



Pre-K

# Parent/Caregiver Toolkit

Easy At-Home Learning With Statistics in Schools

*Free. Engaging. Easy to access.  
No teaching experience required.*



STATISTICS  
IN SCHOOLS



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**As parents and caregivers, we're all doing our best to juggle responsibilities like running a household, working, caring for and teaching our children, and taking care of other loved ones. Each of us is working hard to ensure that the children we care for get the academic support they need.**

**The U.S. Census Bureau's Statistics in Schools (SIS) program can help.**

## **Statistics in Schools – For Use at Home**

Statistics in Schools offers more than 200 free learning activities and resources for children in **pre-K through 12th grade**, using data provided by the Census Bureau. Although originally created for teachers to use in classrooms, these resources are easily adapted for use at home to keep kids entertained and learning. Here's why:

- All the resources are free.
- All resources are easy to access and download.
- Teachers created the resources to ensure that each one is educational and age-appropriate.
- You don't need teaching experience to use them.
- Easy-to-follow instructions are provided for every activity along with ways to adapt the resources for at-home use.
- Many activities are interesting for both children and adults. (You'll learn something new too!)
- Engaging videos are available for all ages.
- The activities provide opportunities for you and your children to learn together and for children to work independently.
- Interactive data tools enable children to explore on their own.
- Preschool activities are available in both English and Spanish.

## **Learning Benefits**

You can use these SIS activities and resources with the children in your home to:

- Help them learn how to find, understand, and use data.
- Deepen their knowledge of math, English, geography, history, and other subjects.
- Learn about the census and the importance of counting everyone.

## How To Use SIS Activities and Resources

This toolkit describes two types of materials: **Quick and Easy Resources** and **Activities**. The entry for each resource and activity includes tips to help you easily adapt it for use at home.

- **Quick and easy resources** include videos, maps, and other fun materials that can be used alone or to enhance the activities.
- **Activities** are lessons that you can teach your children. Each activity includes a teacher version or teaching guide and a student worksheet. The teaching guide provides all the information you need to do the lesson, including a list of materials and an estimate of how long the lesson will take.

Find more resources at [census.gov/schools](https://census.gov/schools).

## Best Practices To Support At-Home Learning

Whether you're a seasoned pro or brand new to teaching children at home, the following strategies can help set up you and the children in your home for success. These tips are provided by educators and parents who home-school their children. The information can be helpful for you to consider prior to getting started with SIS resources.

## 1 Find a Good Learning Spot

Just as you may have a specific area of the home in which you work, it's important to create a similar space for your child. Find a quiet, comfortable, and dedicated space that is strictly for learning. If possible, this space should be different from where your child normally plays and should be free of distractions like television. If a dedicated space is not possible, consider ways to help children focus like clearing away toys and turning off the television to prevent distractions.

## 2 Make a Schedule

Most kids thrive on routine. A schedule helps children know what to expect. Talking with the child in your home about the schedule each day can be especially helpful for little ones who love to check things off as they go. The great thing about SIS resources is that they can support a variety of subjects and be incorporated into the schedule you have already established. For example, watch our "Everyone Counts" singalong video during math time and practice counting the number of people in each home.

## 3 Prepare Your Materials in Advance

Getting kids to stay focused can be challenging. To maximize the time you spend with your child, have all the materials for each activity ready to go before you start. Read through the teaching

guide to see what websites you may need to visit and have them open in your browser. In most cases, you can read the activity to your child on the screen and have them answer the questions, but feel free to print the worksheet if preferred. Gather any other materials that are listed in the teaching guide. The great thing is that all the materials are common items that most of us have at home.

## 4 Be Part of the Fun

Model what it looks like to get excited about learning new things. For younger learners, get ready to exclaim, "I never knew that!" or "What a cool fact about our country!" Your excitement for learning will boost children's enthusiasm for learning and for using SIS resources.

