

Counting in My Home

Topic(s):

Census, survey, island population

Grade Level:

K-2

Approx. Time Required:

30 minutes

Learning Objectives:

Students will be able to:

- Recognize and count numbers up to 100.
- Compare quantities, using the terms “more than,” “less than,” and “equal to.”
- Understand the concept of population and how the distribution of resources relates to the number of people living in a community.
- Understand the importance of being counted in the 2020 Census.

Introduction

The 2020 Census Statistics in Schools (SIS) program is designed to educate students about the decennial census and to teach them educational concepts and skills, such as data literacy, through the use of census data in the classroom. Responses to the 2020 Census affect plans for hospitals and schools, support for local programs, improvements in emergency services, and construction of roads. They also inform businesses that are looking to add jobs. By educating students about the 2020 Census, you can help encourage a complete count.

The 2020 Census SIS program can be used with educational standards across the country. You can use the topics and learning objectives above to determine which subject and unit plan or theme this activity will best fit into.

About the 2020 Census

In addition to the information that is built into instructions for this activity, the following points provide an easy, grade-appropriate way to explain the census to your students.

- The decennial census is a count of every person living in the United States and its territories that occurs every 10 years.
- It is important that every person be counted to make sure the government can provide money to each community for things like roads, schools, and hospitals.
- Make sure an adult in your home counts you in the 2020 Census.



Materials Required

- Printed student worksheets
- Chart paper or blackboard or whiteboard with a writing utensil
- Crayons or colored pencils

Worksheet Description

Students will learn who is counted in the decennial census and why it's important that the government collect this data every 10 years. Students will compare family facts with others in their class as they complete their own informal class survey. Students will come to understand why it's important that their community be counted accurately in the decennial census.

Before the Activity—5 Minutes

1. Explain that the U.S. Census Bureau collects information on everyone in the United States and that this information lets us learn about the people who live in our country.
2. Explain that the 2020 Census is coming up and that everyone in the United States and its territories will be counted, which includes us! Tell students some of the things the Census Bureau asks, including:
 - How many people live in your home?
 - What are their ages?
 - Are they boys or girls?

During the Activity—20 Minutes

1. Hand out student worksheets.
2. Tell students that they are going to complete an in-class census like the one adults complete. Explain that a census is a set of questions given to all the people in a particular group (for example, our class) in order to learn about them.
3. Tell the students that you are going to ask some questions. Say that any students who can answer “yes” to a question should stand when prompted. (If some students in your class cannot stand, modify this activity to have students raise their hands.) Tell the class that students who stand after a question should remain standing until they're told to sit again, so the number of “yes” answers can be counted out loud.





4. Then ask the following questions, counting the “yes” answers for each and recording the numbers on the board or chart paper.
 - Do you have an older brother or sister?
 - Do you have a younger brother or sister?
 - Do you speak a language other than English at home?
 - Were you born on a different island or at another location?
 - Do you have a pet at home?
5. Have students copy the number of “yes” answers for each question onto their worksheets.
6. Tell students that, just as the in-class census collected information about the class, the census for adults collects information about everyone on our island. The information the census collects includes how many people live on our island and how many people live in each home. Using the following statistics, tell students the average number of people who live in each home on your island:
 - Guam: 4
 - Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands: 3
 - U.S. Virgin Islands: 2
 - American Samoa: 6

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census

Have students record on their worksheet whether the number of people living in *their* home is less than, more than, or exactly the average.

7. Give students 5-10 minutes to draw a picture of everyone who lives in their home.

After the Activity—5 Minutes

Summarize the decennial census for students, providing the following details:

- The decennial census is a count of every person living in the United States and its territories. It happens every 10 years.
- It is important that every single person be counted to make sure the government can provide money to each community for things like hospitals, schools and roads.
- Make sure an adult in your home counts you in the 2020 Census.



Home Extension

Teachers, please read the instructions for the students' homework assignment out loud to the class:

Take your student worksheet home and share it with an adult in your home. Show them your class census and the picture you drew of everyone in your family. Remind them to count you in the 2020 Census.

