

# 2010 Census: It's About Us

## SUPERINTENDENT'S

# KIT

Meets national standards in social studies, math, and language arts



## It's about us 2010 CENSUS IN SCHOOLS

Principals across your district have just received a FREE curriculum kit that's all about history, demographics, and data collection. This courtesy kit contains information about the program, including why the census is important to your district. Inside you will find:

- A **full-color, double-sided classroom map**
- A **quick-start teaching guide** that previews materials available online
- Program **questions and answers** to share with principals, parents, and board members
- **Ways** you can contribute to census success



 SCHOLASTIC

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**Census  
2010**

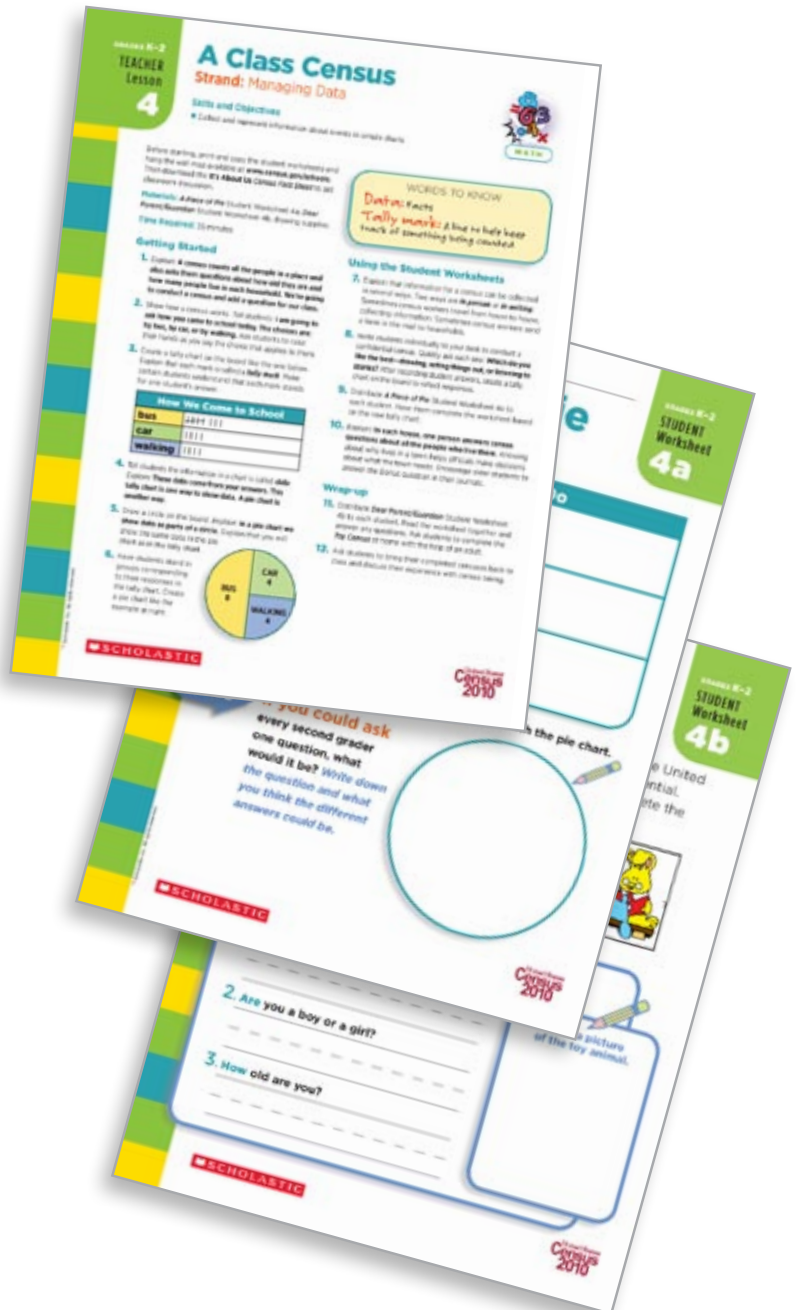
It's In Our Hands

# Remember, 2010 Census: It's About Us has both **PRINT** and **ONLINE** components.

The materials in your kit showcase the lessons, worksheets, and resources that make up the program.

