



Classroom Resources

These resources focus on the importance of a complete 2020 Census count. The activities described below are specially designed to be engaging and appropriate for your students' grade level, from counting for kindergarteners to examining career statistics for high schoolers.

[Downloadable Census Posters, Flyers, and Postcards](#)

Printable 11x17 posters and a downable flyer are available here.

[Online Ordering Form for Census Materials](#)

Printed marketing materials are available via an online order form: a census starter kit includes posters, flyers, postcards, and key talking points.

K-2 Lesson Ideas

[Diversity: Languages at Home](#) (Math, Social Studies)

Students will learn about the differences among students in a classroom, focusing on students' homes and the languages spoken in their homes.

Skill development:

- Recognizing and counting numbers up to 100
- Understanding the concept of a survey
- Comparing quantities using the terms "more than," "less than," and "equal to."

[Creating and Taking A Survey](#) (Math, ELA)

Students will learn how surveys work, their uses, and how to create and conduct their own.

Skill development:

- Counting and writing numbers from 0 to 100
- Comparing quantities using the terms "more than," "less than," and "equal to"
- Comparing multiple two-digit numbers based on the tens and ones place values
- Understanding the concept of a survey

[Featured Activity: Let's Get the Count Right](#) (Math, Social Studies)

This worksheet focuses on how the decennial census benefits students, their families, and their communities, highlighting why participation is important.

Skill development:

- Recognizing and counting numbers up to 100

- Comparing quantities using the terms “more than,” “less than,” and “equal to”
- Understanding the concept of population and how distributing resources relates to the quantity of people living in a community

Grades 3-4 Lesson Ideas

Population Change Over Time (Social Studies, Math)

This worksheet focuses on basic concepts such as what the Census Bureau does and how the census helps the students’ community.

Skill development:

- Identifying trends in data over time
- Drawing conclusions from data in a table or graphic
- Making predictions based on data
- Understanding the connection between population and the distribution of resources within their community

Diversity: Differences in Communities (Social Studies, Math)

Students will explore the idea of diversity and examine diversity in their classroom, in their state, and in three other states across the country.

Skill development:

- Using a problem-solving model to analyze data
- Interpreting information presented in a data table and drawing conclusions based on that data
- Communicating mathematical ideas using various representations
- Understanding and providing examples of how their community is diverse
- Making comparisons between different sets of data

Apportionment (Social Studies, ELA)

Students will learn how changes in population across cities and states affect how their community is represented in the U.S. House of Representatives and why an accurate count of the population is essential every 10 years. Students will examine the results from the 2000 Census and the 2010 Census and use that information to predict the results of the 2020 Census in their state.

Skill development:

- Incorporating main and supporting ideas into verbal and written communication
- Using critical thinking skills to organize and use information from a variety of sources
- Making a prediction based on historical data
- Interpreting data presented in a table, understanding how seats are allocated in the House of Representatives
- Understanding the decennial census role in apportionment

Grades 5-6 Lesson Ideas

Narratives and Names (ELA, Social Studies)

Students will be able to reflect on their own name using descriptive details as part of a creative writing exercise. Students will examine and answer questions about census data on popular last names, listen to a story about names, and complete a Quickwrite about that story.

Skill development: explaining what the U.S. Census Bureau does, what type of data it collects, what the data help explain, while they want to tell (and in what order), develop characters, note important details, and describe a problem and solution in preparation for writing a narrative.

City Planning With Census Data (Math, Social Studies, ELA)

This worksheet focuses on how the decennial census benefits students, their families, and their communities, highlighting why participation is important. For fifth and sixth grade students, this worksheet focuses on concepts such as what the U.S. Census Bureau does and how the census helps the students' community.

Skill development: making decisions based on data, solving for quotients of up to a four-digit dividend by a three-digit divisor, presenting an argument by using data to support a stance, making predictions about resources needed for their assigned community based on population, and understanding why the decennial census is important to the distribution of federal funds.

Diversity: Languages Spoken in the United States (Social Studies, Math)

Students will learn how communities thrive with a broad diversity of residents. The worksheet focuses on simple data points that show the distribution of people who speak only English at home and people who speak a language other than English at home throughout their state and country. Students will learn how demographic information and trends affect their local community.

Skill development: calculating percentages based on data provided, reasoning abstractly and quantitatively based on data, and drawing conclusions based on information shared in a discussion.