## 5 Connect With Others

Be creative about connecting with other parents and caregivers and helping your child connect with other children. For example, host a video chat with a group of parents who are also using SIS resources and talk through how you have used them at home and what has worked for you. Set up a video call for a group of children who are doing the same activities to talk through their answers on the student worksheet. Have your child use the phone, email, or video chat to do the Home Extension assignment at the end of each activity with extended family members.

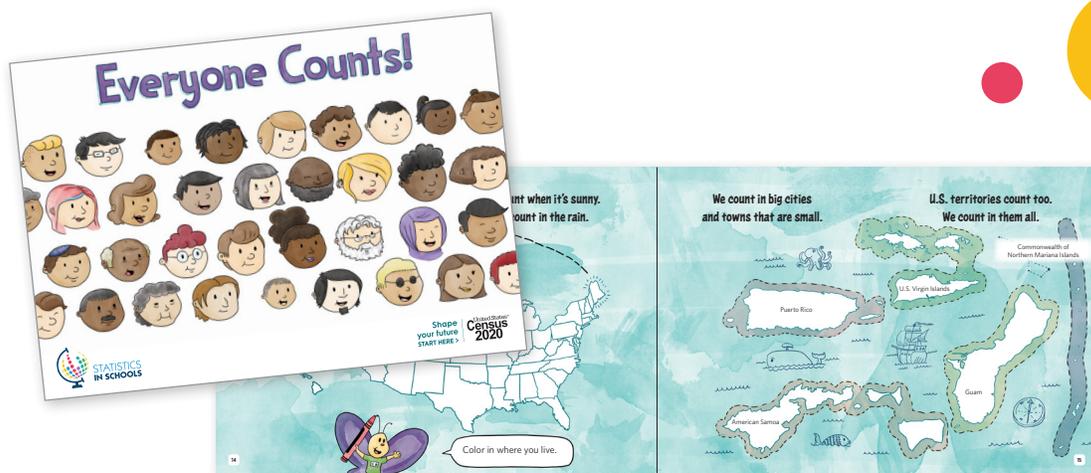
## Find More!

The following activities are adapted for at-home use, but feel free to explore more great home and distance learning activities on the SIS [website](#).

# Quick and Easy Resources

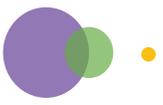
## Story and Activity Book

- **URL:** [www.census.gov/programs-surveys/sis/2020census/2020-resources/pre-k/story-and-activity-book.html](http://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/sis/2020census/2020-resources/pre-k/story-and-activity-book.html)
- **Approximate Time Required:** 15-20 minutes
- **Description:** This playful storybook has activities for your children to complete and explains the census and the importance of counting everyone.
- **At-Home Adaptation:**
  - If you can't print the storybook pages, help your child draw a picture of people in your community, including adults, children, and helpers like police officers and firefighters. Talk about the different kinds of places people live in. Explain what the census is and why it's important to count everyone.
- **Extension:**
  - Compare and contrast homes and buildings in your neighborhood or community. Take a walk or a drive and have children name the different kinds of homes they see, such as apartment buildings, houses, row houses, or houseboats.
  - Have your child draw a picture of CB, the U.S. Census Bureau butterfly. Have CB help you count items in your home by perching the picture on the child's favorite toys, stuffed animals, or furniture and having the child count each object just once. Practice counting objects up to 10.



## “Everyone Counts” Song

- **URL:** [www.census.gov/programs-surveys/sis/2020census/2020-resources/pre-k/everyone-counts-song.html](http://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/sis/2020census/2020-resources/pre-k/everyone-counts-song.html)
- **Approximate Time Required:** 10 minutes
- **Description:** A catchy tune and fun lyrics help the young children in your home understand the census and why everyone counts in their own special way.
- **At-Home Adaptation:**
  - No at-home adaptation is needed.
- **Extension:**
  - Encourage children and others in your home to play an instrument (real, makeshift, or imagined) while listening to the song.
  - Play your instruments loudly while singing the song loudly, and play them quietly while singing quietly.



