NCES National Center for Education Statistics

The Nation's Report Card NAEP

NAEP Questions Tool

Quick Reference

April 2005

NAEP QUESTIONS TOOL

The NAEP Questions Tool

The **NAEP Questions Tool** provides educators, researchers, parents, and students with access to released questions from NAEP assessments in nearly all subject areas, dating from 1990.

The questions are presented as

- examples of what NAEP asks students in grades 4, 8, and 12;
- examples of questions that probe students' knowledge of specific content areas; and
- a way to examine student performance on a specific question by race/ethnicity, gender, and other student groupings.

NAEP has released over 1,000 questions from past assessments to the public, and will continue to release more after each assessment.

How to Access

The direct URL to NAEP Questions is
http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/itmrls
or click **NAEP Questions** on the Nation's Report Card home page.

To Start

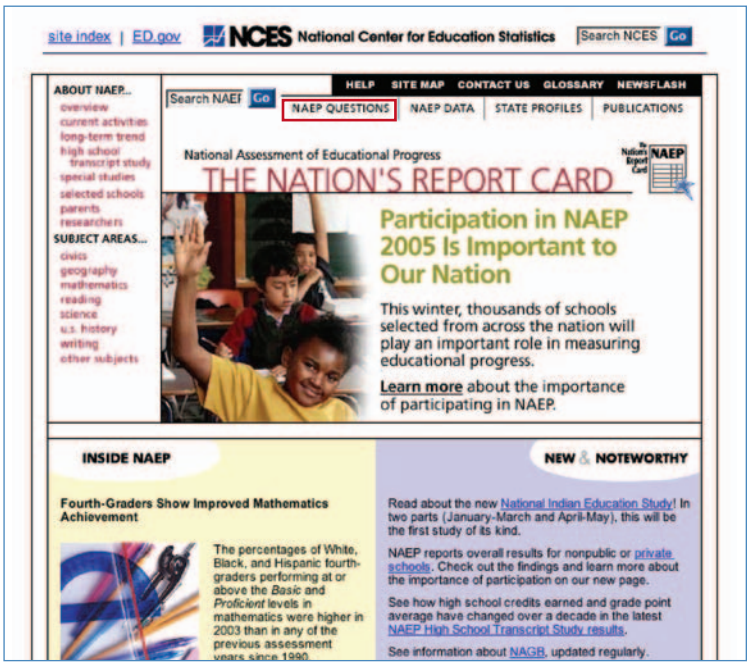
1. Click **Search Options** to begin.
2. Note that there is an online tutorial, and **Tool Help** is available from all pages of the **NAEP Questions Tool**.

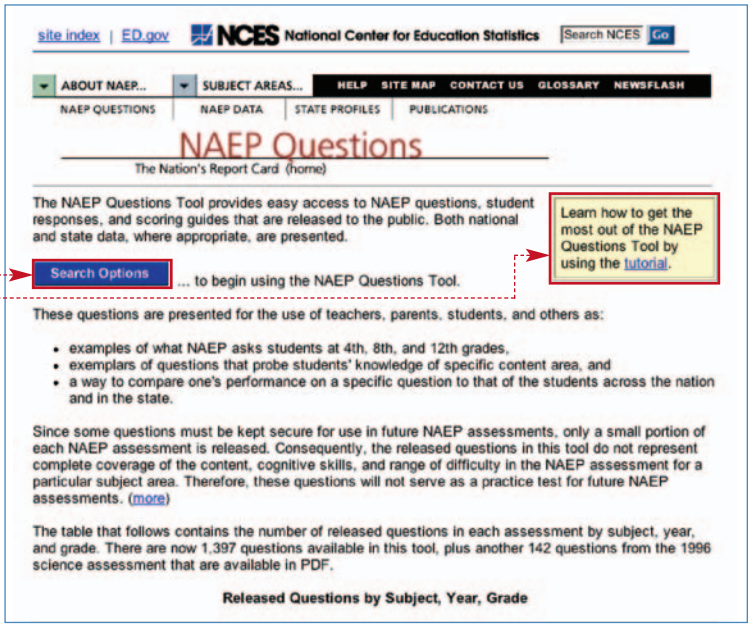
Note that **CONTACT US** is in the black band at the top of every NAEP page. Please use it to ask questions about NAEP that are not answered on this website, or to send us comments.

