2010 Census: It's About Us

U.S. Virgin Islands

PRINCIPAL'S KIT

It's about us
2010 CENSUS IN SCHOOLS

This kit contains everything schools in the U.S. Virgin Islands need to begin incorporating this **FREE initiative** into their curriculum for 2009–2010, including:

- Ten copies of a **full-color map** for teachers.
- 2010 Census: It's About Us **quick-start teaching guides** with ideas and tips teachers can use immediately—and that provide a preview of materials available online.
- Program **questions and answers** to post on teachers' bulletin boards.
- **Ideas and suggestions** for sharing 2010 Census: It's About Us with parents and others in your school and community.

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Census™ 2010
U.S. Virgin Islands
It's In Our Hands

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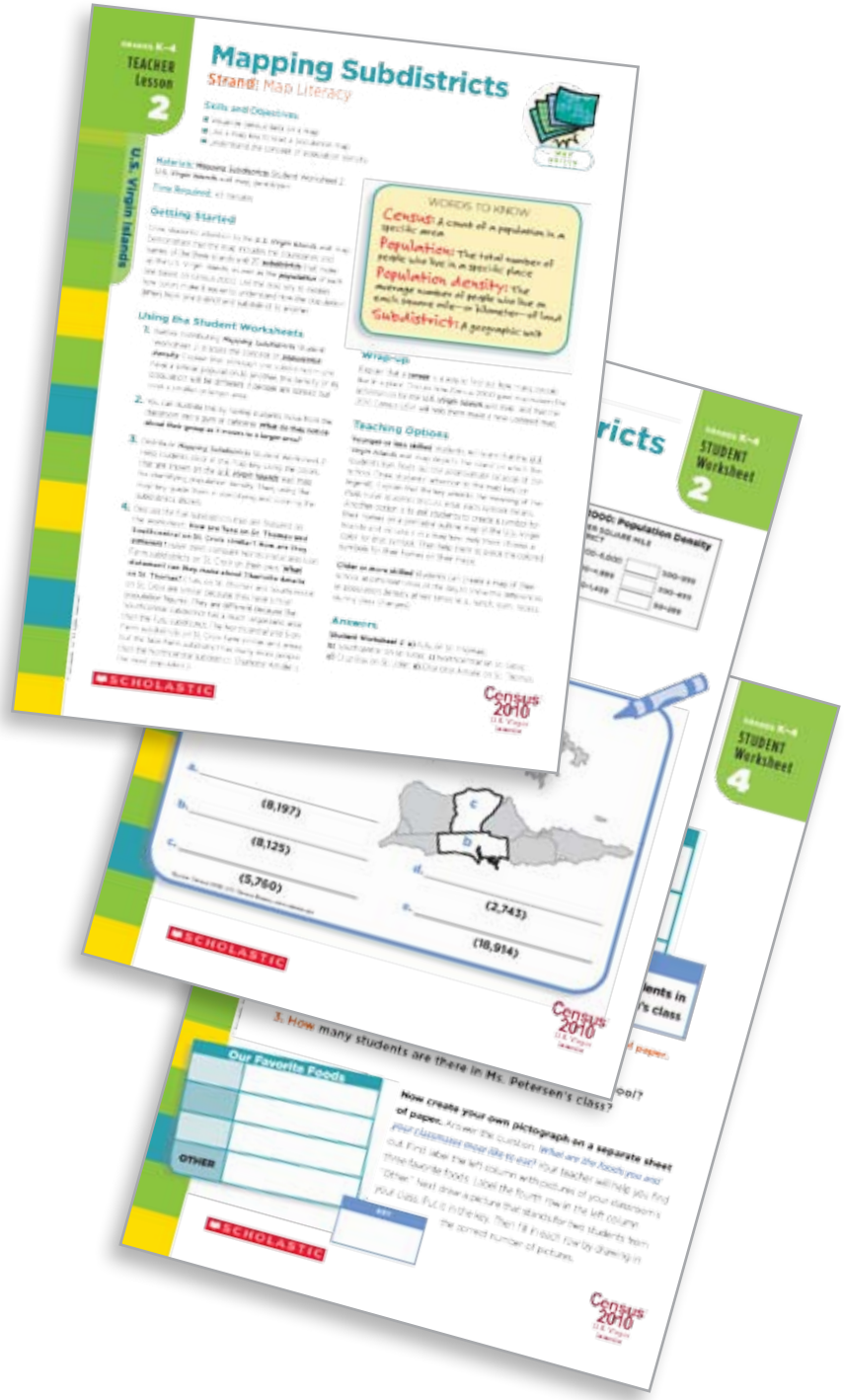
Remember, 2010 Census: It's About Us has both **PRINT** *and* **ONLINE** components.

- The materials in this Principal's Kit will get you started. Lessons, corresponding worksheets, and a wealth of **support materials are all available online.**
- For your teachers' convenience, all materials are available as **easily downloadable and printable PDFs**.
- Simply go to **www.census.gov/schools**.
- Everything is **FREE OF CHARGE**.



