Suggested Groupings:
Small groups, individuals

Getting Started:
Ask students to guess the answers to the following questions. Write some of their answers on the board, then give them the correct answers. 1. **What is the population of Puerto Rico?** (3,522,037, based on 1990 census) 2. **Are there more males or females in Puerto Rico?** (females — 1,816,395; males — 1,705,642, based on 1990 census) 3. **What is the median age of the population in Puerto Rico?** (28.5, based on 1990 census) 4. **What was the population of Puerto Rico when it became part of the U.S.?** (953,243). Tell students that we can know the answers to these questions through data collected by the census. The U.S. Census Bureau conducts a complete count of all the people in Puerto Rico every 10 years. The information collected by the census includes the population of our island, as well as people’s ages, education, and occupations, etc.

Explain to students that the first census in Puerto Rico was taken in 1765, when the island was still a territory of Spain. Approximately 45,000 persons were counted then. From 1765 to 1887 the government of Spain conducted nine censuses at irregular intervals. Puerto Rico became a territory of the United States in 1898 as a result of the Spanish-American War, and in 1899 the U.S. War Ministry conducted a special census on the island. Since 1910, Puerto Rico has been included in all the decennial censuses taken in the United States.

Using the Activity Worksheets:
- Photocopy and distribute the Activity Worksheet (page 10) and maps (pages 9 and 28), along with “Census at a Glance” (page 8).

Chalkboard Definitions
- **census**: a count of a population in a given area.
- **confidential**: private or secret.
- **decennial**: occurring every 10 years.
- **data**: factual information.
- **municipio**: an official area that has its own local government.

Extension Activity:
Grades 9-12: Have students review the history of their municipio. Ask: **When was their municipio established?** Are its borders the same today as when it was established? What factors have affected the population growth of their municipio? To answer these questions, students will need to obtain census information for Puerto Rico and their municipio. Have them start with a visit to their local or school library.

Answers:
Page 10:
1. Cataño
2. Vieques
3. Bayamón
4. Hormigueros
5. Río Piedras
6. Censo
7. The transformation of the economy from agricultural to industrial during the 1950s caused a net migration of Puerto Rican workers to the U.S. in search of employment.
8. A large number of Puerto Ricans who had emigrated to the United States returned to Puerto Rico.
Lesson 2
Activity Worksheet

Name: ______________________

Census at a Glance


The U.S. Census is mandated by Article 1, Section 2 of the U.S. Constitution, which requires an enumeration of the population of the United States every 10 years.

The U.S. Census Bureau conducts a decennial census, or complete count, of all the people living in the United States and its territories, including Puerto Rico. For Puerto Rico, census workers leave a census questionnaire at each housing unit for residents to complete and mail back.

All individual information collected for the census is confidential. Census workers can be fined and/or jailed for releasing this information, and the Census Bureau itself is forbidden by law from sharing such information with other government agencies.

The first census of the United States was taken in 1790. The first U.S. decennial census in Puerto Rico was taken in 1910. Puerto Rico became a part of the United States in 1898 as a result of the Spanish-American War.

In addition to taking a complete count of the population, the U.S. Census Bureau also collects information about housing, age, race, education, and economic indicators.

The census is important because the information obtained helps federal and local governments determine where new roads, parks, schools, hospitals, and other services are needed. A new school and library, for example, could be built in your neighborhood based on data indicating a large increase in the number of school-age children living there.

One of the goals of Census 2000 is to have all households complete and return their forms by mail. When census forms are not returned, the U.S. Census Bureau must hire people called enumerators to visit individual homes and record the information in person — a process that increases costs sixfold.

The U.S. Census Bureau plans long in advance for every census. While conducting a census, the Census Bureau is already planning for the next census, even though it is more than 10 years away.

Census day is April 1, 2000: All people living in the U.S. and its territories on this day are included in the official count.
A History of the Census in Puerto Rico

To answer the following questions and solve the word puzzle, you’ll need to compare the 1910 and 1990 population maps of Puerto Rico.

1. Which coastal municipio was created after 1910? __ __ __ __ __
2. Which island municipio’s population has declined since 1910? __ __ __ __
3. Between 1910 and 1990, this municipio jumped four spots in population rank from 6th to 2nd: __ __ __ __ __ __
4. Which western municipio is not to be found on the 1910 map? __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __
5. Since 1910, the municipio of San Juan has expanded to include which municipio? __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ ___