

# Educator Update

## Census In Schools



June 2009

### 2010 Census

The 2010 Census is less than one year away, and preparations are in full swing. Activities to lay the groundwork for the nationwide effort to count everyone residing in the United States are visible across the country. Operation milestones include:

- Address Canvassing is wrapping up: Approximately 140,000 census workers, hired from within each local community, covered most neighborhoods to identify each residential address. Address Canvassing helps ensure everyone residing in the United States receives a 2010 Census questionnaire. It's the first visible sign that the decennial census is approaching and the first use of hand-held technology by the Census Bureau. The result of this effort will be the most comprehensive U.S. address list in existence.
- Partnership Recruitment: Partnerships with for-profit and nonprofit organizations and government entities are vital to raising awareness of and increasing participation in this historic event. More than 350 national partners have already signed on to spread the message that achieving a complete and accurate count is important in 2010.

The Census Bureau has launched a new Web site for partners, [2010census.gov/partners](http://2010census.gov/partners), that includes information, resources, and materials to communicate important messages about the census. Materials include fact sheets, logos, newsletters, a timeline, activity guides, and more. Get students involved in exploring these materials. Students who learn about the census – its purpose, uses, and importance – are likely to participate in the census and become advocates for the census participation of their families and communities.

### Fourth of July 2009 Facts and Classroom Activities



For more information, visit [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov) and click on "Facts for Features."

On this day in 1776, the Declaration of Independence was approved by the Continental Congress, setting the 13 colonies on the road to freedom as a sovereign nation. As always, this most American of holidays will be marked by parades, fireworks, and backyard barbecues across the country.

It's a red, white, and blue holiday with students at pools, not schools, and fun being the schedule for the day. Below is information related to the holiday from the Census Bureau's Facts for Features; suggested classroom activities follow each informational segment.

### Population Numbers—Facts

#### 2.5 million

In July 1776, the estimated number of people living in the newly independent nation.

#### 307 million

The nation's population on this July Fourth.

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### Population Numbers—Classroom Activities:

Have students find the population clock on the Census Bureau's home page, [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov). Locate "Data Finders" and click on "Population Clocks." Click on "U.S. PopClock" and observe the "Component Settings" for the current month. Discuss with students the method for determining national population estimates. As they view the page, have students observe the continual change in the updated population numbers.

Tell students that they are going to find the number of people living in the U.S. in the year that several of their friends and/or relatives were born. First, have students prepare a chart identifying the interviewees as "Person #1, Person #2" etc. to preserve privacy. Then interview each person asking the year of his/her birth. Next, have students locate and chart the population estimate for each year of birth by clicking on "Historical National Population Estimates." (Have students note that prior to 1950, numbers exclude Alaska and Hawaii. "Total population" includes Armed Forces abroad; "civilian population" excludes Armed Forces.) The information can be used to create a bar or line graph.

### Fourth of July Cookouts—Facts

#### More than 1 in 4

The chance that the hot dogs and pork sausages consumed on the Fourth of July originated in Iowa. The Hawkeye State was home to 19.3 million hogs and pigs on March 1, 2009. This represents more than one-fourth of the nation's total. North Carolina (9.4 million) and Minnesota (7.3 million) were the runners-up.

#### 6.8 billion pounds

Total production of cattle and calves in Texas in 2007. Chances are good that the beef hot dogs, steaks, and burgers on your backyard grill came from the Lone Star State, which accounted for about one-sixth of the nation's total production. And if the beef did not come from Texas, it very well may have come from Nebraska (4.7 billion pounds) or Kansas (4.1 billion pounds).

#### 6

Number of states in which the revenue from broiler chickens was \$1 billion or greater between December 2006 and November 2007. There is a good chance that one of these states — Georgia, Arkansas, North Carolina, Alabama, Mississippi or Texas — is the source of your barbecued chicken.

#### About 4 in 10

The odds that your side dish of baked beans originated from North Dakota, which produced 39 percent of the nation's dry, edible beans in 2008. Another popular Fourth of July side dish is corn on the cob. Florida, California, Georgia, and New York together accounted for 61 percent of the sweet corn produced nationally in 2008.