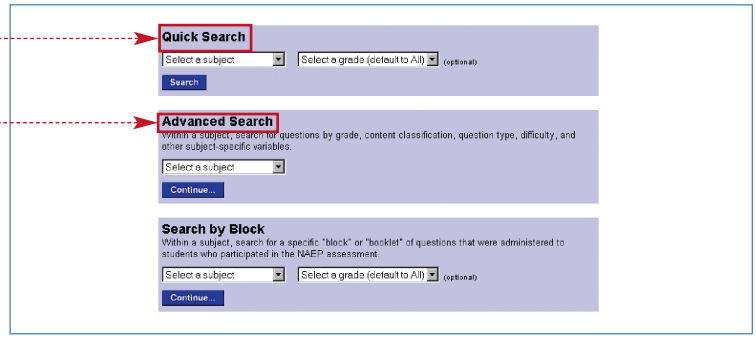
Search Options

There are three ways to search for a released NAEP question. Most often, you'll be using **Quick Search** or **Advanced Search**.

http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/itmrls

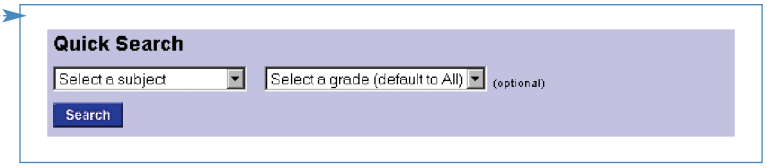






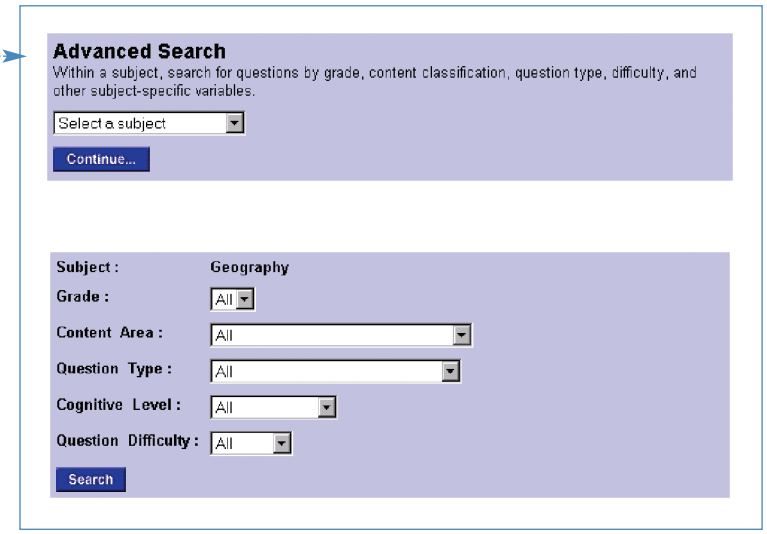
Quick Search

If you use **Quick Search**, you will select a subject and, optionally, a grade. Click **Search** to see the list of questions matching your search criteria.



Advanced Search Options

Advanced Search lets you narrow the search criteria. First, select a subject, then click **Continue** and select the other variables.



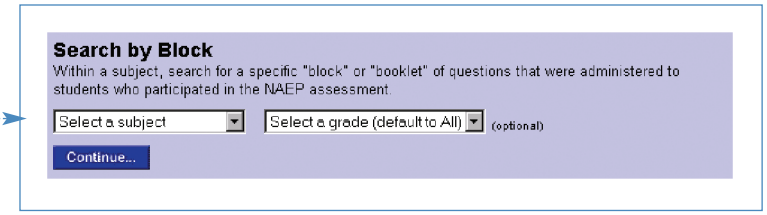
Question Difficulty is categorized as easy, medium, or hard. For multiple-choice questions and questions that are either right or wrong (i.e., dichotomously scored),

- **easy** questions are those that over 60 percent of the students answer correctly;
- **medium** questions are those that 40 to 60 percent of students answer correctly; and
- **hard** questions are those that fewer than 40 percent of students can answer correctly.

For constructed-response questions, **Question Difficulty** is also categorized as easy, medium, or hard, and is determined after weights are assigned to each of the score categories.

