

Get Counted!

Time Needed: 2 Class Periods

Materials:

- Student Handouts

Handouts:

- Reading (2 pages; class set)
- Vocabulary Foldable (1 page; class set)
- Activities (4 pages; class set)
- Optional Extension (1 page; class set)

Objectives: The student will be able to...

- Describe the census and its purpose
- Identify how often the census occurs
- Explain how communities are impacted by and benefit from census data
- Share how to complete the census

Step by Step

- ANTICIPATE** by asking students: Why does the school need to know how many students it has? Give students time to think and share with class. Possible responses might include: to hire the proper number of teachers; to prepare enough resources like books, desks, chairs, and lunches; to ensure that the school doesn't grow over its allowed capacity; etc.
- TELL** students that similar to the way in which the school needs to know how many students it has to better help it serve them, the country needs to know how many residents live here. Tell students that today they will be learning about the census—the ten year count of every person in the United States.
- DISTRIBUTE** the reading pages to the class. Read the reading pages with the class, pausing to discuss as needed.
- CHECK** for understanding by asking: What is the census? How often does it happen? What is it used for?
- REVIEW** vocabulary by having students complete the foldable activity. As time permits, students can pair up to quiz one another on key vocabulary terms after completing the foldable. Have students keep or paste their foldables in their notebooks or binders. They will use the vocabulary again to complete Activity E (Primary Source).
- DISTRIBUTE** the remaining activity pages to the class. Review instructions and allow time for students to complete each activity. You may wish to complete the Primary Source activity and the Practice Survey with students.
- REVIEW** the answers to the activities and discuss with students the importance of making sure that they are counted. Choose whether students will complete the optional extension.
- CLOSE** by asking students to share one thing they will share with their family about the upcoming census.

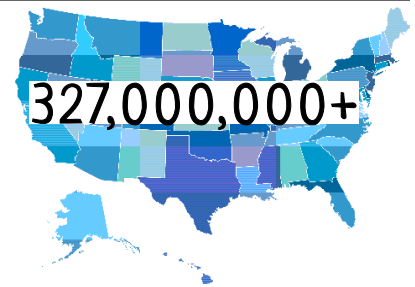
For more information on the upcoming census, visit www.census.gov.

Get Counted!

Name: _____

What is the Census?

The **census** is a count of every person in our country. It's our government's way of keeping track of our population. Every ten years, the government does a major count of every family and person, in every community across the country. The results help the government figure out what communities need and who should get what.



There are currently over 327 million people living in the United States.



The Framers thought the Census was so important they put it at the very beginning of the Constitution!

How Did the Census Start?

Article I, Section 2 of the U.S. Constitution called for a count of each state's population within three years after the first meeting of the new Congress. (And every ten years after that.) The population count would help our newly founded government figure out how to distribute the number of "**seats**" (which reflects the number of members) each state would get in the U.S. House of Representatives. That count was the first U.S. census. It happened in 1790. U.S. Marshals from district courts visited every home in the country—which only had thirteen states, three districts, and one territory at the time—and took a count of the men, women and children.

How Does It Work?

Since the first census a lot has changed. For one, U.S. Marshals no longer do the counting. Instead, we have a **Census Bureau**, an organization with thousands of people who work daily to complete the huge task of counting each and every person living in the United States. Every ten years, the Census Bureau distributes census surveys across the country. By March, households receive letters with instructions for how to complete the survey online, over the phone, or by mailing in a paper form. The Census Bureau also sends census workers called "door knockers" to rural areas and to houses that don't respond to the survey by early April to collect answers in person, too.



What Happens After Everyone Gets Counted?

Once everyone is counted, population data is shared with the President and U.S. Congress. States may lose or gain seats in the House of Representatives based on how their population has changed. The process of redistributing the House's 435 seats among the states is called **apportionment**, and it only happens after a census count. The seats are redistributed, or **reapportioned**, according to a **representation ratio** which helps ensure that each representative represents roughly the same number of people per state. Today, each representative in the House represents a little more than 747,000 people!

Get Counted!

Name: _____

Who's Counted?

A lot has changed about how people are counted. For one, now everyone is included. The first census counted white males and females and categorized them by age and gender. All other free persons, meaning mostly free blacks, were counted, too, but reported in one single category. Enslaved blacks were grouped into another category—but only counted as 3/5th of a person. Native Americans weren't counted at all, not until 1870. Today, the Census Bureau counts everyone equally. Your race doesn't matter and neither does citizenship status. The census count is a resident count, not a citizen count. If you live in the United States (or its surrounding territories), you must be counted.



