

Name _____

Diversity: Census Questions Over Time

1. Reference **Activity Item: Race and Ethnicity Questions on the Census** and record your observations on the way race and ethnicity were asked about on census questionnaires from 1970, 1990, and 2010.

Census year	What do you notice about the categories presented?
1970	
1990	
2010	

2. Explain what changes you noticed in how the answer options have changed over time. Why do you think they changed?

3. Next, we'll see what the data tells us about the changes that have occurred between 2000 and 2010. Complete the 2010 data tables on page 3 by calculating the percentages of each race/ethnicity group.



Race and Ethnicity Data Over Time

2000 Census: Number of People per Race

Subject	Number	Percent
Total Population	281,421,906	100.0%
One Race	274,595,678	97.6%
White	211,460,626	75.1%
Black or African American	34,658,190	12.3%
American Indian and Alaska Native	2,475,956	0.9%
Asian	10,242,998	3.6%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	398,835	0.1%
Some Other Race	15,359,073	5.5%
Two or More Races	6,826,228	2.4%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, *Population by Hispanic or Latino Origin and by Race for the United States: 2000 and 2010*
<https://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2011/dec/c2010br-02.pdf>

2000 Census: Number of People per Ethnicity

Subject	Number	Percent
Total Population	281,421,906	100.0%
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	35,305,818	12.5%
Not Hispanic or Latino	246,116,088	87.5%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, *Population by Hispanic or Latino Origin and by Race for the United States: 2000 and 2010*
<https://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2011/dec/c2010br-02.pdf>



2010 Census: Number of People per Race

Subject	Number	Percent
Total Population	308,745,538	100.0%
One Race	299,736,465	97.1%
White	223,553,265	72.4%
Black or African American	38,929,319	12.6%
American Indian and Alaska Native	2,932,248	0.9%
Asian	14,674,252	4.8%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	540,013	0.2%
Some Other Race	19,107,368	6.2%
Two or More Races	9,009,073	2.9%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population by Hispanic or Latino Origin and by Race for the United States: 2000 and 2010
<https://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2011/dec/c2010br-02.pdf>

2010 Census: Number of People per Ethnicity

Subject	Number	Percent
Total Population	308,745,538	100.0%
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	50,477,594	16.3%
Not Hispanic or Latino	258,267,944	83.7%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population by Hispanic or Latino Origin and by Race for the United States: 2000 and 2010
<https://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2011/dec/c2010br-02.pdf>

4. Which races increased in percentage of population from 2000 to 2010? Which races decreased in percentage of population from 2000 to 2010?



5. Predict the racial makeup of the country in 2020, 2030, and 2040 by percentage of the population, based on the changes you noticed from 2000 to 2010.

	2020	2030	2040
Total Population			
One Race			
White			
Black or African American			
American Indian and Alaska Native			
Asian			
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander			
Some Other Race			
Two or More Races			

Home Extension

Take your student worksheet home and share it with an adult in your home. Ask them which boxes they would have checked had they participated in the censuses in 1970, 1990, and 2010. Share your predictions of the population in 2020, 2030, and 2040.





Word Bank and Vocabulary

Word Bank

You can use the following words to help you discuss answers with your classmates and to write your answers on your worksheet.

race	ethnicity	percentage	classify
change	predict	increase	decrease
identify	options	diverse	immigration
decades	time	observe	data

Key Vocabulary

	Census: A process of counting all the people in a country, city, or town and collecting information about them
	Questionnaire: A set of written questions that is given to people to collect facts or opinions about something
	Diversity: The ways people are different from one another
	Percentage: A number that shows a part of a group
	Data: Facts usually represented by numbers



Facts About the U.S. Census

- a. A census is a process of counting all the people in a country, city, or town and collecting information about them.
- b. The decennial census—the Census Bureau’s most far-reaching questionnaire—is a count of every man, woman, and child living in the United States.
- c. The census occurs every 10 years. The next one will take place in spring 2020.
- d. Data from the decennial census is used to allocate \$675 billion in federal funding among states and communities.
- e. Population data is also used to determine how seats in the U.S. House of Representatives are reapportioned among the states.



