

## ✓ YES, WE COUNT!

### The US Census Reading Activity C2

#### What is the census?

The census is a headcount of everyone who lives in the United States. It is conducted every 10 years. Everyone who lives in the United States has to take part in the census. It is a requirement under the U.S. Constitution.

The 2020 Census will count everyone living in the United States on April 1, 2020 regardless of their immigration status.

#### Why is it important?

The census provides critical data that lawmakers, business owners, teachers, and many others use to provide daily services, products, and support for you and your community. Every year, \$650 billion in federal funding go to hospitals, fire departments, schools, roads, and other resources based on census data. This funding is divided all over the United States.

The results of the census also determine the number of seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives, and they are used to draw congressional and state legislative districts.

#### Who is required to respond?

Everyone living in the 50 states, District of Columbia, and five U.S. territories (Puerto Rico, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands) is required by law to be counted in the 2020 Census.

Getting a complete and accurate population count is critically important. That's why your response is required by law. Every US citizen, lawful permanent resident and all immigrants whether documented or not are required to participate in the census. Everyone living in the United States on April 1<sup>st</sup> is required to complete the census.

#### What is your information confidential?

The Census Bureau is required by law to protect your answers. Your responses are used only to produce statistics. The Census Bureau does not disclose any personal information. The Census Bureau will never ask for your social security number, your bank account, a donation, and anything on behalf of a political party.

#### How can people complete it?

In mid-March, homes across the country will begin receiving invitations to complete the 2020 Census. Once the invitation arrives, you should respond for your home in one of three ways: online, by phone, or by mail.

April 1 is Census Day, a key reference date for the 2020 Census. When completing the census, you will include everyone living in your home on April 1, 2020. People have until August 14<sup>th</sup> to

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complete the census. The Questionnaire doesn't take that long. It is about 10 questions on each person's name, age, sex, race and the relationship to the main householder. There is not citizenship question, and it is available in 13 different languages. Anybody can call 844-330-2020 if they have questions or require additional support.

### COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. What is the census?  
IT'S A HEAD COUNT
2. When is census day? When is the last day to respond?  
APRIL 1<sup>ST</sup>; THE LAST DAY TO RESPOND IS AUGUST 14<sup>TH</sup>.
3. How does the census help each community?  
IT PROVIDES CRITICAL DATA THAT LAWMAKERS, BUSINESS OWNERS, TEACHERS, AND MANY OTHERS USE TO PROVIDE DAILY SERVICES, PRODUCTS, AND SUPPORT FOR YOU AND YOUR COMMUNITY. IT ALSO DETERMINES THE NUMBER OF SEATS EACH STATE GETS IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVE. THE INFORMATION IS ALSO USED TO DRAW CONGRESSIONAL AND STATE LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS
4. Who mandates the census?  
THE CONSTITUTION
5. Who is required by law to complete the census?  
EVERYONE LIVING IN THE UNITED STATES
6. Is the census only including 50 states? If no, what other places will it include?  
NO. IT INCLUDES THE 50 STATES, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, AND FIVE U.S. TERRITORIES (PUERTO RICO, AMERICAN SAMOA, THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS, GUAM, AND THE U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS)
7. How do people take the census?  
THEY CAN TAKE IT BY MAIL, ON-LINE OR BY PHONE.
8. What kinds of information isn't collected by the census?  
THE CENSUS BUREAU WILL NEVER ASK FOR YOUR SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER, YOUR BANK ACCOUNT, A DONATION, AND ANYTHING ON BEHALF OF A POLITICAL PARTY.
9. What are your responses used for?  
FOR STATISTICS ONLY
10. What happens if you don't respond by April 1, 2020?  
CENSUS TAKER WILL BE SHOWING UP AT YOUR HOUSE BETWEEN MAY AND JUNE IF YOU DON'T RESPOND BY APRIL 1<sup>ST</sup>