

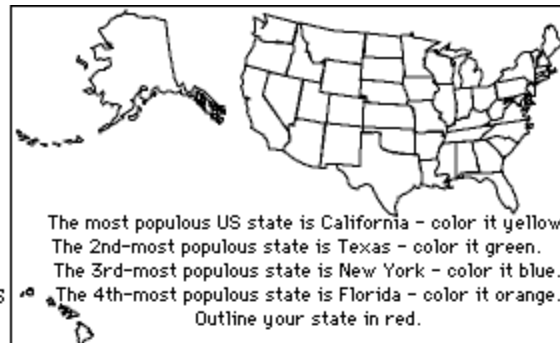
# Census

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

## What is a Census?

A census is an official count of the number of people in a region. The survey is done by a government, usually periodically.

Censuses have been taken by governments for thousands of years. The name census is from the Latin word *censere*, which means "to assess." The census was done in ancient Rome in order to keep track of men for military service and to aid in tax collection.



## The US Census

The US census has been taken every 10 years (in years ending with zero) since 1790. It is a massive survey that is done to determine how many people live in the country, where they live, and other important socio-economic information.

Questionnaires are sent to every household in the country. The census asks questions about the number of people living in each house, their gender, age, ethnicity, and how the people in that household are related to one another. Randomly-selected people are also asked more in-depth questions, including information about the type of home they live in, number of bedrooms, plumbing availability, fuel costs, rent/mortgage costs, education, citizenship, disabilities, number of cars, occupation, employer, work hours, income, transportation used, and other data.

The population figures are used to determine how many members of the US House of Representatives represent an area, and to allocate federal funding for local programs. Locations with more people get more representatives in Congress, and places with more people may get more government funding for local projects.

Response to the census is required by law. The information is confidential, but becomes public after 72 years.

## Questions

1. A census counts the number of \_\_\_\_\_ in a place.
2. How often is the US census taken? \_\_\_\_\_
3. The US census is taken in years ending in \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Data from the US census determine how many representatives an area has in the \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Is response to the census required by law? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Census Worksheet Answers**

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4. Data from the US census determine how many representatives an area has in the \_\_\_\_\_ US House of Representatives \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Is response to the census required by law? \_\_\_\_\_ yes \_\_\_\_\_

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