

2010 Census: It's About Us

Have you heard? The Census in Schools **It's About Us** program is ready for your classroom! **Visit www.census.gov/schools today!**

Quick-Start

TEACHING GUIDE



**TRY THE FUN
MINI-LESSONS
INSIDE!** Then go to
www.census.gov/schools
for more FREE K-8
lessons and resources.



It's about us

2010 CENSUS IN SCHOOLS

Welcome to a new, multi-lesson program from the U.S. Census Bureau. This quick-start guide introduces the FREE lessons available online and features activities to jump-start census excitement in your classroom.

Here are just a few ways that the Census in Schools It's About Us program meets your curriculum goals:

- **K-2:** Lessons focus on reading, writing, math, community, and the concept of change.
- **3-4:** Lessons offer a hands-on application of social studies, reading and writing, math, and mapping concepts.
- **5-6:** Lessons reinforce social studies concepts of history, government, map reading, civics, and growth.
- **7-8:** Lessons use real-world examples to reinforce social studies and community-service concepts.

Scope and Sequence

GRADES K-8

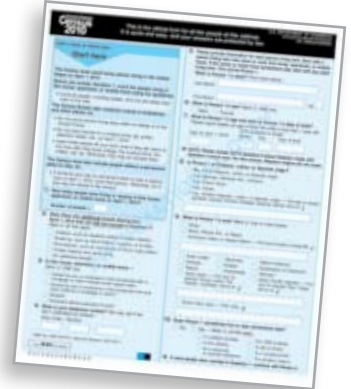
The **It's About Us** program focuses on four major strands. Following is an overview of the grade-specific lessons within these strands. Review the complete standards matrix and download the FREE lessons available online at www.census.gov/schools.

Lesson	Strand	Curriculum Connections	Skills
K-4			
1 It's About Us	About the Census	Reading, Listening, Geography	K-2: Read and/or listen to a short story and answer comprehension questions
			3-4: Participate in a Reader's Theater activity and answer comprehension questions
2 Mapping Our Home	Community Participation	Map Skills, Math, Civics	K-2: Create maps of a fictional town to reinforce community
			3-4: Read maps and participate in a role-playing activity
3 Then and Now	Map Literacy	Map Skills, Reading & Writing, Civics	K-2: Read a classroom map to find data
			3-4: Read thematic maps to understand the concept of change over time
4 A Class Census	Managing Data	Math, Reading & Writing	K-4: Use censuses to understand data collection and interviews
5-8			
1 Map Data and the Census	Map Literacy	Civics, English Language Arts, Map Skills, Online	5-6: Read and analyze a reading passage; conduct an interview
			7-8: Analyze data on thematic maps to understand the benefits of the census
2 About the Census	About the Census	Civics, Map Skills	5-6: Use census data; participate in an activity about privacy
			7-8: Explore the history of the census; participate in a privacy role-playing activity
3 Why You Count	Community Participation	Mathematics, Civics	5-6: Conduct a classroom census
			7-8: Create a multimedia campaign to help educate communities about the census
4 Take a Census	Managing Data	Mathematics, Map Skills, Civics	5-6: Conduct a mock census
			7-8: Use local data to reach a decision that benefits the community

FREE

Lessons, worksheets, assessments, and resources are available online now at www.census.gov/schools.

The 2010 Census In Your School



The census happens only once every 10 years. Government at all levels will rely on the data from the 2010 Census to make decisions that affect you, your students, and their families.

What does the census mean for you and your students?

A full and accurate census response is crucial to services you and your students depend on, including Title 1 allocations, college loan programs, school improvements, public roads, and transportation. In March 2010, the Census Bureau will deliver a short questionnaire to every household in the nation. You can help your students and their parents understand why it's important to participate.

Mini-lessons

Turn the page for mini-lessons perfect for building student interest in this exciting moment in our history.

Scope and Sequence

Review the Scope and Sequence chart on the next page for an overview of the **It's About Us** lessons.

Generate Classroom Excitement

- 1. TRY A MINI-ACTIVITY:** Use one of the hands-on ideas in this quick-start guide to introduce students to the 2010 Census and what it means to them.
- 2. DISPLAY THE CLASSROOM MAP:** Post the enclosed map in an area of your classroom where students can get up close to real-world census data.
- 3. MAKE CONNECTIONS:** Review the Scope and Sequence chart inside to see how the Census in Schools program fits into your curriculum.
- 4. GET FREE LESSON PLANS:** Download the entire Census in Schools curriculum for your grade level at www.census.gov/schools.
- 5. HOST A COUNTDOWN:** Create a Census Countdown Planner and organize a different activity for each month leading up to Census Day on April 1, 2010.

It's About Us **Mini-lessons**

Introduce the 2010 Census with these hands-on activities.