Open here for valuable FAQs

PRINCIPALS: POST THESE INFORMATIVE FAQs ON FACULTY BULLETIN BOARDS TO SHARE WITH TEACHERS.

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 is produced in **two grade bands (K–4, 5–8)** and in **four thematic strands ("About the Census," "Map Literacy," "Managing Data," and "Community Participation")**.

2. What is the program's purpose?

The focus of 2010 Census: It's About Us **is 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 USVI** in their homes and communities, especially in communities that might otherwise be undercounted or overlooked, and as a result may lose out on a wide range of benefits.

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

The curriculum offers lessons **aligned with national standards in mathematics, geography, English language arts, and social studies**. Lessons can also strengthen student map skills; promote understanding of community issues; and encourage student citizenship and activism.

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4. How is the curriculum organized?

It's organized around four strands:

- **About the Census** explores the census "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 the history of the census in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

- **Map Literacy** lessons spring from the wall maps provided, and help children gain familiarity with mapping conventions, read different kinds of maps, and practice making maps of their own.

- **Managing Data** lessons immerse students in census data shown on the maps and encourage students to collect data themselves. Older students can find data on the Census Bureau Web site, exploring their island, subdistrict, or local census tract. Children have lots of age-appropriate ways to organize and work with the data, and to practice making charts and graphs.

- **Community Participation** lessons challenge students to get to know their communities, and think about community needs and planning for the future. Students work on social studies and communication skills by creating messages for their parents or for children in other classrooms to encourage participation in the census.

5. How many lessons are offered?

There are a total of eight lessons—four lessons for each of two grade bands: K–4, 5–8. 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.

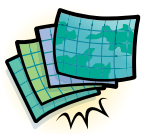
6. What about teaching guides?

The Principal's Kit includes 10 quick-start teaching guides that offer instructional ideas and a description and preview of what's available online at **www.census.gov/schools.** The kit is ready for immediate use in classrooms.

Census lessons connect to core curriculum, including:

Civics

Reading & Writing



Map Skills

Language Arts

Math

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7. What role do maps play?

Provided in your Principal's Kit, the wall map created for 2010 Census: It's About Us is the visual and data-rich centerpiece of the classroom program. One shipment of 10 maps is provided for your teachers.

U.S. Virgin Islands Map

This map provides a rich view of the U.S. Virgin Islands, depicting population density along with other demographic characteristics. The map also helps students understand patterns of settlement and uses a mix of smaller maps and charts to highlight a wealth of data about the U.S. Virgin Islands.

8. 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 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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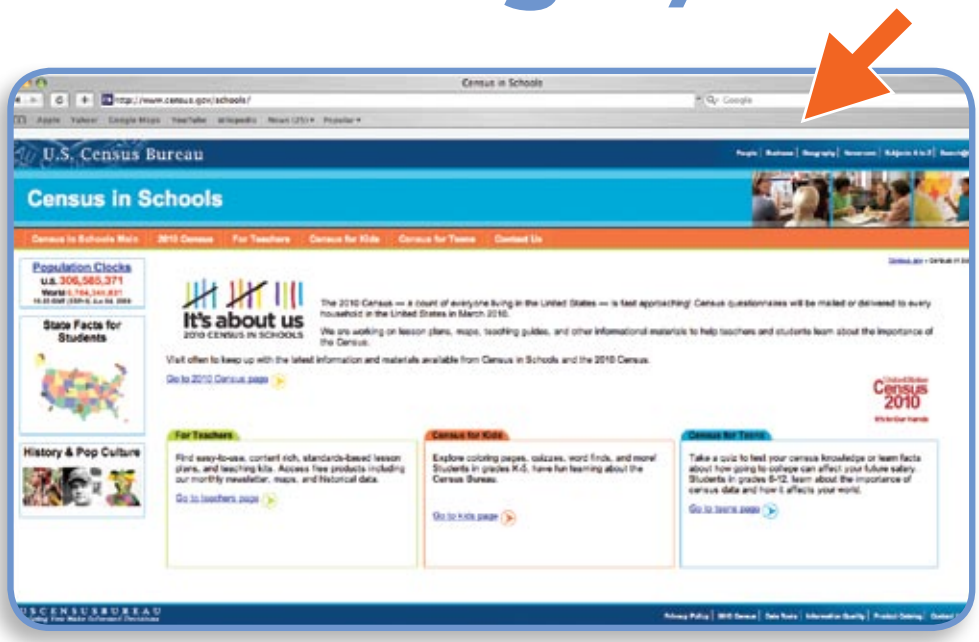
It's all happening at www.census.gov/schools



EXPLORE. Be sure to visit **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 USVI.

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

SCHEDULE. **August 2009–December 2009:** Teachers and students learn about the U.S. Virgin Islands using the 2010 Census: It's About Us program. **January 2010–March 2010:** Principals designate one week as Census in Schools Week when they download materials for five daily mini-lessons. Also, students take home the specially tailored, island-appropriate family materials—in English and in Spanish—that arrive in schools in January. **April 1, 2010:** Census Day. Go to **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