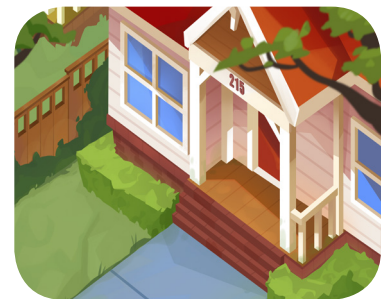
Is it Hard to Count Everyone?



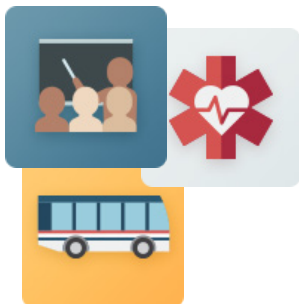
Counting every single person in the U.S. is a colossal task. Special workers called **enumerators** are hired by the Census Bureau help ensure an accurate count. But our country has hundreds of millions of diverse people, and some groups are harder to reach than others. Children ages 0-5, people who don't speak or read English well, the homeless, and some racial minorities have historically been hard for the Census Bureau to count. It's important to try to reach "**hard to count**" communities, because when people aren't fully counted, their communities miss out on the hundreds of billions of dollars the federal government distributes based on census data.

What Will the Census Ask?

The census only takes about ten minutes to complete. Only one person in your household needs to fill out the form. The census will ask for the number of people who live or stay at your home, their ages, gender, relationship to one another, and race. The census will also ask if each person is of Latino, Hispanic, or Spanish descent and if your family owns or rents your home. Any personal information like your name or address is kept private. The Census Bureau can't share that information with anyone, not even the FBI!



How Will the Census Affect Me?








Data from the census can be used to decide which communities will get money for new schools, better public buses and trains, and even hospitals. Businesses and city planners use the data to decide where to build factories, roads, offices, and stores, which help to create new jobs and improve neighborhoods. And considering that you'll be old enough to vote before the next census comes along, the results will determine the number of representatives you'll elect for your state and national governments and the amount of electoral votes your state will have in the 2024 and 2028 presidential elections. Make sure you're counted!

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Name: _____

Foldable. Define each word from the lesson and write a sentence using the word. Then sketch an image that will help you to remember its meaning in the space under each word. When you're done, fold and cut your foldable according to the directions and add it to your notebook or binder.

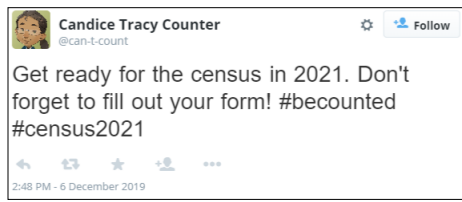
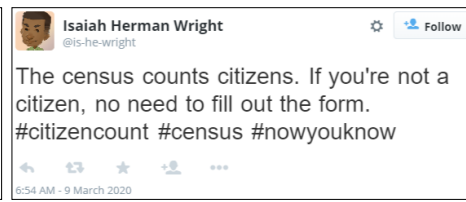
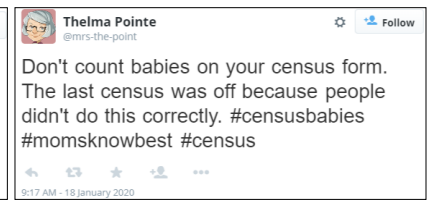
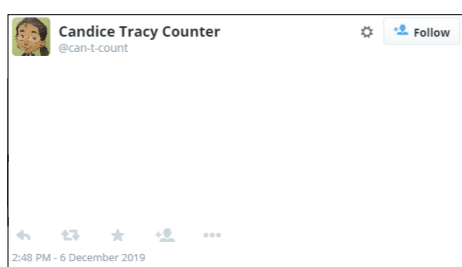


 Census	Definition: Sentence:
 Census Bureau	Definition: Sentence:
 Apportionment	Definition: Sentence:
 Representation Ratio	Definition: Sentence:
 Enumerator	Definition: Sentence:

Fold Here

Get Counted!

Name: _____

A. Misinformation Fake Out. It's important that people have correct information about the census. Don't be fooled by these deceptive social media posts. Read each post and fix it in the space below by sharing a corrected version.