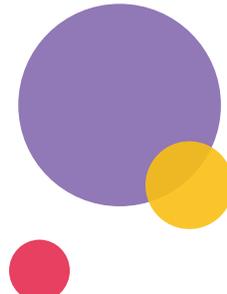
### “Everyone Counts” Song Lyrics



<p><b>Verse 1:</b> The Census counts people In homes big and small You count if you're tiny You count if you're tall</p> <p><b>Chorus:</b> Because everyone counts In the U.S. of A. Everyone counts In their own special way</p> <p><b>Verse 2:</b> The census counts everywhere Count all who live with you Sisters, uncles, grandmas and your newborn babies too</p> <p><b>Chorus:</b> Because everyone counts In the U.S. of A. Everyone counts In their own special way</p> <p><b>Verse 3:</b> We count all your neighbors and We count all your friends Until we count you, The counting won't end</p>	<p><b>Chorus:</b> Because everyone counts In the U.S. of A. Everyone counts In their own special way</p> <p><b>Verse 4:</b> Counting is easy Counting is fun Everyone counts and you count as one</p> <p><b>Chorus:</b> Because everyone counts In the U.S. of A. Everyone counts In their own special way (KIDS) 1, 2, 3, 4 Everyone counts In the U.S. of A. Everyone counts In their own special way</p>
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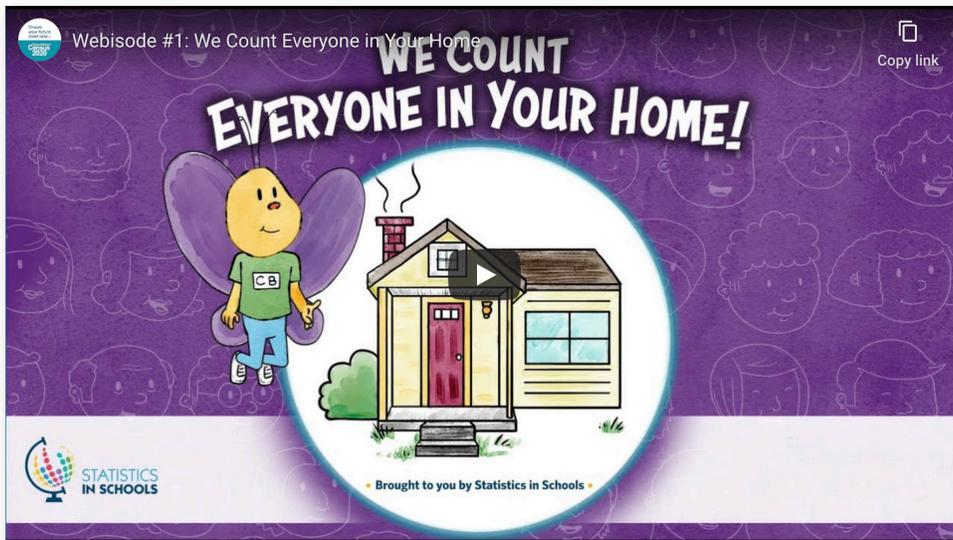






## Webisode #1: We Count Everyone in Your Home!

- **URL:** [www.census.gov/programs-surveys/sis/resources/videos/we-count-everyone-in-your-home.html](http://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/sis/resources/videos/we-count-everyone-in-your-home.html)
- **Approximate Time Required:** 15 minutes
- **Description:** In the first video of a three-part animated series, CB, the U.S. Census Bureau butterfly, explains to your children the purpose of the census and invites them to help as CB counts people in different homes.
- **At-Home Adaptation:**
  - No at-home adaptation is needed.
- **Extension:**
  - Talk about and have your child draw a picture of other people in your home. Then help your child count every person and draw the number on top of each person's head just like in the video.
  - Help the children in your home learn to say the numbers 1-10. Then consider teaching them to say the numbers in a language other than their own.



