

Kid Scoop

THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE



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Everyone Counts!



Every 10 years, every person in the United States gets counted. The count, called the **census**, is required by the U.S. Constitution. It lets the government know how many people live in the United States, including citizens and non-citizens.



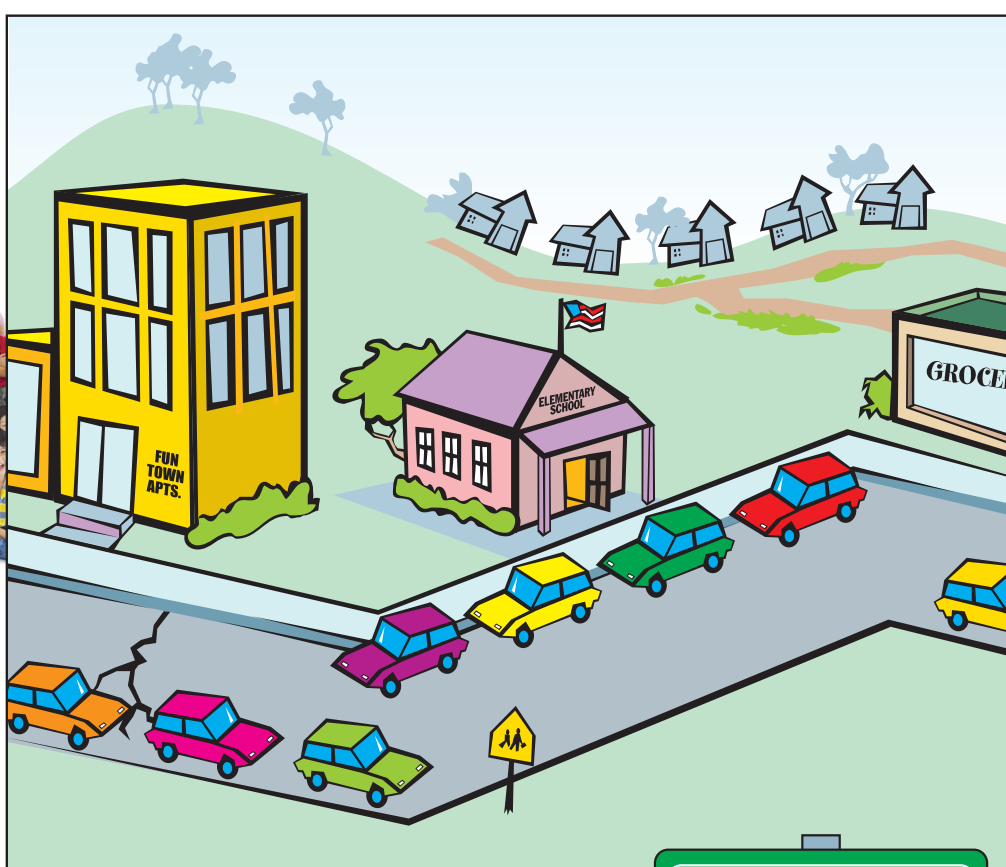
One of the main reasons for the census is to be sure that each state is represented fairly in Congress. The number of representatives that can be elected from each state depends upon how many people live in that state.



The census also tells where people live, how many people are in each household and much more.

The government also uses the census to provide important services. These services include roads, schools, hospitals and fire departments.

Standards Link: Social Science: Current Events.



You Decide

Imagine you are a member of the U.S. House of Representatives. You are looking at Fun Town and trying to decide what services are needed and what services will be needed in 10 years.

Circle the services they need now. Draw a line around the services they will need in 10 years.

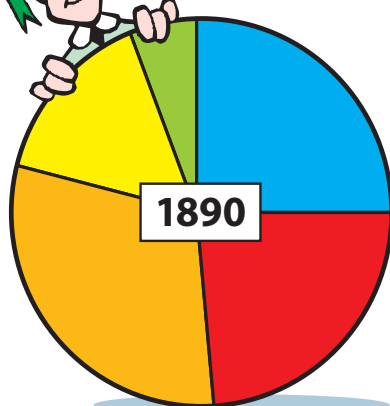
- hospital
- roads
- high school
- fire department
- elementary school
- public transportation