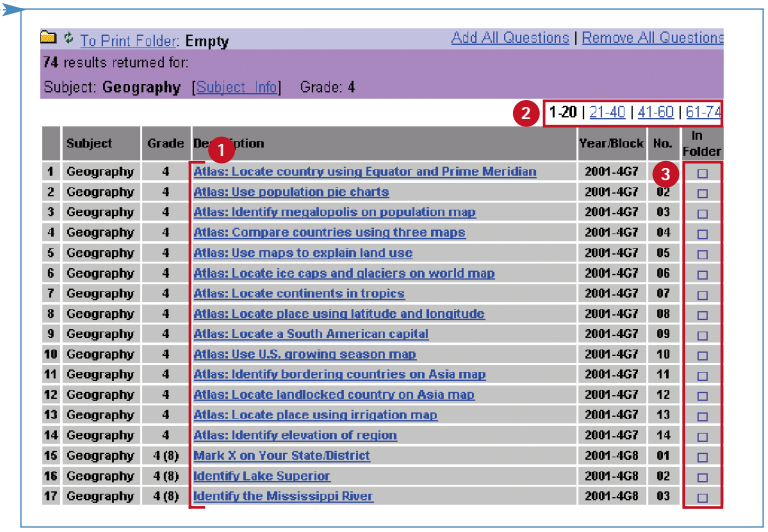
Searching by Block

After each assessment, NAEP questions are released by block. A block is a set of all questions asked in one timed section. **Search by Block** makes it easy to find specific timed sets of questions. First, select the subject and grade, then click **Continue** and select the block you want from the **Year/Block** column.



Search Results

1. The result of your search is a screen with a list of questions. Select the question you want to view.
2. If all questions matching your search criteria don't fit onto one screen, see more by selecting the next group.
3. Click the box in the **In Folder** column for each question you want to add to the **Print Folder**. (See the Printing section for more information about this feature.)



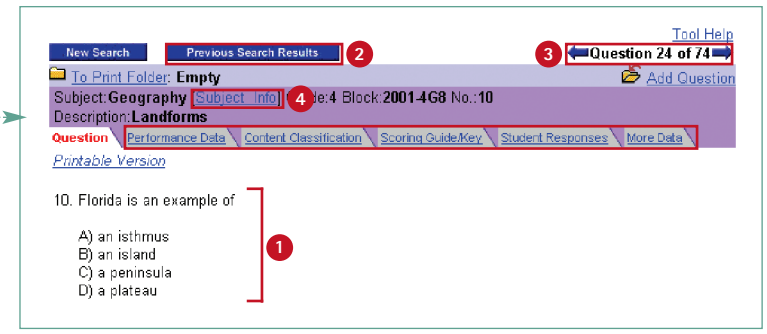
In the **Grade** column, you will see that some of the questions have grades shown as 4 (8), 8 (12), 4 (8, 12), 12 (8), etc. This means that the question was administered at more than one grade. You will be examining the performance of students in the grade listed first, but you can find the same question in the other grade(s), along with student performance, and for constructed-response questions, sample student responses for that grade.

Information on Each Question

There are six clickable tabs that provide scoring and performance information for each question. The tabs are described below and on the next page.

Question Tab

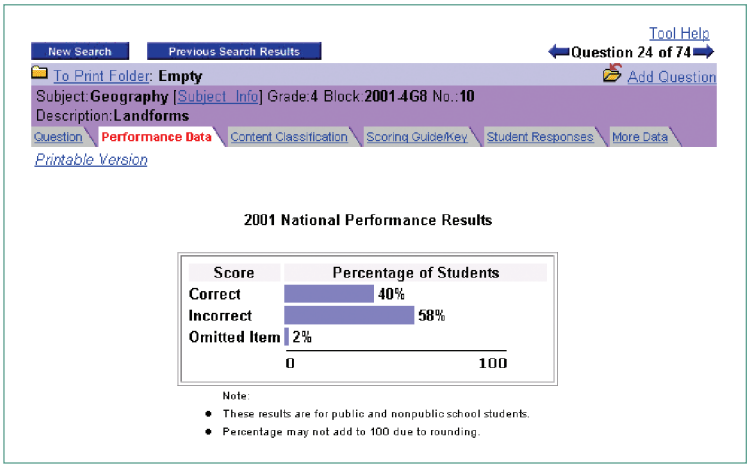
1. When you click any **Description** on the **Search Results** screen (see above), the actual question is displayed.
2. For another question, return to your search results list by clicking the **Previous Search Results** button.
3. You may also use the arrows to scroll through your search results list.



4. Click **Subject Info** to find useful information about the latest assessment in the subject you are exploring, including details about the framework for the assessment, assessment procedures, distribution of the questions by type, scoring information, and information about how the results are reported.