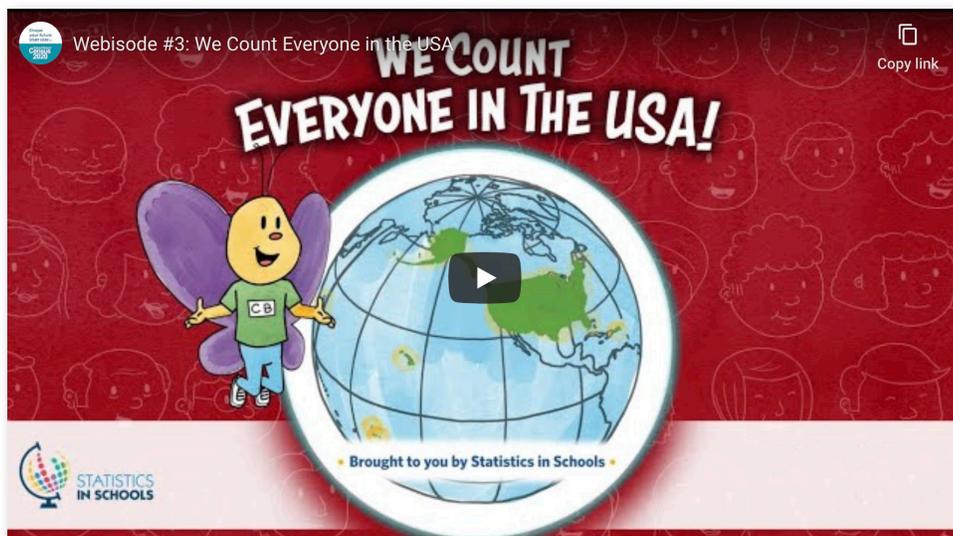
## Webisode #2: We Count Everyone in Your Neighborhood!

- **URL:** [www.census.gov/programs-surveys/sis/resources/videos/we-count-everyone-in-your-neighborhood.html](http://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/sis/resources/videos/we-count-everyone-in-your-neighborhood.html)
- **Approximate Time Required:** 15 minutes
- **Description:** In the second video of a three-part animated series, CB the butterfly explains to the young children in your home how the U.S. Census Bureau will count people for the census wherever they live.
- **At-Home Adaptation:**
  - No at-home adaptation is needed.
- **Extension:**
  - Take a look outside your window, sit outside your home, or go for a car ride and help your child count all the people you see within 5 minutes.
  - Help your child talk about and compare different kinds of homes and how many people might live in those homes. Let your child build two or more different sizes of homes (e.g., apartments, town houses, mobile homes) using items like blocks, Legos, or boxes, and place stuffed animals, toy people made out of craft sticks, or game pieces to show how many people live in each home.
  - Consider having your child count and name all of their friends.



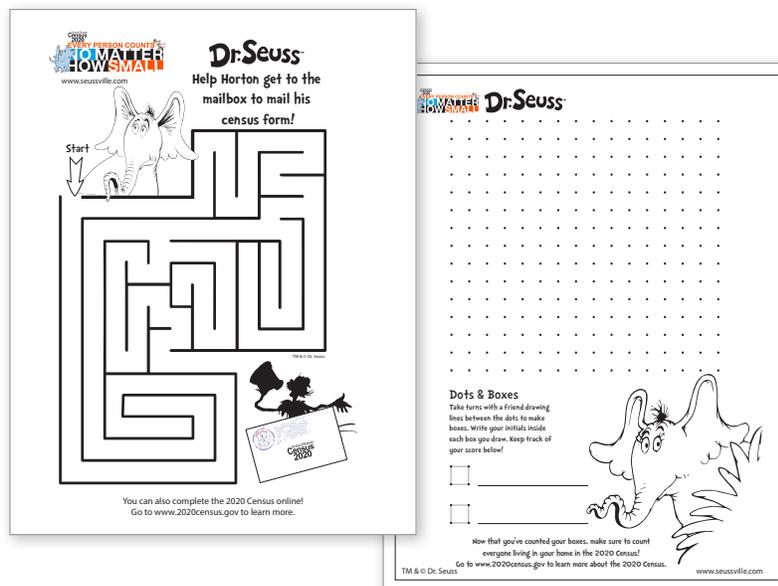
## Webisode #3: We Count Everyone in the USA!