 <p>Candice Tracy Counter @can-t-count</p> <p>Get ready for the census in 2021. Don't forget to fill out your form! #becounted #census2021</p> <p>2:48 PM - 6 December 2019</p>	 <p>Isaiah Herman Wright @is-he-wright</p> <p>The census counts citizens. If you're not a citizen, no need to fill out the form. #citizencount #census #nowyouknow</p> <p>6:54 AM - 9 March 2020</p>	 <p>Thelma Pointe @mrs-the-point</p> <p>Don't count babies on your census form. The last census was off because people didn't do this correctly. #censusbabies #momsknowbest #census</p> <p>9:17 AM - 18 January 2020</p>
 <p>2:48 PM - 6 December 2019</p>	 <p>6:54 AM - 9 March 2020</p>	 <p>9:17 AM - 18 January 2020</p>

B. The Census & You. Complete the chart by thinking about how each group listed will use the census data and how that data will eventually impact you! Write your answers in the space provided.

<h3 style="text-align: center;">The Census & Me</h3> <p style="text-align: center;">How the Census Affects You...</p>				
National Government	State and Local Government	City Planners	Businesses	You! (How will census data impact you?)
<i>The national government will use census data to...</i>	<i>State and local governments will use census data to...</i>	<i>City planners will use census data to...</i>	<i>Business will use census data to...</i>	<i>Here's how the census will impact me...</i>

Get Counted!

Name: _____

C. Hard to Count. Hard to count communities exist all over the United States and vary from location to location. What do you think would make a community hard to count? Read through some of the possible reasons, then for each group list the factors that could prevent an accurate count and think of possible solutions to overcome them.



- Access to information
- Location
- Access to resources in languages other than English
- Lack of permanent address
- Inability to complete the form
- Fear that information will not be kept private

Group	What do you think contributes to this group being undercounted?	What could the Census Bureau do to improve their count of this group?
Children ages 0-5		
Homeless		
New Residents		

Get Counted!

Name: _____

D. Primary Source. Read the excerpt and answer the questions. Some words have been defined for you. Others you'll have to figure out on your own. (Don't worry, we know you can do it!)

Article I, Section 2 of the U.S. Constitution

[Representatives and direct Taxes shall be **apportioned** among the several States which may be included within this Union, according to their respective Numbers, which shall be determined by adding to the whole Number of free Persons, including those bound to Service for a Term of Years, and excluding (not counting) Indians not taxed, three fifths of all other Persons.]¹ The actual **Enumeration** shall be made within three Years after the first Meeting of the Congress of the United States, and within every subsequent (next) Term of ten Years, in such Manner as they shall by Law direct. The Number of Representatives shall not exceed (be greater than) one for every thirty Thousand, but each State shall have at Least one Representative; and until such **enumeration** shall be made, the State of New Hampshire shall be entitled (able) to chuse (choose) three, Massachusetts eight, Rhode-Island and Providence Plantations one, Connecticut five, New-York six, New Jersey four; Pennsylvania eight, Delaware one, Maryland six, Virginia ten, North Carolina five, South Carolina five, and Georgia three.

¹The 14th Amendment, ratified in 1868, changed the rule that enslaved blacks be counted as 3/5th of a person.

1. How were representatives and direct taxes apportioned among the states?

2. When did the Constitution change to count enslaved blacks as whole persons?

3. In the reading you learned what an enumerator is. Now, use that knowledge and the context clues from the excerpt to write a definition for enumeration.

4. What was the representation ratio set by the U.S. Constitution?

5. How many representatives did each state have before the first census count?

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E. Practice Survey. Directions for completing the census will soon be making their way to your door. Practice by answering a few sample questions below. The questions here will cover the first 2 people in your home. The real census will have room for everyone living or staying in your home.

Start here OR go online to complete your 2020 Census questionnaire.

Use a blue or black pen.

Directions: Before you begin, use the guidelines here to help you get an accurate count of all the people in your home.

- Count everyone, including babies, living or sleeping in your home.
- Count anyone who doesn't have a permanent address who is staying with you on April 1st.
- Do not count anyone who lives away from your home on April 1st even if they will return to your home later (i.e. anyone away at college, in the Armed Forces, staying in a nursing home, jail, or prison.)

1. How many people live or stay in your home?

Number of people =

2. Is your house, apartment, or mobile home owned or rented? (Check one)

- Owned?
- Rented?
- Neither?

3. Answer the following questions about each of the people who live in your home. Start by listing the person who pays rent or owns the home as Person 1. If that person does not live in the home, you may start with any person.

Person 1:

a. First and Last Name

b. Gender (Check one)

- Male
- Female

c. Age and Birthday (if the person is less than a year old, write 0 for the age)

d. Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish descent?

- Yes
- No

e. Race or Ethnicity

Person 2:

a. First and Last Name

b. Gender (Check one)

- Male
- Female

c. Age and Birthday (if the person is less than a year old, write 0 for the age)

d. Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish descent?

