



## Florida Literacy Coalition

### Lesson - Advanced

Duration of lesson: 60 minutes

**Objective: Students will learn what the US Census is, when it will take place, how to participate and the benefits of the 2020 Census.**

Recommendations:

- It is recommended that instructors/tutors have census materials which they can print in any language available right from the census website; these materials may be available in various languages. Please visit <https://2020census.gov/>
- Instructors may post posters in their classrooms about the Census to encourage students to participate. Census flyers can be downloaded from <https://floridaliteracy.org/censustoolkit/Census%20Toolkit%20flyer.pdf>
- Instructors should be ready to take the Census survey themselves even before introducing this topic to students.
- It is recommended that instructors/tutors use as many visuals as possible (videos, maps, pictures) to show their students how the census works.
- Convey to your students that completing the questionnaire doesn't take a long time. It should only take anywhere between 10-15 minutes.
- Instructors have the option to use the PPT included with these lesson plans especially if they need to cover the information with their students virtually.

Instructions:

1. Display on the board, draw on the board, and/or distribute to students **Activity C1**. The objective of this activity is for students to write down and discuss what they already know about the census. At this point that is the only section that students need to complete. Allow maximum 10 minutes to complete this activity.
2. Distribute the reading handout **Activity C2**. Read this informational handout with the students. Have them take turns reading this page. Allow about 10 minutes for students to answer all the questions. Check all the responses as a class.
3. Ask students if there is any information that wasn't covered in this reading that they want to know and write those questions on **Activity C1**. Allow them about 5 minutes to complete this section. Tell them that they will have an opportunity to complete the last section after they watch a video.
4. Tell your student that they will be watching a video from PBS NewsHour about the Census. The link to the video is <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=895dO2hBdgk>; this video will give them a visual and auditory tool to learn what the Census is and answer many of the questions that people normally have on the 2020 Census. You may need to pause the video to break the information into smaller sections so that they can understand. As you pause, ask students if they have any questions before continuing the video. The video with all the pauses may take anywhere between 10-12 minutes.

5. Allow about 10 minutes of the class for students to complete the last section of Activity C1. They will be writing what they learned about the census between the reading they had and the video they watched during class. Have students share what they have learned.
6. Finish this class with a walkthrough of the online census questionnaire. Use the “**2020 Census Online Questionnaire Walkthrough Practice**” handout to walk them through each question and screen. You also have the option to do an on-line practice session which will allow you to show your students how to complete each question by visiting [https://nelrc.org/courses/practice\\_census/story.html](https://nelrc.org/courses/practice_census/story.html). Be sure to address all the notes in red letters on the “**2020 Census Online Questionnaire Walkthrough Practice**” handout; this gives them key information to complete the questionnaire accurately.

Note:

- The invitations from the U.S. Census Bureau were sent out from March 12-20. April 1<sup>st</sup> is census day; census takers will follow up with anyone who hasn’t responded starting **May 28<sup>th</sup> but households can respond by phone, mail or online up to August 14<sup>th</sup>**.
- It will be extremely helpful to provide them with a sample census survey; this survey can be found <https://2020census.gov/content/dam/2020census/materials/partners/2019-08/2020-informational-questionnaire.pdf>; the link to the on-line questionnaire is <https://my2020census.gov/>; additionally show them a sample of the invitation letter that they will receive which can be found <https://2020census.gov/content/dam/2020census/materials/partners/2019-12/2020-informational-invitation-letter.pdf>
- Inform your students that both the invitation letter and or the questionnaire will be addressed “TO RESIDENT AT” followed by their address and that this letter or questionnaire has a Census ID number which is used at the time of completing the questionnaire. If they don’t have this number and they are completing it on-line, they can choose the option that says “If you don’t have a Census ID, click here”; then complete the questions prompted on each screen.
- Instructors can also encourage students to bring the invitation letter/questionnaire that they will or have already received in the mail.
- Remind students that this questionnaire can be completed on-line, by phone or by mail and that it is available in 13 different languages (English, Spanish, Chinese, Vietnamese, Korean, Russian, Arabic, Tagalog, Polish, French, Haitian Creole, Portuguese, and Japanese). For information on Census language support visit <https://www.census.gov/newsroom/press-releases/2020/languages.html>
  - **ON-LINE** is available in English, Spanish, Chinese (simplified), Vietnamese, Korean, Russian, Arabic, Tagalog, Polish, French, Haitian Creole, Portuguese, and Japanese.
  - **BY PHONE** is available in English, Spanish, Chinese (Mandarin & Cantonese), Vietnamese, Korean, Russian, Arabic, Tagalog, Polish, French, Haitian Creole, Portuguese, and Japanese.
  - **PAPER QUESTIONNAIRE** is available in English and Spanish.
- Ethnicity and race are different; students should know that “Hispanic” isn’t a race.
- **People can call 844-330-2020** for questions or support.

Teachers cannot:

- Respond Census questions for their students
- Encourage lying on the census
- Share any information they may learn about their students

Source: <https://2020census.gov> and <https://floridaliteracy.org/2020census.html>