

EVERYBODY COUNTS: LEARNING ABOUT THE CENSUS

A UNIT in Two Lessons

Unit Overview:

Since 1790 there have been 23 censuses taken in the United States. This year will mark the 24th US census. The Census is important both to understand the needs of each individual community throughout the country but also to track changes in our Nation, Cities and Neighborhoods over time.

Unit Summary:

The Country is working to complete the 24th Census of the United States this year. This lesson will help students to learn what the Census is and why it is important to our daily lives. Students will be able to explain what the Census is and how it is used. Finally, students will complete a family census to share with the class.

Time Allotment:

Taught in two 30-minute lessons.

Grade Level: K-1

Standards

History-Social Science Content Standards

Chronological and Spatial Thinking

1. Students explain how major events are related to one another in time.

Research, Evidence, and Point of View

1. Students frame questions that can be answered by historical study and research.
2. Students distinguish fact from opinion in historical narratives and stories.
3. Students detect the different historical points of view on historical events and determine the context in which the historical statements were made (the questions asked, sources used, author's perspectives).

Historical Interpretation

1. Students explain the central issues and problems from the past, placing people and events in a matrix of time and place.
2. Students understand and distinguish cause, effect, sequence, and correlation in historical events, including the long-and short-term causal relations.
3. Students explain the sources of historical continuity and how the combination of ideas and events explains the emergence of new patterns.
4. Students recognize the role of chance, oversight, and error in history.
5. Students recognize that interpretations of history are subject to change as new information is uncovered.

Writing Standards K-5

1. Write informative/explanatory texts in which they name a topic, supply some facts about the topic, and provide some sense of closure.
5. With guidance and support from adults, focus on a topic, respond to questions and suggestions from peers, and add details to strengthen writing as needed
6. With guidance and support from adults, use a variety of digital tools to produce and publish writing, including in collaboration with peers.

Reading Standards for Literature K-5

1. Ask and answer questions about key details in a text.
3. Describe the connection between two individuals, events, ideas, or pieces of information in a text.
7. Use the illustrations and details in a text to describe its key ideas.

Learning Objectives

Students will be able to:

Define census is and describe what it is used for.

Identify family information to **apply** it to a class census.

Materials

Video

PBS Learning Media - *What is the Census* - <https://ca.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/7ac3c35d-5afc-4beb-b9b2-85d5cc182614/civics-101/>

Handouts

Family Census Worksheet

Introduction & Learning Activity #1: Understanding the Census

Set-up:

Tell the students that this year we are all participating in the Census. Explain that the Census is a way to count all people in the U.S. Then play the *What is the Census*- video. Pause the video to discuss main points and review with the class the points below.

- Based on the last census we have almost 327 *million* people living in the U.S.
- The census helps our community by identifying how much funding it receives for schools, hospitals, police and fire stations, state, and local government.
- The census affects voting by counting the number of people to determining the number of votes a state receives.

Learning Activity #2: Complete a Census

Have students complete the family census worksheet to gather information on their own family. Compile students' family information for the class. Share results with the students and talk about the differences and similarities amongst the class.

Assessment

Use the following questions to guide a recap discussion, as a quiz, or a guideline for a quick writing assignment.

Learning Activity #1: Understanding the Census

Quick draw: Have students draw a picture of their community (including hospitals, schools, police stations, and fire stations, roads, traffic signs, parks, etc.) to represent what the census data helps to pay for in every town.

Learning Activity #2: Complete a census

Quick draw: Have students draw a picture of her/himself placing their census form into the mailbox.

Distance Learning Options

- Hold discussions via video conferencing software like Zoom, or Teams.
- Hold live stream or video presentations to review results of the class census.
- Share presentations of students' family