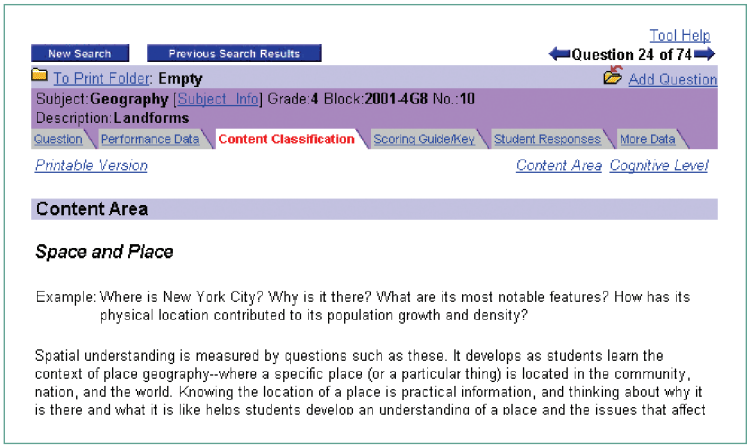
Performance Data Tab

The **Performance Data** tab shows information about how students performed on the question.



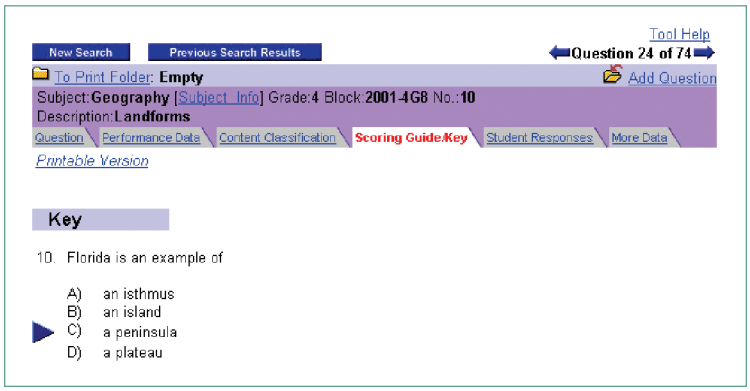
Content Classification Tab

The **Content Classification** tab shows the area of knowledge that the question is assessing.



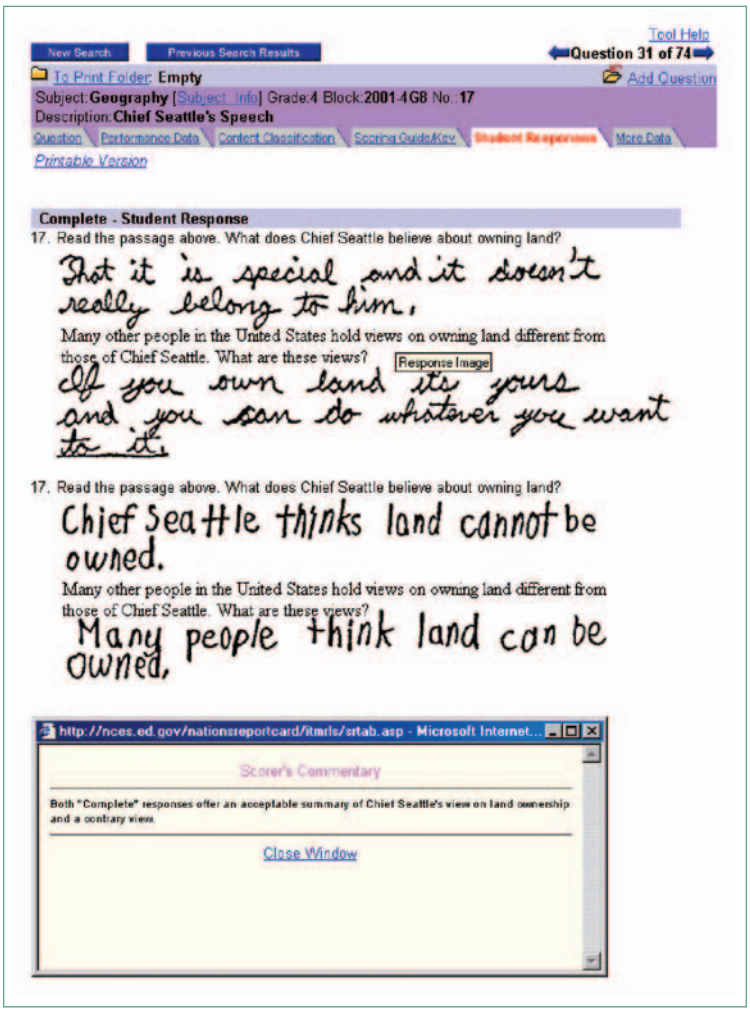
Scoring Guide/Key Tab

The **Scoring Guide/Key** tab displays the correct answer or key for multiple-choice questions. For questions that ask students to write a response, the scoring guide describes the range of scores and criteria used to judge the response.