MINI-LESSON 1: **What a Character!**

GOAL: To create a community and identify its wants and needs



Directions:

1. Ask each student to brainstorm a fictional character (e.g., a person, animal, magical being, etc.). Ask students to illustrate their characters on one side of an index card and provide the following information on the other:
 - Character's name
 - Character's favorite thing to do
 - Character's age
 - Other residents of his/her/its home
2. Divide students into groups. Ask students to introduce their characters to the group and discuss what it would be like for their characters to live in the same town. *What would the town need for entertainment? Would it need a school? What else would it need?*
3. Have groups share their conclusions. Explain that the U.S. government takes a census (population count) every 10 years to collect data about the people who live in the United States.
4. Look at local census data and analyze the needs of your own state or community by downloading your grade level's **Community Participation** lesson at www.census.gov/schools.

MINI-LESSON 2: **Map Madness**

GOAL: To use maps to understand population and density



Directions:

1. Challenge students to estimate the population of your state. Encourage them to explain their reasoning.
2. Gather around the wall map and look at the side labeled **United States Population**. Invite a volunteer to read the actual population as stated on the map. Were student estimates close? *Why or why not?* Compare your state's population to those of the states around you. *Is it bigger or smaller? Why do students think this is?*
3. Discuss what the population is like in your county. *Do most people live close together or far apart?* Look at the side of the wall map labeled **United States Demographics** and find the population density, or persons per square mile, in your area.
4. Use other thematic maps to learn about your state and county by downloading your grade level's lesson about **Map Literacy** at www.census.gov/schools.

Map ideas



Get the most out of your wall map! Try one of these ideas.

- **FIND A FEATURE:** Give students a list of geographical features, such as skyscrapers, ski slopes, farms, national parks, or beaches, and ask students where they would expect to find each feature. *Why? Are there any features unique to a certain state?*

It's About Us **Mini-lessons**

Introduce the 2010 Census with these hands-on activities.

MINI-LESSON 3: **More or Less**

GOAL: To explore how population changes over time



MATH

Directions:

1. Divide students into small, even groups. Ask groups to imagine that they are each a town and have them stand in separate areas of the classroom.
2. Give each student a token and invite students to pretend that they can trade in their tokens as a group for something that is good for their community, such as a park, school, or baseball field. Have group members decide together how they will use their tokens. Write each community's choice on the board.
3. Randomly add new people to each of the groups (e.g., ask everyone wearing jeans to move one group to the left, or ask everyone with brown eyes to be in a new community).
4. Ask the groups to have another discussion about how their tokens should be spent. *Did the population changes cause any of the groups to change their plans? Why or why not?*
5. Analyze and graph population and demographic data by downloading your grade level's **Managing Data** lesson at www.census.gov/schools.

MINI-LESSON 4: **Census Quest**

GOAL: To conduct a classroom census



CIVICS

Directions:

1. If your students wanted to improve an aspect of your classroom, what would it be? Invite them to find out by creating a classroom census.
2. As a class, choose one or two questions that would lead to classroom improvements (e.g., *Do you like posters? Do you like student art or poetry on the walls? What, if anything, is difficult to see when sitting at your desks?*)
3. Write the census question(s) on the board. Explain that a census is confidential. Have students secretly write their answers on sticky notes.
4. Collect the sticky notes. Tally the results in a simple bar graph by grouping all the same answers in a vertical column. *What do students notice about the graph? How could you improve your classroom based on the results? What other information do students think it would be interesting to collect?*
5. Conduct more in-depth censuses in your school or classroom by downloading your grade level's **About the Census** lesson at www.census.gov/schools.

■ **MAKE A NIGHTTIME MAP:** The lights from big cities can be seen from space. Use the **United States Demographics** map to create a nighttime map of the United States—the greater the population density, the brighter the spot!

■ **DESIGN AN ICON:** Invite students to design icons for geographical features such as the Rocky Mountains, the Great Lakes, and the Mississippi River.

■ **ROUTE 48:** Challenge students to find a route that passes through every contiguous state without backtracking.

■ **STATELY STATISTICS:** Encourage your class to explore a state that is not their own! Ask student pairs to research the geography, government, size, and recent census data for a state of their choice and present their findings to the class.

DOWNLOAD

the Census in Schools Curriculum Today

Don't miss out on the complete Census in Schools curriculum! Go to www.census.gov/schools to download the free program tailored to your grade level's core standards.



HERE'S A SNEAK PEEK OF WHAT YOU'LL FIND:



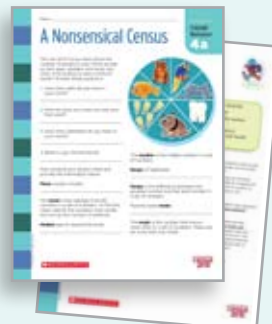
GRADES K-2:

- A fun reading and listening comprehension activity
- An introduction to community and why it's important
- An on-your-feet introduction to population change
- A simple census to help students learn more about each other



GRADES 3-4:

- A Reader's Theater activity
- Exciting map-reading practice
- An opportunity to research and record information about your community
- A simple census to understand why population data are collected every 10 years



GRADES 5-6:

- A critical look at the history of the census
- How data can be used to understand communities
- Volunteerism opportunities
- Data analysis including the use of mean, median, and mode



GRADES 7-8:

- A review of census data through a historical lens
- Analysis of data using a variety of thematic maps
- Real-world applications of government and civics
- Community-outreach opportunities