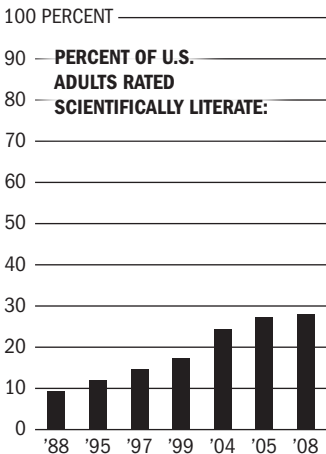


Scientific literacy: U.S. adults, students

A sample of science facts that adults got wrong in a 2008 survey:

QUESTION	PERCENT
1. Thinks sound travels faster than light	14
2. Disagrees that the center of the Earth is very hot	20
3. Disagrees that the Earth goes around the Sun once a year	33
4. Disagrees that astrology is not at all scientific	41
5. Thinks antibiotics kill viruses as well as bacteria	45
6. Thinks ordinary tomatoes do not have genes but genetically modified tomatoes do	49



U.S. STUDENT PERFORMANCE IN SCIENCE TESTS, 2009

GRADE	% PROFICIENT	% BELOW BASIC
4	34	28
8	30	37
12	21	40

Sources: Jon Miller, University of Michigan; Source: Data for 1988 through 1999 from NSF Science and Engineering Indicators surveys. (See Miller, 2004, 2010.) Data for 2004, 2005, and 2008 from Science News Studies. (See Miller, Augenbraun, et al., 2006; Miller, 2010); Source: National Assessment of Educational Progress