

Educator Update

Census In Schools



November 2009

New Web Site for the 2010 Census

The Census Bureau is working hard to reach every person living in America to inform them and their communities about the importance of the 2010 Census. The new 2010 Census Web site is the platform on which we can build a national dialogue about how each person's participation helps paint a new "Portrait of America." Spread the word to your students, family, friends, and neighbors about why the 2010 Census matters. Visit www.census.gov/2010 to:



- Hear real people from all walks of life and from communities across America express their questions about the census and get the real answers.
- Learn the truth behind census myths.
- Easily find answers to even more questions.
- Walk through the 10 questions on the form that you will receive next spring.
- Learn about the key census dates.
- Visit the multimedia center (videos, photos, and audio) to experience people's stories about how the census is easy, safe, and important.

2010 Lesson Plans - Managing Data Strand

Whether analyzing assessments, compiling classroom grades, or developing lessons, every educator will admit that it's not the collection but the management of data that is so critical. The skill of managing data is basic to the classroom and a common thread through all the Census in Schools' 2010 Census: It's About Us lessons.

These brief summaries of lessons indicate grade-level activities related to the K-12 lessons' strand: Managing Data.

K-2

In the lesson "A Class Census," students learn what a census is and how it's conducted. The teacher creates a classroom tally chart and simple pie chart using data about students' transportation

Students complete a worksheet by placing data into simple graphs and tables, creating tally and pie charts. A second take-home worksheet gives parents/guardians brief information about the 2010 Census and requests them to assist the child to complete a make-believe census by "interviewing" a toy animal.

3-4

The initial activity of the grade 3-4 lesson "A Class Census" is similar to the K-2 lesson: the teacher creates a classroom tally chart and simple bar graph. The question in this lesson asks students what neighboring state they would most like to visit. Students then break into teams and complete a worksheet tally chart as they take a schoolwide census by asking students questions. A second worksheet functions as an assessment tool when students view the 2010 Census form and answer questions.

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5-6

The title "Take a Census" provides insight into this action-oriented lesson. The worksheet "A Nonsensical Census" directs students to collect and compile data and then to determine the mean, median, and mode of their answers to four zany questions. A second student worksheet directs students to www.census.gov to use "Data Finders" to learn real demographic data and to compare their state data to county data.

7-8

Students have an opportunity to work in groups to play a fictional community planner and choose a site for a community sports center. They research data from American FactFinder to answer guiding questions, consult maps, and determine three suggested locations. A second worksheet contains questions for students to analyze their decisions, weighing pros and cons of the three suggested sites.

9-12

Lesson 2, "Numbers Tell a Story," connects census data to U.S. historical events. Researching statistics, student groups link statistical data to historical events such as the Great Depression, WW II, the Oklahoma Land Run, and the Dust Bowl. A worksheet directs students to compare census data from 1960 with 2000 and draw conclusions about changes in urban population.

Lesson 4, "Census and Apportionment," helps students learn the role census data play in apportionment decisions and to analyze the connection between apportionment and the Electoral College. After a brief review of apportionment and its history, students predict their state's future loss or gain of seats in the U.S.

House of Representatives. The worksheet identifies House of Representative apportionment based on data from 1990 and 2000 censuses and asks students to observe apportionment data in order to draw conclusions about the shifts in population during that decade.

Lesson 11, "Projections and the Census," directs students to access a wide range of census data and analyze census data to make future projections by correlating historical information and census data. Students work in pairs to examine a case study and write an essay about their own 2020 population projections.

Classroom Activity for November

We have attached a fun classroom activity that uses math, reading, and language arts skills. Attached to this newsletter are Thanksgiving facts, a student activity and a teacher's answer sheet.

Contact Census in Schools

If you would like to share any thoughts or ideas about ways to introduce the 2010 Census to your students, please call 1-800-396-1167 or e-mail us at: < Census.in.Schools@census.gov >.

Additional information about Census in Schools can be found at our Web site:
< <http://www.census.gov/schools> >.

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