Activity Item: Race and Ethnicity Questions on the Census

1970

Note: Ethnicity was not a question on the 1970 Census.

4. COLOR OR RACE

Fill one circle.

If "Indian (American)," also give tribe.

If "Other," also give race.

<input type="radio"/> White	<input type="radio"/> Japanese	<input type="radio"/> Hawaiian
<input type="radio"/> Negro or Black	<input type="radio"/> Chinese	<input type="radio"/> Korean
<input type="radio"/> Indian (Amer.)	<input type="radio"/> Filipino	<input type="radio"/> Other— <i>Print race</i>

Print tribe →

Source: *U.S. Census Bureau, 1970 Census*

https://www.census.gov/history/www/through_the_decades/questionnaires/1970_1.html

1990

4. Race

Fill ONE circle for the race that the person considers himself/herself to be.

If **Indian (Amer.)**, print the name of the enrolled or principal tribe. →

If **Other Asian or Pacific Islander (API)**, print one group, for example: Hmong, Fijian, Laotian, Thai, Tongan, Pakistani, Cambodian, and so on. →

If **Other race**, print race. →

White
 Black or Negro
 Indian (Amer.) (Print the name of the enrolled or principal tribe.) →

Eskimo
 Aleut

Asian or Pacific Islander (API)

<input type="radio"/> Chinese	<input type="radio"/> Japanese
<input type="radio"/> Filipino	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Asian Indian
<input type="radio"/> Hawaiian	<input type="radio"/> Samoan
<input type="radio"/> Korean	<input type="radio"/> Guamanian
<input type="radio"/> Vietnamese	<input type="radio"/> Other API →

Other race (Print race) →



7. Is this person of Spanish/Hispanic origin?
 Fill ONE circle for each person.

No (not Spanish/Hispanic)
 Yes, Mexican, Mexican-Am., Chicano
 Yes, Puerto Rican
 Yes, Cuban
 Yes, other Spanish/Hispanic
 (Print one group, for example: Argentinean, Colombian, Dominican, Nicaraguan, Salvadoran, Spaniard, and so on.) ↴

If Yes, other Spanish/Hispanic, print one group. _____ ↴

Source: [U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 Census](https://www.census.gov/history/www/through_the_decades/questionnaires/1990_1.html)
https://www.census.gov/history/www/through_the_decades/questionnaires/1990_1.html

2010

8. Is Person 1 of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin?

No, not of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin
 Yes, Mexican, Mexican Am., Chicano
 Yes, Puerto Rican
 Yes, Cuban
 Yes, another Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin — *Print origin, for example, Argentinean, Colombian, Dominican, Nicaraguan, Salvadoran, Spaniard, and so on.* ↴

9. What is Person 1's race? Mark one or more boxes.

White
 Black, African Am., or Negro
 American Indian or Alaska Native — *Print name of enrolled or principal tribe.* ↴

<input type="checkbox"/> Asian Indian	<input type="checkbox"/> Japanese	<input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian
<input type="checkbox"/> Chinese	<input type="checkbox"/> Korean	<input type="checkbox"/> Guamanian or Chamorro
<input type="checkbox"/> Filipino	<input type="checkbox"/> Vietnamese	<input type="checkbox"/> Samoan
<input type="checkbox"/> Other Asian — <i>Print race, for example, Hmong, Laotian, Thai, Pakistani, Cambodian, and so on.</i> ↴	<input type="checkbox"/> Other Pacific Islander — <i>Print race, for example, Fijian, Tongan, and so on.</i> ↴	

Some other race — *Print race.* ↴

Source: [U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census](https://www.census.gov/history/www/through_the_decades/questionnaires/2010_overview.html)
https://www.census.gov/history/www/through_the_decades/questionnaires/2010_overview.html