- **URL:** [www.census.gov/programs-surveys/sis/resources/videos/we-count-everyone-in-the-usa.html](http://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/sis/resources/videos/we-count-everyone-in-the-usa.html)
- **Approximate Time Required:** 15 minutes
- **Description:** In the final video of a three-part animated series, CB the butterfly shows your child the many different ways people can respond to the census: online, by phone, or by mail. CB also helps children understand the need to count people where they live.
- **At-Home Adaptation:**
  - No at-home adaptation is needed.
- **Extension:**
  - On a **map of the U.S.**, help your child find the places that CB shows in the video.
  - Help your child find the state or territory you live in on a map.
  - Talk with your child about different friends or family members who live in another state or territory. Then show them that state or territory on a map.



## Dr. Seuss Coloring Pages

- **URL:** [www.census.gov/programs-surveys/sis/2020census/2020-resources/pre-k/dr-seuss-coloring-pages.html](http://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/sis/2020census/2020-resources/pre-k/dr-seuss-coloring-pages.html)
- **Approximate Time Required:** 10-20 minutes
- **Description:** Have your child explore the coloring pages created by our partners at Seussville that help explain to them the importance of the census.
- **At-Home Adaptation:**
  - If you can't print the Dr. Seuss coloring pages, you can make your own Dr. Seuss "Who house" picture by helping your child draw everyone who lives in your home.
  - Choose a few coloring pages that interest your child and complete the activities together. Discuss with your child how every person is valued and important. Explain that everyone deserves to be counted (no matter how small) in the census.
- **Extension:**
  - Read some of the wonderful books by Dr. Seuss that help children learn to count, such as "Ten Apples Up on Top!" and "Dr. Seuss's 1 2 3."
  - Pretend that one person in your house is "Thing One" and another person is "Thing Two." Thing One can collect and count small items in your house. Thing Two can collect and count big items.



# Activities

(available in both English and Spanish)

## Featured Activity: I Count, You Count!

- **URL:** [www.census.gov/programs-surveys/sis/2020census/2020-resources/pre-k/i-count-you-count.html](http://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/sis/2020census/2020-resources/pre-k/i-count-you-count.html)
- **Approximate Time Required:** 20 minutes
- **Description:** This activity for preschool children in your home focuses on counting. It introduces children to the idea that counting people gives you helpful information. Your children will draw a picture of everyone who lives in their home.
- **At-Home Adaptation:**
  - Instead of having children count students and materials in the classroom, help your child count stuffed animals or other items in your household. Model for them counting each item once and saying the number clearly as you count out loud.
- **Extension:**
  - Help your child call a few family members or friends to ask them how many people live in their home and what type of home they live in.
  - Look up pictures of different types of homes with your child and discuss their similarities and differences.
  - Have your child use blocks or Legos to build a home for your family and other homes for your extended family.

**2020 CENSUS STUDENT ACTIVITY**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

### How Many People Are in My Home?

**Adults at Home:** Today we learned that the census counts people. Counting people helps the government make important decisions—like how many parks we need or how many schools we should have. It's important to be counted in the census!

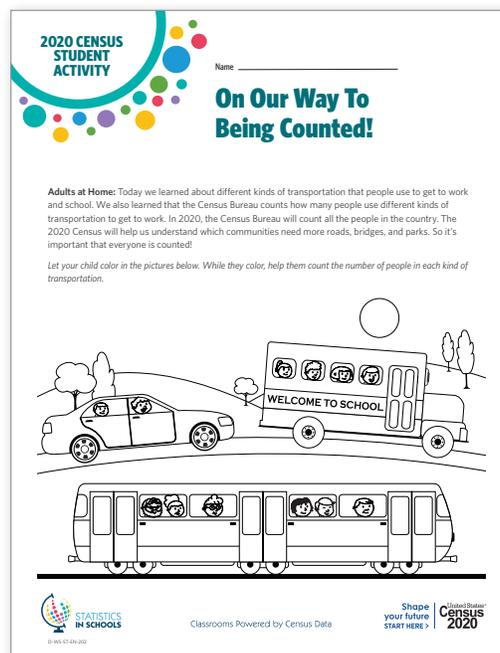
Let your child draw a picture of everyone who lives in your home. Then guide them in counting how many people live in your home.