- Yes
- No

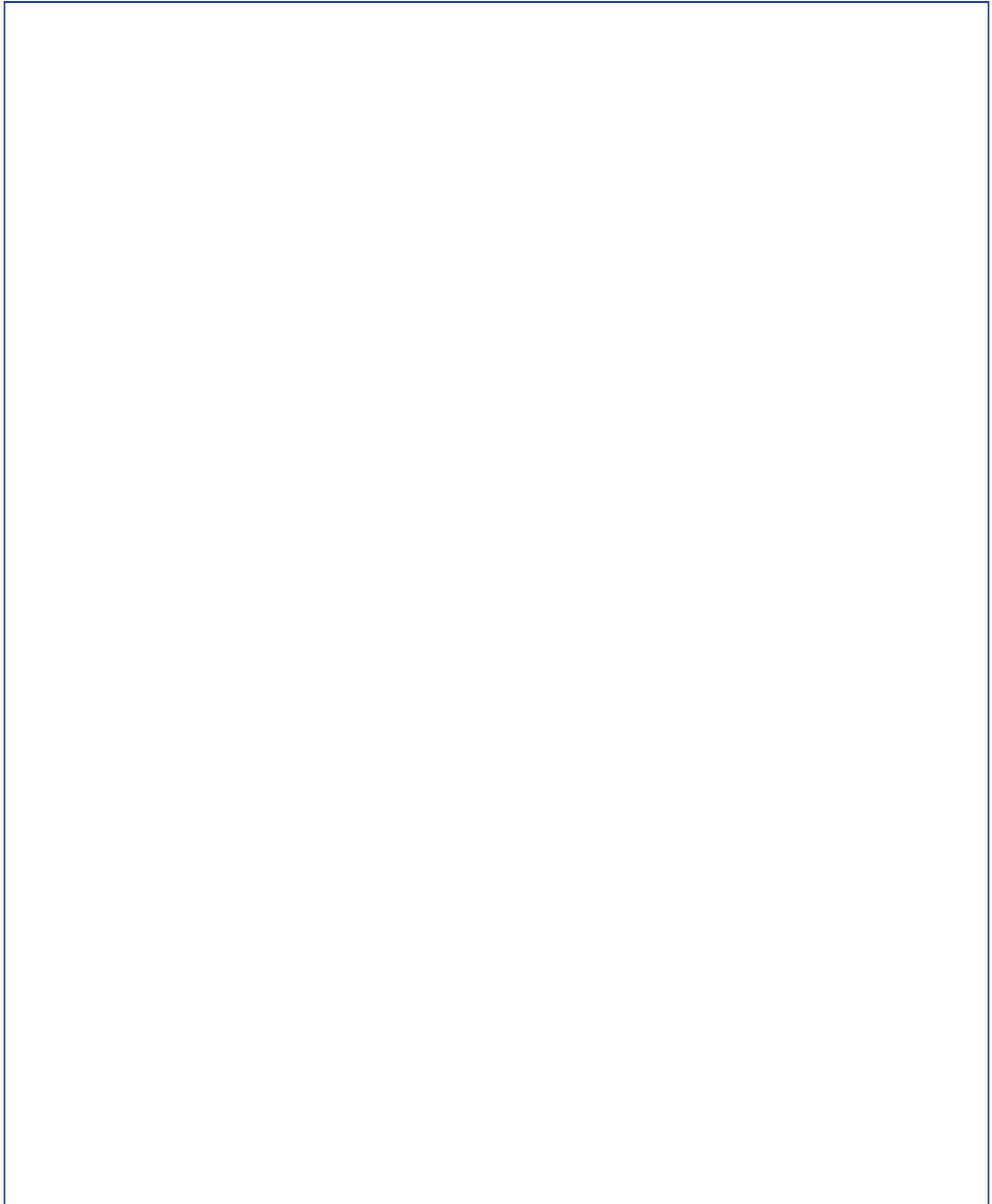
e. Race or Ethnicity

Thank you for completing the Sample Census Questionnaire!

Get Counted!

Name: _____






***Optional Activity.** Create a poster or PSA (public service announcement) to get the word out about the census and the importance of being counted. Be sure to include when the census will be happening, how people can complete it, and two other pieces of information about the census that you think will help your community ensure a complete and accurate count.



Get Counted!

**** TEACHER'S GUIDE ****

Foldable. Define each word from the lesson and write a sentence using the word. Then sketch an image that will help you to remember it's meaning in the space below the word. When you're done, fold and cut your foldable according to the directions and add it to your notebook or binder.