Student Response Tab

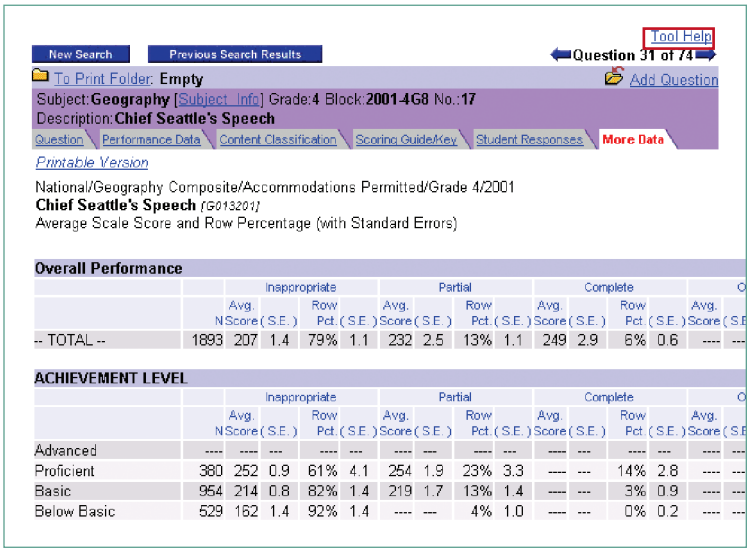
The **Student Response** tab displays sample student responses at each score level for questions that ask students to write a response.



More Data Tab

The **More Data** tab shows additional data for each question, including how groups of students (e.g., gender, race/ethnicity, and others) performed on the question.

Tool Help provides access to the tutorial from any screen.



Printing

The **Print Folder** option lets you add, customize, and print a group of questions that you select.

- Add questions to the **Print Folder**.
- Customize your print options in the **Print Folder**.
- Print your questions.

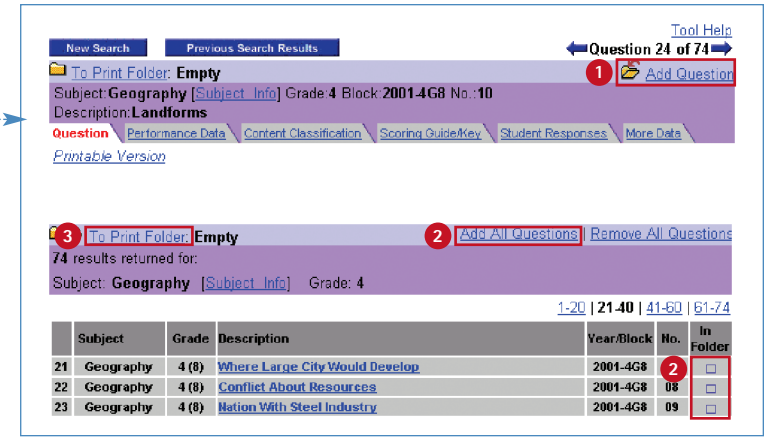
Adding Questions to the Print Folder

To add to the **Print Folder** from an individual question screen,

1. Click **Add Question**.

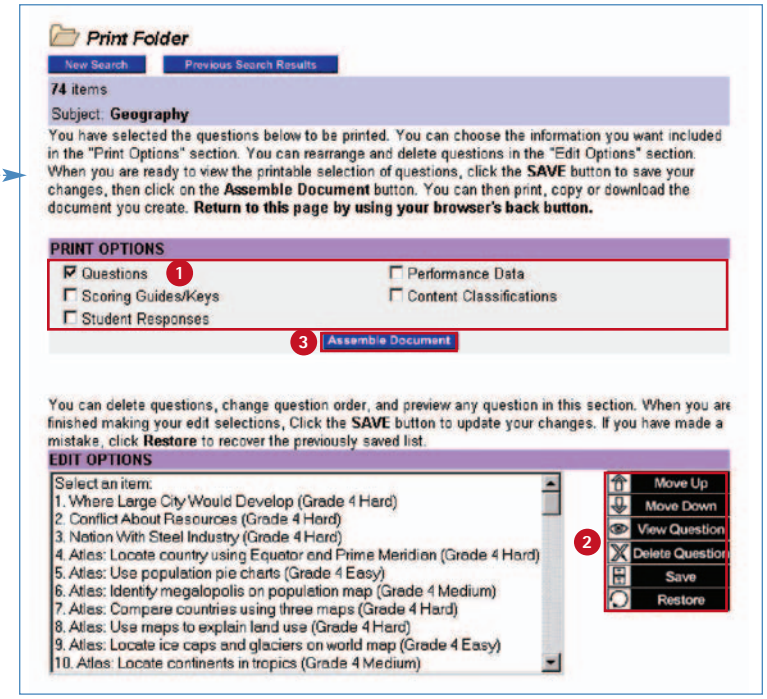
To add to the **Print Folder** from the **Search Results** screen,