I have \_\_\_\_\_ people in my home.

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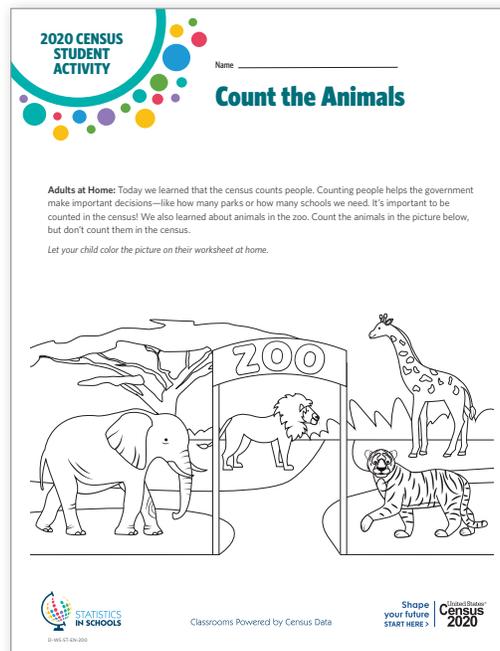
## Transportation: On Our Way To Being Counted!

- **URL:** [www.census.gov/programs-surveys/sis/2020census/2020-resources/pre-k/transportation.html](http://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/sis/2020census/2020-resources/pre-k/transportation.html)
- **Approximate Time Required:** 30 minutes
- **Description:** Transportation is a fun and common theme in preschool classrooms. This activity will help the children in your home learn the different ways people can get to work, school, or the grocery store or visit people in another state.
- **At-Home Adaptation:**
  - Instead of having your child look at the ways other students in their classroom get to school, have them say how people in your household get to school or work. Then have them draw a picture of that type of transportation, like a bus, a car, or a bike.
- **Extension:**
  - Help your children call some of their friends' parents and ask them how they usually travel to work each day. Or your children can dictate an email for you to send to other parents.
  - Talk about the benefits of various types of transportation and discuss where you might go using each type. For example, if you were traveling to a faraway country, you would probably take a plane; if you were going somewhere in your state, you could travel by car.



## World of Animals

- **URL:** [www.census.gov/programs-surveys/sis/2020census/2020-resources/pre-k/world-of-animals.html](http://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/sis/2020census/2020-resources/pre-k/world-of-animals.html)
- **Approximate Time Required:** 25 minutes
- **Description:** Children in your home will learn the names of zoo animals and the sounds they make. Animals are a common theme in preschool classrooms. You will help your child find the number of zoos in their state, based on U.S. Census Bureau data.
- **At-Home Adaptation:**
  - Introduce the activity with a familiar animal song like “Old MacDonald Had a Farm” to help your child learn the names and sounds of zoo animals.
- **Extension:**
  - Search for virtual field trips of zoos across the country that offer live footage of their animals. These are a few zoos that have wonderful virtual field trips set up that your children will be sure to enjoy:
    - **Smithsonian’s National Zoo**
    - **San Diego Zoo**
    - **Houston Zoo**
    - **Cincinnati Zoo**



## Jobs in My Community

- **URL:** [www.census.gov/programs-surveys/sis/2020census/2020-resources/pre-k/jobs.html](http://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/sis/2020census/2020-resources/pre-k/jobs.html)
- **Approximate Time Required:** 30 minutes
- **Description:** This activity introduces the children in your home to businesses in their community and the types of jobs people do in those businesses.
- **At-Home Adaptation:**
  - Look at family photos of places that you've visited and talk about the people who work in those places—for example, restaurant servers, water park employees, or zookeepers.
- **Extension:**
  - Have a conversation with your child about what job they would like, and have them draw someone doing that job.
  - Help your child give dolls, toys, stuffed animals, or even family members jobs from your community (such as “you’re a teacher” or “you’re a firefighter”). Then go on a scavenger hunt around the house to find objects that people in those jobs would use. For example, go to the kitchen to find items that a chef would use, or look in the toolbox for items a carpenter would use.