Constitution Day (ELA, Social Studies)

Students will learn the significance of the U.S. Constitution and Constitution Day, with a focus on how the census is called for in the Constitution and why it is conducted every 10 years. This activity is designed to develop skills such as critical thinking, evaluation, listening, and speaking and determining the central ideas of a primary source. (ELA)

Skill development: critical thinking, evaluation, listening, and speaking; determining the central ideas of a primary source; evaluate details in order to determine key ideas; and using textual evidence to support how census data affects funding for their community.

Grade 7-8 Lesson Ideas

[Exploring Questions for the 2020 Census](#) (ELA)

This activity focuses on how the decennial census benefits students, their families, and their communities, highlighting why participation is important. The worksheet is a useful starting point or introduction to the 2020 Census. For students in grades seven and eight, this worksheet focuses on the questions planned for the 2020 Census and why each question is important.

Skill development:

- Analyzing text and drawing conclusions to conduct a short research project
- Creating a visual representation of written information
- Supporting claims with logical reasoning and evidence
- Identify the impact and importance of the decennial census on their community

[Numbers That Tell a Story](#) (ELA, Social Studies)

Using State Facts for Students, a U.S. Census Bureau data access tool, students will explore data about their state and voice their opinions on how the population has changed over time.

Skill development:

- Analyzing census data for their state, focusing on how aspects of the data have changed over time
- Making opinion statements to develop explanations for changes in data over time
- Evaluating classmates' opinion statements by asking clarifying questions and/or providing comments that defend or refute the statements based on census data

[Writing For Change](#) (ELA, Social Studies)

Students will learn about how the U.S. government classifies race and ethnicity.

Skill development:

- Citing evidence from a video to explain how students at a high school in New York City got the attention of a government agency and using persuasive writing skills to write a letter to a leader in their community with the goal of sparking change

[Diversity: Census Questions Over Time](#) (Math, ELA)

Students will analyze historical data on race and ethnicity in the United States over time. Students will note trends around race and ethnicity by looking at data from 2000 and 2010, highlighting the broad diversity of people who live in the United States today.

Skill development:

- Drawing conclusions based on analysis of a primary source
- Analyzing and citing recurring themes using text evidence
- Calculating the percentage of a given data set
- Applying mathematical processes to represent and solve problems involving proportional relationships
- Identifying the importance of the decennial census and how it benefits their community
- Understanding how the census has reflected the diversity of the United States

Apportionment (Social Studies, ELA)

Students will learn about what congressional apportionment is, how it works, why it's important, and how it relates to the decennial census.

Skill development:

- Analyzing and interpreting data in a graph, table, or other visual form
- Writing responses that demonstrate understanding of a given set of data
- Using data from a table or graph to determine the rate of change
- Understanding the difference between a popular vote and an electoral vote
- Making predictions based on historical data

Grade 9-12 Lesson Ideas

How the Census Impacts My Community (Social Studies, Math)

This activity is designed as a starting point or introduction to the 2020 Census. The featured worksheet focuses on how the decennial census benefits students, their families, and communities to highlight why participation is important. Teachers are encouraged to use this worksheet in their classrooms as a starting point or introduction to the 2020 Census.

Skill development:

- Understanding the historical context for why the census was included in the Constitution
- Identifying the impact of census counts on their communities
- Analyzing significant historical documents
- Reading and interpreting data in a table

Where to Next? (Math, Social Studies)

Students use census statistics to determine which career they would like to pursue after high school, considering factors such as the type of post-secondary-school education they might need, which cities or states have the best job opportunities for people in their chosen profession, and the average salaries and median age and sex in the profession.

Skill development:

- Analyzing U.S. Census Bureau data to determine favorable personal career options based on factors such as required post-secondary education, average salary, and industry demographics
- Integrating quantitative/technical analysis with qualitative analysis in print or digital text.

Diversity: Minority Entrepreneurship and the Economy (Social Studies, Math, ELA)

This activity is designed to foster a discussion on diversity of race, ethnicity, sex, and veteran status through the lens of entrepreneurship. Students will examine minority-owned business growth over the past decade and how it has affected our nation.

Skill development:

- Analyzing the economic impact of changes in minority entrepreneurship
- Explaining the impact of shifts in the number of minority business owners on the U.S. economy over time
- Analyzing and evaluating research data to draw conclusions or to solve a problem

The Opportunity Atlas (Social Studies)

This activity guides students through a demographic analysis of factors that affect social mobility, including race, median income, and sex.

Skill development:

- Analyzing, comparing, and interpreting key demographic data in a specific U.S. ZIP code to determine social outcomes for adults in the corresponding census tract
- Identifying what factors impact social mobility in specific neighborhoods and regions
- Evaluating data to support a position, and exploring and understanding how to use data access tools