 Census	Definition: <i>a count of every person in our country that occurs every ten years</i> Sentence: <i>Answers will vary.</i>
 Census Bureau	Definition: <i>an organization with thousands of people working daily to complete the task of counting each and every person living in the United States</i> Sentence: <i>Answers will vary.</i>
 Apportionment	Definition: <i>the process of distributing the 435 seats in the House of Representatives to states based on their population</i> Sentence: <i>Answers will vary.</i>
 Representation Ratio	Definition: <i>the number of citizens per representative in congress</i> Sentence: <i>Answers will vary.</i>
 Enumerator	Definition: <i>a person who surveys and counts people for the census</i> Sentence: <i>Answers will vary.</i>

Fold Here

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**** TEACHER'S GUIDE ****

A. Misinformation Fake Out. It's important that people have correct information about the census. Don't be fooled by these deceptive social media posts. Read each post and fix it in the space below by sharing a corrected version.

<p style="text-align: center;"><i>2021 should be 2020</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Citizen should be resident</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Don't should be do</i></p>

B. The Census & You. Complete the chart by thinking about how each group listed will use the census data and how that data will eventually impact you! Write your answers in the space provided.

The Census & Me How the Census Affects You...				
National Government	State and Local Government	City Planners	Businesses	You! (How will census data impact you?)
<p><i>The national government uses the population count from the census to decide how many representatives and how many electoral votes each state will have. This data is also used to decide which communities to give money to for new schools, public transportation, etc.</i></p>	<p><i>Many state and local governments use census data to figure out how much funding communities need. They also use this data to figure out representation in state legislatures.</i></p>	<p><i>City planners use the data to decide where to put schools, libraries, hospitals and other things that people need.</i></p>	<p><i>Businesses use census data to decide which communities would be good to start a new business in. They use the data to decide where to build factories, offices, and stores, which can create jobs and improve neighborhoods.</i></p>	<p><i>Answers will vary. Students may list funding, resources, infrastructure, and political participation outcomes that will impact them and their communities as a result of the census data.</i></p>

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- Access to information
- Location
- Access to resources in languages other than English
- Lack of permanent address
- Inability to complete the form
- Fear that information will not be kept private

Group	What do you think contributes to this group being undercounted?	What could the Census Bureau do to improve their count of this group?
Children ages 0-5	<i>Answers will vary: Adults may forget to add all children to the census form, children who are staying with another adult temporarily may be miscounted, newborn babies may not yet be home on census day.</i>	<i>Remind parents and adults that children living or staying with them or born on April 1 should be counted in the census.</i>
Homeless	<i>Answers will vary: Lack of permanent address, location, and inability to complete the census form without access to internet, phone, or a mailing address may contribute to homeless populations being miscounted.</i>	<i>Provide community hubs where anyone without a permanent address can come to complete the census, send forms to shelters to complete, organize enumerators to locate people on foot.</i>
New Residents	<i>Answers will vary: Access to resources in languages other than English, fear that information will not be kept private, lack of permanent address or location may contribute to new residents being miscounted.</i>	<i>Translate the census and offer interpreters if help is needed to complete the form, emphasize that information will be kept private, provide community hubs where anyone without a permanent address can come to complete the form</i>

D. Primary Source. Read the excerpt and answer the questions. Some words have been defined for you. Others you'll have to figure out on your own. (Don't worry, we know you can do it!)

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¹The 14th Amendment, ratified in 1868, changed the rule that enslaved blacks be counted as 3/5th of a person.

1. How were representatives and direct taxes apportioned among the states?

"According to their respective Numbers, which shall be determined by adding to the whole Number of free Persons, including those bound to Service for a Term of Years, and excluding (not counting) Indians not taxed, three fifths of all other Persons."

2. When did the Constitution change to count enslaved blacks as whole persons?

The 14th Amendment, ratified in 1868, changed the rule that enslaved blacks be counted as 3/5th of a person.

3. In the reading you learned what an enumerator is. Now, use that knowledge and the context clues from the excerpt to write a definition for enumeration.

Enumeration – count

4. What was the representation ratio set by the U.S. Constitution?

"The Number of Representatives shall not exceed (be greater than) one for every thirty Thousand, but each State shall have at Least one Representative"

5. How many representatives did each state have before the first census count?

"The State of New Hampshire shall be entitled to chuse three, Massachusetts eight, Rhode-Island and Providence Plantations one, Connecticut five, New-York six, New Jersey four, Pennsylvania eight, Delaware one, Maryland six, Virginia ten, North Carolina five, South Carolina five, and Georgia three."