Trend Task: Everyday Detective

NEMP Access Task

Approach:	One to one
Focus:	Identifying appropriate information sources
Resources:	6 cards

Year: 4 & 8

Questions / instructions:

Some children want to find out about different things. Tell me your ideas about how they could find the information. There may be more than one way to find out the information, so tell me all the ways you can think of.

Hand card 1 to the student.

"Does the library have a good book about turtles?"

Mereana is at home. She wants to know whether the library has a book about turtles.

1. How could she find out?

	% response 2009 ('05) year 4	year 8
more than two ways that would work	2 (0)	11 (6)
more than two ways that would work, plus one or more that would not	1 (1)	2 (1)
two ways that would work	12 (11)	21 (23)
two ways that would work, plus one or more that would not	6 (4)	9 (6)
one way that would work	22 (20)	22 (16)
one way that would work, plus one or more that would not	18 (18)	17 (18)

Hand card 2 to the student.

"Should I take my raincoat to school?"

Chris is not sure whether or not he should take his raincoat to school.

2. How could he find out?

	% response 2009 ('05) year 4	year 8
more than two ways that would work	9 (6)	28 (30)
more than two ways that would work, plus one or more that would not	1 (0)	3 (5)
two ways that would work	29 (26)	34 (27)
two ways that would work, plus one or more that would not	5 (7)	5 (9)
one way that would work	27 (35)	19 (15)
one way that would work, plus one or more that would not	12 (12)	8 (10)

Hand card 3 to the student.

"This spider has a white mark on its back. I wonder if it is poisonous?"

Rata finds a spider with a white mark on its back.

3. How could he find out if it is poisonous?

	% response 2009 ('05) year 4	year 8
more than two ways that would work	12 (4)	29 (30)
more than two ways that would work, plus one or more that would not	3 (0)	4 (6)
two ways that would work	26 (27)	31 (30)
two ways that would work, plus one or more that would not	6 (8)	7 (3)
one way that would work	26 (28)	18 (12)
one way that would work, plus one or more that would not	11 (11)	7 (14)

Hand card 4 to the student.

"Where is the swimming pool in this town?"

Hazel's family has moved to a new town. She wants to find out where the swimming pool is.

4. How could she find out?

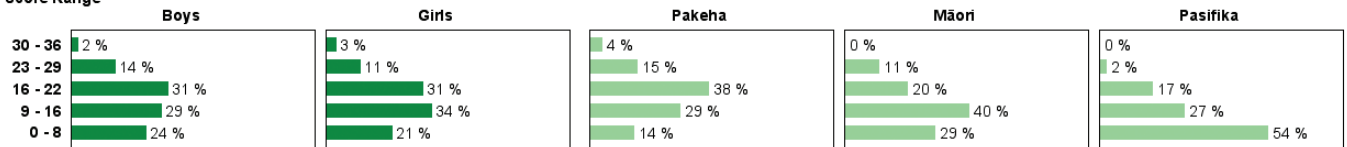|	% response 2009 ('05) year 4	year 8
more than two ways that would work	13 (9)	29 (22)
more than two ways that would work, plus one or more that would not	2 (0)	3 (4)
two ways that would work	26 (25)	38 (40)
two ways that would work, plus one or more that would not	6 (5)	6 (6)
one way that would work	21 (29)	17 (16)
one way that would work, plus one or more that would not	15 (20)	4 (6)

Hand card 5 to the student.

"I wonder what time the new Harry Potter movie is on?"

Niusha wants to go and see the new Harry Potter movie. She wants to find out what time it is on.

5. How could she find out?

	% response 2009 ('05)	
	year 4	year 8
more than two ways that would work	8 (7)	25 (31)
more than two ways that would work, plus one or more that would not	3 (0)	2 (1)
two ways that would work	25 (37)	41 (37)
two ways that would work, plus one or more that would not	6 (4)	6 (4)
one way that would work	32 (32)	19 (17)
one way that would work, plus one or more that would not	10 (11)	4 (4)

Hand card 6 to the student.

"What does the Māori place name Waimaunga mean?"

Hadyn wants to find out what the Māori place name Waimaunga means.

6. How could he find out?

	% response 2009 ('05)	
	year 4	year 8
more than two ways that would work	13 (10)	30 (22)
more than two ways that would work, plus one or more that would not	2 (2)	4 (4)
two ways that would work	27 (31)	35 (32)
two ways that would work, plus one or more that would not	6 (3)	4 (7)
one way that would work	32 (28)	18 (16)
one way that would work, plus one or more that would not	10 (11)	7 (12)

Total Score:	year 4	year 8
30–36	3 (1)	14 (13)
23–29	13 (8)	35 (30)
16–22	31 (30)	33 (34)
9–15	31 (37)	15 (15)
0–8	22 (24)	3 (8)

Subgroup Analyses:

Year 4

Score Range

	Boys	Girls	Pakeha	Māori	Pasifika
30 - 36	2 %	3 %	4 %	0 %	0 %
23 - 29	14 %	11 %	15 %	11 %	2 %
16 - 22	31 %	31 %	38 %	20 %	17 %
9 - 16	29 %	34 %	29 %	40 %	27 %
0 - 8	24 %	21 %	14 %	29 %	54 %

Year 8

Score Range

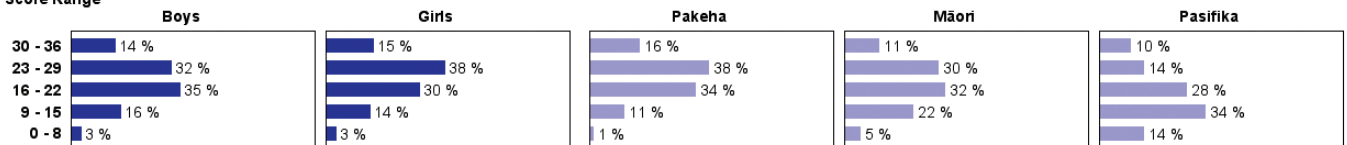|	Boys	Girls	Pakeha	Māori	Pasifika
30 - 36	14 %	15 %	16 %	11 %	10 %
23 - 29	32 %	38 %	38 %	30 %	14 %
16 - 22	35 %	30 %	34 %	32 %	28 %
9 - 15	16 %	14 %	11 %	22 %	34 %
0 - 8	3 %	3 %	1 %	5 %	14 %

Commentary:

This task asked students to come up with ways to find answers to basic informational tasks that people encounter in their everyday lives. The total scores reflect the ability to come up with multiple ways of solving the problem. Looking at the responses for individual sub-tasks, it is clear that most children, at both years, could come up with at least one successful approach to finding the needed information. Performance improved slightly from 2005, and clear growth is seen from year 4 to year 8. Differences by gender and ethnicity were small.