

Transportation: On Our Way To Being Counted!

Topic(s):

Transportation, population, counting, comparing numbers

Grade Level:

Preschool (3-year-olds)

Approx. Time Required:

30 minutes

Learning Objectives:

Students will be able to:

- Use language to convey information and ideas.
- Compare quantities using appropriate vocabulary terms.
- Count orally up to 10.
- Begin to use one-to-one correspondence when counting objects.

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 use of census data in the classroom. Responding to the census helps your community get its fair share of funding. Census data guides how more than \$675 billion in federal funding is distributed to states and communities each year. These funds support vital community programs that help children, such as schools, hospitals, housing, and food assistance. By educating students about the 2020 Census, you can help encourage a complete count.

About the 2020 Census

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

- Every 10 years, everyone living in the United States gets counted. It's called the census.
- It is important that every person be counted, so that all communities have enough money for things like roads and parks.
- Make sure a grownup in your home counts you in the 2020 Census.



Materials Required

- Pictures of different types of transportation, labeled with the name under each picture (Cut out pictures of types of transportation before the activity. They can be found at the end of the teacher’s guide.)
 - Car
 - School bus
 - Bus
 - Subway or metro
 - Bicycle
 - Walking
- Printed student worksheets
- Chart paper with “How did you come to school?” at the top
 - Below the question, add columns with pictures of different types of transportation (car, bus, train, bicycle, walking, stroller)
- A marker or pen
- A computer or smartphone with an internet connection (to visit [State Facts for Students](https://www.census.gov/schools/facts/)) (<https://www.census.gov/schools/facts/>) prior to the lesson.

Worksheet Description

Transportation is a fun and common theme in early-preschool classrooms. This worksheet will facilitate conversations at home and at school about how people get to work, school, or the grocery store, or go to visit people in another state. The worksheet will also reinforce how to count, the benefit of counting, and the idea that everyone in the students’ classroom will be counted in the 2020 Census.

Before the Activity—5 Minutes

1. Before the activity, look up the most common method that people in your state use to get to work. To do this, go to [State Facts for Students](https://www.census.gov/schools/facts/) (<https://www.census.gov/schools/facts/>) and select your state. “How People Get to Work” is toward the bottom of the Population section. Next, write “How did you come to school?” at the top of chart paper at the front of the room.
2. Begin by asking some of the students how they came to school. As children share their answers, add columns below the question on your chart, putting a picture of a different kind of transportation (car, school bus, bus, subway or metro, bicycle, walking) at the top of each column.



During the Activity—20 Minutes

1. Tell students that the different ways of getting from one place to the other are called “transportation.”
2. Explain to students that people all over the country use many kinds of transportation to get to places like work and school. Invite all the students to share how they came to school by saying, “Let’s find out if we all come to school in the same way.” Show students the chart paper with the pictures of the different kinds of transportation. Count the number of students to find out how many use each kind of transportation to get to school. Draw a stick figure in the appropriate column to represent each student who uses each kind of transportation.
3. After each child has answered, count the number of stick figures under each picture and write the number at the bottom of each column. Then ask students, “Which kind of transportation is used by the most students?” “Which is used by the fewest students?”
4. Explain that it is important to know what kind of transportation people use to get to school and to work because that way we know when we need to build more roads and bridges or more railroad tracks or more sidewalks. This information can also tell us if we need more public transportation, like buses, to help people travel from one place to another. Tell the class, “That’s why a group called the Census Bureau asks people all over the country what kinds of transportation they use to get to work. Then the Census Bureau counts up all the answers, just like we did here.”
5. Now ask the class what kind of transportation they think most people use to get to work in their state. After you have a few answers, share the information from State Facts for Students: “The Census Bureau says that most people here ... ” Then ask students if the kind of transportation most people use to get to work in their state is the same as the kind of transportation most students in the class use to get to school.

After the Activity—5 Minutes

Tell students, “In 2020, the Census Bureau is going to do something very important. It’s going to count all the people in the entire country. This big count is called the 2020 Census. Counting everyone in the country helps us know what places need more roads, buses, parks, and all sorts of other things. That’s why it’s important for all of us to be counted. So make sure a grownup in your home counts you in the 2020 Census.”

Home Extension

Provide the student worksheets, which include a picture of different types of transportation for students to color. Each type of transportation depicted includes a different number of passengers so that students can see and count how many people are traveling by bus, car, or train while they enjoy coloring.



