

2020 Census for Kids

Introductory Concepts & Terms:

What is the Census?

To take a **census** means to gather needed information from *all* individuals - babies, grandmas, people who speak different languages and come from different places, people with documents and people without, prisoners, people who are sick - EVERYONE. The Census questionnaire asks for basic information like how many people live in your household, how old they are, what language they speak, etc. In the US, this happens every 10 years. (Bonus: When was the last census taken?)

Census versus Sample?

Have you ever heard of the word sample? When I go to the ice cream shop, I always like to sample some flavors. Yum! When I get a sample of ice cream, I am getting a small amount on that tiny spoon. The word sample in math means pretty much the same thing. A **sample** is taken when information from only a *partial amount* of persons is collected. So, only a small amount of individuals is used in a sample, like a sample of ice cream is only a small amount of ice cream! So, if your school has 300 students, and the principal had only 50 students vote for class president, or had only the girls vote for class president, he would only be taking a sample. Simply put, census equals *all* individuals and sample equals *some* individuals.

Why Do We Have The Census?

There are several good reasons to count everyone in our country:

- First, the Constitution tells us to. The government is required to do a census.
- Also, the Census helps the government allocate money based on population growth and population needs. For instance, if your state's population has grown, you'll get more money for schools, hospitals, and other public services.
- The Census also tells the government how many representatives each state should have in Congress. If your state population grows, you'll have more representation. (Bonus: How many representatives does WA currently have? Why would we want more representatives than we currently have?)

Educational Activities:

- Census game on allocation (see next page)
- [Math-focused activities from the Census Bureau for k-12 students](#)
 - ["Everyone Counts" song](#)
 - [3rd-grade specific activities](#)
- Complete the 2020 Census as a family! You should receive your Census ID in the mail for filling it out online.

Census Game

Goal: Better understand the concept of allotment, as well as the specific ways that the Census affects allotment of resources.

Set-up:

Cut out the game cards from the next page

Assign each student a state

Give each student a small pile of coins to represent money from the federal government that the state received in the last 10 years

Give each student a small pile of buttons or lego guys to represent Congress People from that state for the last 10 years

Play:

Have each student count their coins and buttons before starting

Take turns drawing Census cards until you run out

The Census cards will mimic the resources allocated to each state

After using all cards, have each student count their buttons and coins again - this represents their funding and representation for the next 10 years.

Discussion:

Why is it important for every household to fill out the Census?

Most of the cards indicated that your state's population increased. Why do you think that is?

Census Game Cards

Your state's total population increased by 9%. You get 3 coins. You get 2 additional representatives to Congress.

Your state's total population increased by 2.7%. You get 1 coin. You get 1 additional representative to Congress.

Your state's total population decreased by 4%. You lose 2 coins. You lose 1 representative to Congress.

Your population of people under 18 years old increased, you get 2 coins for educational needs.

Your population of people over 65 increased, you get 1 coin for medical services.

Your population of non-English speakers increased by 1%. You get 1 coin for support services.

Your population of workers increased, you get 2 coins for transportation services.

Your population increased, you get 2 coins for additional housing.

Your population increased, you get 1 coin for services for people with disabilities.

Your population increased, you get 1 coin to provide additional food to children in need.

2020 Census K-1 Activity (adapted from Stats in Schools from 2020 Census)

NAME: _____

Featured Activity: Let's Get the Count Right

1. Fill in the **population count** for your family/community on the chart:

Population of your household:	
Population of another household: (Friend or extended family)	
Population of another household: (Friend or extended family)	
Population of another household: (Friend or extended family)	
Population of another household: (Friend or extended family)	

What is the **total population** you counted? _____

2. Imagine that there are 5 boxes of crayons and every household receives 1 box of crayons.

How would you feel about this? Would this be enough crayons for your household?
(Circle one)



3. How could you distribute the crayons to make it so that everyone's crayon needs are met?

Boxes of crayon for Your household:	
Boxes of Crayons for Other Household #1:	
Boxes of Crayons for Other Household #2:	
Boxes of Crayons for Other Household #3:	
Boxes of Crayons for Other Household #4:	

4. The average household size in the United States is 3. Is your household bigger or smaller than the average? (circle one)

Smaller.....3.....Bigger

5. Draw a picture of all the people who live in your home.