

1840

Object: *1840 List of Revolutionary War Pensioners*

Census data are not only used for [apportionment of representatives](#), but also to determine the allocation of resources and identify the needs of the people. Therefore, the census must be more than a simple count of people. Starting in [1790](#), when the number of white males over the age of 16 allowed our new federal government to determine how many men there were of military age, the census questions have changed to reflect the needs of the government and its people.

As our nation grew and changed, so did the scope of the questions. [1810](#) saw the addition of questions about the nation's manufactures. In 1820, we began collecting data on "foreigners not naturalized" and [agricultural pursuits](#). The questions continued to expand into vital statistics and institutions. The [1840 Census](#) included questions on the disabled, schools, and the number of people still collecting pensions for service in the [Revolutionary War and other military service](#). In [1850](#), the unit of enumeration changed from the household to the individual. This marked the beginning of the collection of [social data](#), including questions on taxation, churches, pauperism, and crime.

The creation of a [permanent Census Bureau in 1902](#) allowed for the [expansion of survey-taking](#) beyond the decennial demographic and economic censuses. Depending on the needs of government agencies, the census has asked questions about military service, place of birth, education, vital statistics, and many other topics. Today, the Census Bureau conducts more than 100 surveys and censuses each year. This enables government agencies to better understand the people they serve.

Final population count: 17,063,353