STATISTICS
IN SCHOOLS

census.gov/schools

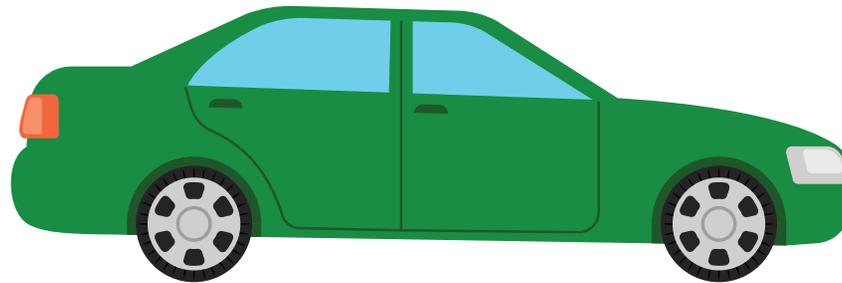
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START HERE >

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Census
2020



Activity Item: Transportation Cutouts

You can print and cut out the following images to use during the activity.



Car

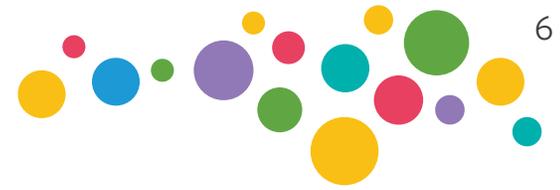


Activity Item: Transportation Cutouts (Cont.)

You can print and cut out the following images to use during the activity.

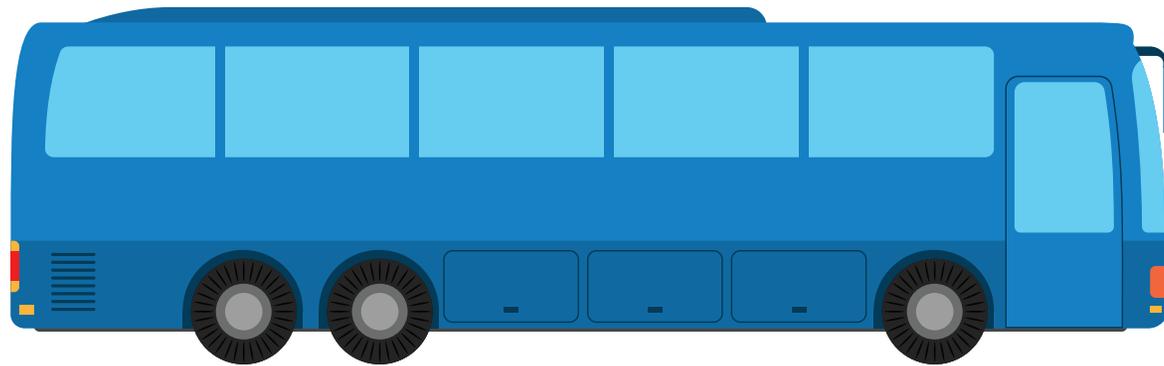


School bus



Activity Item: Transportation Cutouts (Cont.)

You can print and cut out the following images to use during the activity.

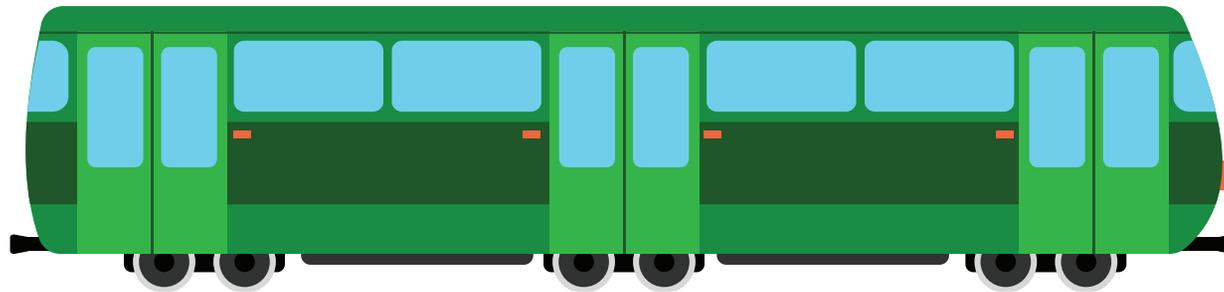


Bus

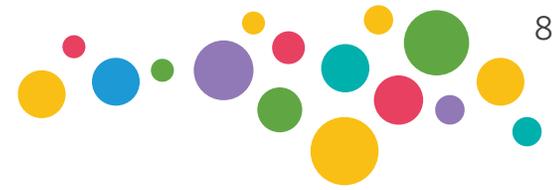


Activity Item: Transportation Cutouts (Cont.)

You can print and cut out the following images to use during the activity.



Subway or metro



Activity Item: Transportation Cutouts (Cont.)

You can print and cut out the following images to use during the activity.



Bicycle



Activity Item: Transportation Cutouts (Cont.)

You can print and cut out the following images to use during the activity.



Walking