#### Please Pass the Potato Salad

Potato salad and potato chips are popular food items at Fourth of July barbecues. Half of the nation's spuds were produced in Idaho or Washington state in 2008.

#### More than three-fourths

Amount of the nation's head lettuce production in 2008 that came from California. This lettuce may end up in your salad or on your burger.

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### More than 7 in 10

The chances that the fresh tomatoes in your salad came from California or Florida, which combined accounted for 71 percent of U.S. tomato production last year. The ketchup on your burger or hot dog probably came from California, which accounted for 96 percent of forecasted processed tomato production in 2008.

### Florida

The state that led the nation in watermelon production last year (861 million pounds). Other leading producers of this popular fruit included California, Texas, and Georgia, each with more than 500 million pounds.

### 78 million

Number of Americans who said they have taken part in a barbecue during the previous year. It's probably safe to assume a lot of these events took place on Independence Day.

### Fourth of July Cookouts—Classroom Activities

On a desk-size U.S. map have students develop a legend, creating icons for each of the food items indicated above. Locate the icons in the appropriate state. Then when the information is indicated in the items above, write the percent of the total U.S. production next to the icon. (Fractions must be converted to percent for this activity.)

Divide the class into ten groups, each group representing one of the foods included in the information above: hot dog, steak, burger, chicken, baked beans, potatoes, lettuce, tomatoes, ketchup, watermelon. Each student group should receive a sticky note or small paper on which

students can draw and color a shape that represents the food and cut it to size. Then have a representative of each group affix the paper to a wall map of the U.S. Ask students to note foods that they typically eat at a picnic and have them note the state of origin of the food. Urge students to become an information resource at the next family picnic.

How well do you read? (Using the information found in the Fourth of July Cookouts section, answer the following questions.)

1. Give the real name for the Lone Star State.
2. Give the nickname for the state of Iowa.
3. In addition to cattle, what other animal popularly used to barbecue is raised in Texas?
4. What is another name for spuds?
5. What processed vegetable is used to produce ketchup?

Answers:

1. Texas
2. Hawkeye State
3. chicken
4. potato
5. tomato

### Patriotic-Sounding Names—Facts

#### 31

Number of places nationwide with “liberty” in their name. The most populous one as of July 1, 2007, is Liberty, Mo. (29,993). Iowa, with four, has more of these places than any other state: Libertyville, New Liberty, North Liberty, and West Liberty.

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- Thirty-one places have “eagle” in their name — after the majestic bird that serves as our national symbol. (Places include cities, towns, villages, and census-designated places.) The most populous such place is Eagle Pass, Tex., with 26,285 residents.
- Eleven places have “independence” in their name. The most populous of these is Independence, Mo., with 110,704 residents.
- Five places adopted the name “freedom.” Freedom, Calif., with 6,000 residents, has the largest population among these.
- There is one place named “patriot” — Patriot, Ind., with a population of 190.
- And what could be more fitting than spending the Fourth of July in a place called “America”? There are five such places in the country, with the most populous being American Fork, Utah, population 26,472.

### **Patriotic-Sounding Names—Classroom Activities:**

Have students locate the places cited above on a U.S. map. Have them examine their own state to locate geographical names, counties, cities, towns, etc. which have a patriotic-sounding name. Also, identify local roads, parks or buildings that have patriotic names. Conduct research to locate: eleven places that have “independence” in their name, five places with the name of “freedom,” and the 30 places, other than Eagle Pass, TX, that have the word “eagle” in their name.

### **Contact Census in Schools**

If you would like to share any thoughts or ideas about ways to introduce the 2010 Census to your students, please call 1-800-396-1167 or e-mail us at: [Census.in.Schools@census.gov](mailto:Census.in.Schools@census.gov).

Additional information about Census in Schools can be found at our Web site: <http://www.census.gov/dmd/www/teachers.html>.

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