Fun Town Number of People	
Ages 0-9:	550
Ages 10-19:	1,260
Ages 20-39:	620
Ages 40-59:	420
Ages 60+:	275

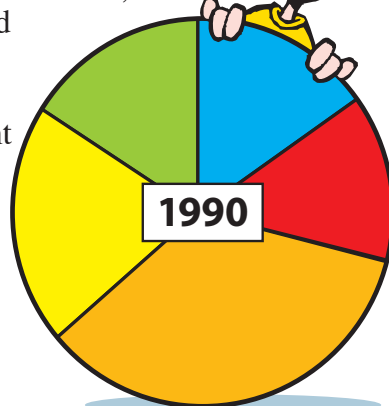
Standards Link: History/Social Science: Students understand and distinguish cause, effect, sequence and correlation in historical events including long and short-term causal relationships.

The Census: Then and Now

The first census was taken in 1790. Since that time, the U.S. Government has counted people every 10 years.



The number of people in different age groups has changed over the past 200 years. These two charts show the ages of people in 1890 and in 1990. How has the size of each age group changed? What does this tell us?



AGES: 0-9 10-19 20-39 40-59 60+

Standards Link: Math: Interpret results summarized and displayed in charts.

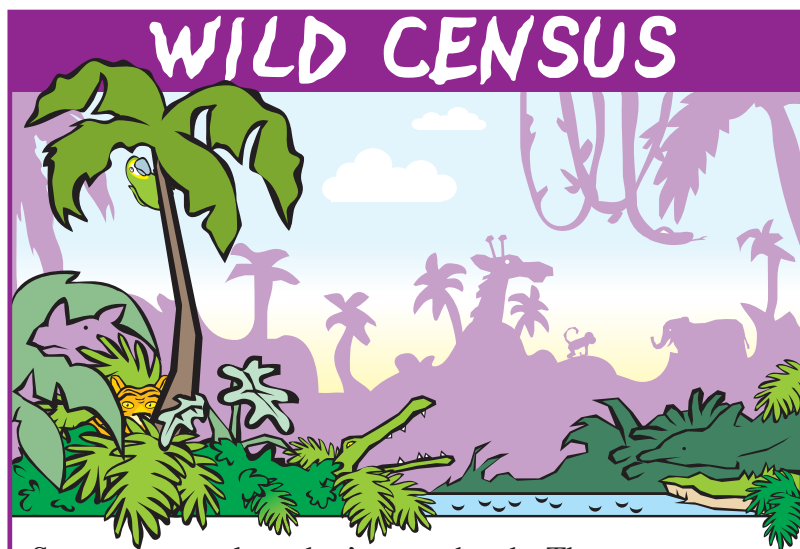
Extra! Extra!

In the News Count

How many of each of the following can you find in today's newspaper:

- pictures of women
- pictures of men
- pictures of boys
- pictures of girls
- pictures of animals

Standards Link: Math: Compare, sort and count common objects.



Some census takers don't count heads. They count beaks or fins or tails. Volunteers and scientists all over the world count wild animals. They do this to find out if animals are becoming extinct. How many animals can you find in the picture above?

Standards Link: Visual discrimination.

Double Double Word Search

- CENSUS
- UNITED
- COUNTED
- GOVERNMENT
- SERVICES
- PEOPLE
- STATE
- FIRE
- FINS
- NUMBER
- HEADS
- PERSON
- FAMILY
- MANY
- DECIDE

Find the words in the puzzle. How many of them can you find on this page?

M	E	T	N	U	M	B	E	R	H
F	V	C	O	U	N	T	E	D	E
A	P	E	O	P	L	E	D	F	A
M	U	N	I	T	E	D	E	V	D
I	O	S	E	R	V	I	C	E	S
L	C	U	T	L	F	F	I	M	T
Y	N	S	O	S	I	T	D	A	A
G	O	V	E	R	N	M	E	N	T
N	U	P	E	R	S	O	N	Y	E

Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognized identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

What if you were in charge?

Choose a social problem that is currently being covered in your newspaper. Make a list of all the groups of people concerned about this issue. What does each group think about the issue? What do you think could be done to keep as many people as possible happy?

Standards Link: History/Social Science.

Five kids under an umbrella. Why did none get wet?



ANSWER: It wasn't raining!



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