## Here's what to do:

1. Review the classroom-ready wall map.
2. Read the quick-start teaching guide to find out how teachers can easily integrate this program into their lesson plans.
3. Go to **[www.census.gov/schools](http://www.census.gov/schools)** and review the printable lessons for grades K-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8, and 9-12.
4. Talk to principals about integrating this program into 2009-2010 lesson plans.



Open here for  
valuable FAQs

# 2010 Census: It's About Us FAQs

## 1. How are the 2010 Census: It's About Us lessons structured?

The 2010 Census: It's About Us curriculum has been produced in **five separate grade bands (K-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8, 9-12)** and in **four thematic strands ("About the Census," "Map Literacy," "Managing Data," and "Community Participation")**.

## 2. Is 2010 Census: It's About Us just for K-8?

**No.** The U.S. Census Bureau has also provided a high school-specific program for grades 9-12. Both the **K-8 and 9-12 programs** are available online at [www.census.gov/schools](http://www.census.gov/schools).

## 3. What is the program's purpose?

The purpose of 2010 Census: It's About Us is to use **social studies, English language arts, math, and mapping skills** to educate students about the census—featuring lessons about everything from **data literacy** and **mapping** to the efficient functioning of **participatory self-government**.

It also seeks to **enlist students as advocates for participation in the 2010 Census** in their homes and communities, especially in communities that might otherwise be undercounted and, as a result, may lose out on a wide range of benefits.



## 4. Into what curriculum areas does the 2010 Census: It's About Us program fit?

The curriculum offers K-8 lessons **aligned with national standards in mathematics, geography, English language arts, and social studies**. High school lessons are geared to social studies, civics, and history, and also provide opportunities for service learning programs. The entire program promotes student citizenship.

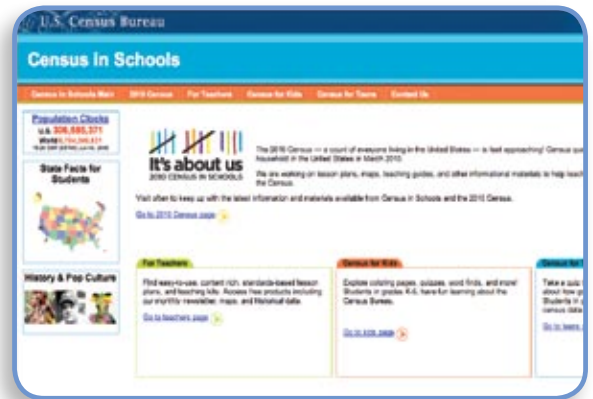
## 5. How is the curriculum organized?

**It's organized around four strands:**

- **About the Census** uses social studies to explore census data “then and now.” These lessons familiarize students with the census form and help them understand how data are collected. Older students can take a deeper look into history with lessons that reveal how the census is a living part of the democratic process and truly reflects the ever-changing “us.”
- **Map Literacy** lessons spring from the wall maps provided—and help students gain familiarity with mapping conventions, read different kinds of maps, and practice making maps of their own.
- **Managing Data** lessons use math to connect census data to everyday life. Students will organize and work with the data and practice making charts and graphs in grade-appropriate ways. Older students will explore data on the Census Bureau Web site, discovering more about their county, zip code, or local census tract.
- **Community Participation** lessons approach volunteerism using English language arts skills. Students will get to know their communities, and think about local needs and planning for the future.

## 6. How many lessons are offered?

There are a total of 16 lessons for grades K-8 and 12 lessons for grades 9-12. Online, teachers have the option of printing an entire unit or finding a single lesson that fits their weekly plan by searching by grade level, subject, or key word.



## 7. What about teaching guides?

Your Superintendent’s Kit includes a quick-start teaching guide that offers instructional ideas and a preview of the full curriculum available online at [www.census.gov/schools](http://www.census.gov/schools). The quick-start teaching guide can be used in classrooms right away.

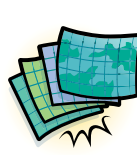
Census lessons connect to core curriculum, including:



Civics



Reading & Writing



Map Skills



Language Arts



Math

## 8. What role do maps play?

The maps created for 2010 Census: It's About Us are the visual and data-rich centerpieces of the classroom program. Your Superintendent's Kit includes one 3' x 4' poster-size double-sided map that has been developed for the K-8 program. All the maps, including the high school map, can be downloaded at [www.census.gov/schools](http://www.census.gov/schools).

