year "Form D" Benchmarks: April 30, 2026
  - Beginning-of-year "Form A" Benchmarks: June 30, 2026
- Pedagogical enhancements: Same timing as Spanish Benchmarks; English and Spanish forms will be released at the same time
- Technical improvements: Dec 31, 2025