



Florida Literacy Coalition

Lesson - Beginners

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. Start with the word "Census" on the board.
2. Ask you students "What is the Census?"
3. Do a headcount of your class; then tell your students the census for this class is _____ students. This will give them an idea that it is about counting a group.
4. Show a video about the Census <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oXZAe8XYeNQ>; this video will give them a visual and auditory tool to learn what the census is. You may need to pause the video to break the information into smaller sections so that they can understand. Group students in 3-4 and distribute **Activity A1** at the end of the video. Instructors can project this worksheet and work as a class. Students can also be grouped in 3-4 people to go over every page and answer the questions. The class can also be divided into 4 groups and each group gets a page and answer the questions. Regardless of the way the class in broken into, instructor should go over the questions with the students as a whole class for each page.
5. Finish with a conversation practice; this is practice for students to complete the questionnaire by phone; use **Activity A2**; pair students and have them practice this dialogue so that they are expose to the kinds of questions on the questionnaire. Please remind your students that the questionnaire is available on-line, by mail or phone; it is also important to remind them that it is available in 13 languages.

Words from the video that instructors may want to define and discuss with their students:

Household	Accurate	Law enforcement
Headcount	Population	Landlord
Confidential	Census taker	Peace of mind
Questionnaire	Safe	

Note:

- The invitations from the U.S. Census Bureau were sent out from March 12-20. April 1st is census day; census takers will follow up with anyone who hasn't responded starting **May 28th but households can respond by phone, mail or online up to August 14th.**
- 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.
- Instructors do have the option to use the "2020 Census on-line Questionnaire Walkthrough Practice" handout to show their students step by step on how to complete the Questionnaire.

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>