### SIDE 1:

#### ***United States Population Map***

The map for younger students tells the census story with bright primary colors that depict population density. Graphics, including photos, make the benefits of the census real in simple ways.

### SIDE 2:

#### ***United States Demographics Map***

This map provides older students with a richer view of the country by depicting a more complex profile of demographics such as median age, average income, diversity, family size, and population.



## 9. Is there other support for teachers?

**Yes.** Teacher-friendly support materials make it easy for educators to include 2010 Census: It's About Us in their lesson plans:

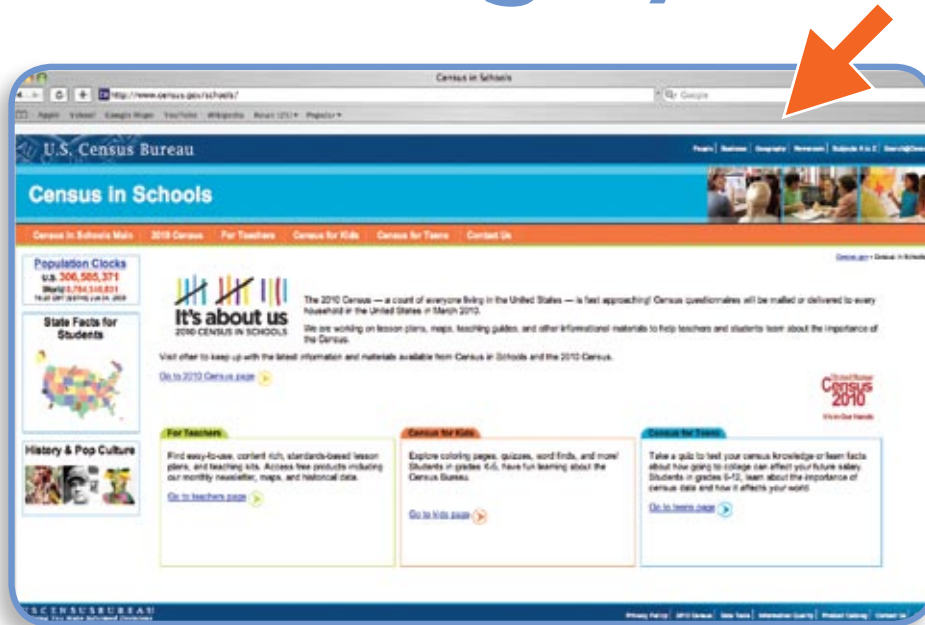
- **How to Use These Lessons** provides teachers with each unit's objectives and tips on using materials, extending activities, and utilizing the Web site.
- **Curriculum Connections** clearly shows how each lesson relates to specific curriculum content frameworks.

- **Connection to Standards** lists the applicable national standards aligned to each lesson in civics, geography, English language arts, math, and social studies.
- **Scope and Sequence** provides a convenient matrix view of the entire unit, showing teachers how skills and content are sequenced.
- **Additional Resources** helps teachers who want to learn more or teach more about the topics raised.

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# It's all happening at [www.census.gov/schools](http://www.census.gov/schools)



**EXPLORE.** Encourage principals and teachers to visit [www.census.gov/schools](http://www.census.gov/schools) frequently to find interesting ways to use census data in classrooms, and to learn how communities are organizing for the 2010 Census.

**UPDATES.** The U.S. Census Bureau will be adding new and updated teaching materials throughout the 2009–2010 school year.

**SCHEDULE.** Beginning in August 2009, lessons and other curriculum items will be available at [www.census.gov/schools](http://www.census.gov/schools). January 2010 brings the approach of Census in Schools Week and the countdown to the arrival in U.S. households of the 2010 Census form. Take-home materials arrive in schools in January 2010, too. Go to [www.census.gov/schools](http://www.census.gov/schools) for schedule details.

## ON THE SITE

- **A comprehensive collection** of census-related content
- **Items of interest** for teachers, parents, and students
- **Additional maps** for easy classroom use
- **Interactive activities** for students to learn about the census