2. Click the box in the **In Folder** column for each question you want to print or click **Add All Questions** to add all questions from the search results list; and
3. Click **To Print Folder** to view the folder's contents and to use the options.



Customizing Your Print Options in the Print Folder

1. Select the options you want from the **Print Options** check boxes.
2. Use the **Edit Options** buttons to change the question order, to view a question, or to delete or restore a question. Click **Save**.
3. Click the **Assemble Document** button to print from your browser. You can also copy and paste your contents into any of the newer word processing applications. See Printing Your Questions next.



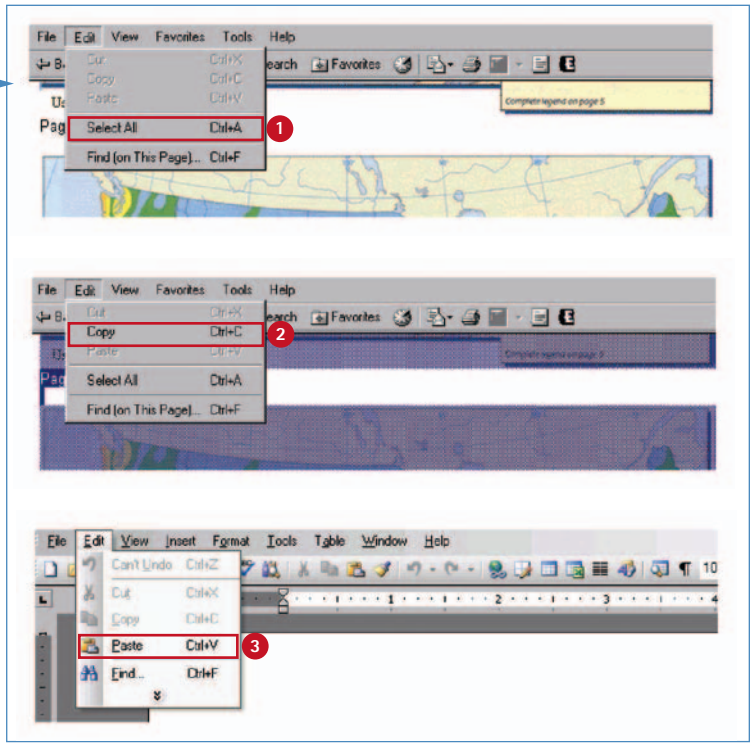
Printing Your Questions

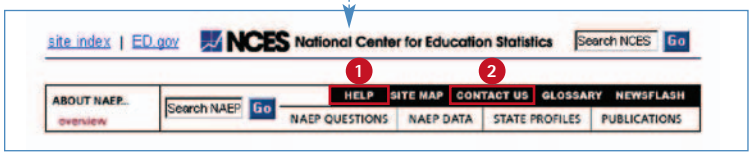
Printing from your browser is quick, but you will not be able to control page breaks, and you will have headers and footers from your browser. To have better control over what you print, copy the **Print Folder** contents into any of the newer, HTML-aware word processors (e.g., Microsoft Word). For instance, when the same stimulus serves for several questions, the stimulus will print out for each question you have in your assembled collection, so you might want to delete it for all but the first question. If the stimulus and the question are separated by a page break, copy the question into a word processor and eliminate the break.

Follow these steps:

1. After clicking **Assemble Document**, go to the **Edit** menu in your browser and choose **Select All**.
2. From **Edit**, select **Copy**.
3. Open your word processor and select **Paste** from its **Edit** menu.

Save your new file and edit it as needed. Note that it is in table format with images inserted, so you will edit as you would a table.



Additional Help

1. For more help with features on the NAEP website, click **HELP** in the banner.
2. For additional help, write to us via **CONTACT US**, or e-mail Sherran.Osborne@ed.gov.