**2020 CENSUS  
STUDENT  
ACTIVITY**



Name \_\_\_\_\_

### Jobs in My Community

**Adults at Home:** Today we learned about different jobs that people have. We also learned about the census. The census counts people and asks them what kind of jobs they have. Counting people helps us make important decisions about things like how many parks or how many schools we need. That's why it's important to be counted in the census!

*Ask your child to show you the picture they drew in class.*

When I grow up, I want to be a \_\_\_\_\_.



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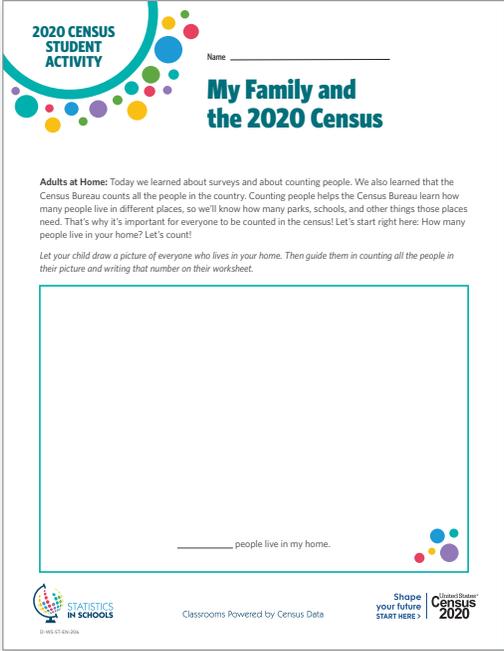
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YOUR FUTURE  
START HERE >



## Diversity: Everyone Is Special!

- **URL:** [www.census.gov/programs-surveys/sis/2020census/2020-resources/pre-k/everyone-is-special.html](http://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/sis/2020census/2020-resources/pre-k/everyone-is-special.html)
- **Approximate Time Required:** 22 minutes
- **Description:** Children in your home will practice counting by looking at differences between their family and other families.
- **At-Home Adaptation:**
  - Let your child draw a picture of everyone who lives in your home. Then guide them in counting all the people in their picture and writing that number on their worksheet.
- **Extension:**
  - Help your child make a list of people you know who speak a language other than English.
  - Help your child write their name and identify the language they speak.
  - Help your child contact two other families to ask them who lives in their home and what languages they speak.
  - Help your child write the word “hello.” Then help them learn how to say that word in two other languages.



**2020 CENSUS STUDENT ACTIVITY** Name \_\_\_\_\_

### My Family and the 2020 Census

**Adults at Home:** Today we learned about surveys and about counting people. We also learned that the Census Bureau counts all the people in the country. Counting people helps the Census Bureau learn how many people live in different places, so we'll know how many parks, schools, and other things those places need. That's why it's important for everyone to be counted in the census! Let's start right here: How many people live in your home? Let's count!

Let your child draw a picture of everyone who lives in your home. Then guide them in counting all the people in their picture and writing that number on their worksheet.

\_\_\_\_\_ people live in my home.

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## Next Steps

The fun isn't over yet! Check out the new Home and Distance Learning Activities page for more resources:

[census.gov/content/census/en/programs-surveys/sis/activities/distance-learning.html](https://www.census.gov/content/census/en/programs-surveys/sis/activities/distance-learning.html)

Then do your part by spreading the word about the importance of census data by:

- Telling your fellow parents and caregivers about this great toolkit and the resources SIS has to offer.
- Reaching out to your child's teachers and administrators to tell them all about the SIS program.

