

# Educator Update

## Census In Schools



September 2009

### Census in Schools is Here!

Ask your principal about the **2010 Census: It's About Us** kit, chock-full of educational materials, that was recently sent to your school. These timely teaching resources, including a classroom map, will help you bring the census into your classroom. Use these materials to:

- Show students how census data can affect your community.
- Reinforce important math concepts with real-life population, demographic, and geographic data.
- Help students explore different ways to display demographic and economic information.

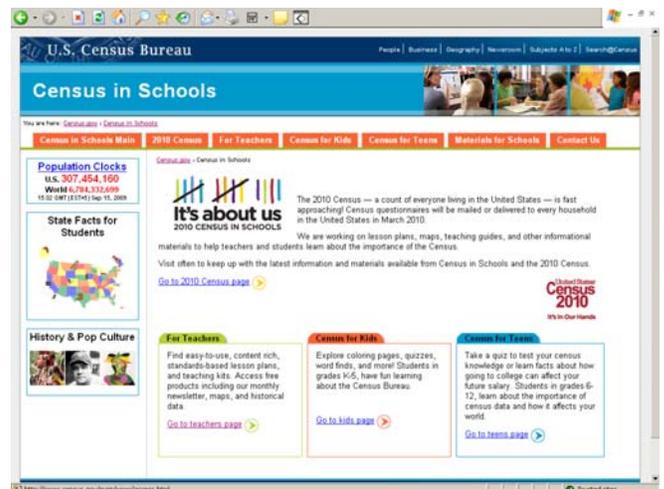
It's About Us shows students and their families how the 2010 Census works and how census data are used to make decisions about many issues that affect your community.

Visit the Census in Schools Web site at < [www.census.gov/schools](http://www.census.gov/schools) > and click on "Teaching Materials" for your **2010 Census: It's About Us** teaching materials.

### 2010 Census Lesson Plans – The Community Participation Strand

National, state, and local standards all include the topic of "community" as a priority. This is not surprising because as a people, our effective participation in the community enables us all to thrive.

The scope and sequence charts in the "It's About Us" K-8 teaching guides reveal "Community Participation" as a vital strand among the four strands of lessons. The other three strands include "About the Census," "Map Literacy," and "Managing Data." Nationally standards-based lessons invite teachers to combine map skills, reading and writing, math, civics, and online activities to lead students to a heightened level of interest in their local community.



Exploring data and maps at the local level is fun for both students and teachers. Integrating real-time information and combining core skills with practical community participation brings new vigor to the traditional curriculum.

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Communities across the nation receive more than \$400 billion every year in federal funds for projects like schools, hospitals, and roads.

Because the awards for these community projects are based on census population information, students who learn about the census can understand how their households' responses might affect their own future. The following summaries of lessons at each grade level indicate the activities related to students' understanding of "community."

### Grades K-2

The lesson begins with students making a choice about crayon colors and placing their choices to be counted in a box. The discussion transitions to counting people so that the government can know the needs of their community. Students identify some of a community's needed services by consulting a map that is based on census data. Creating maps of a fictional town reinforces the students' awareness of community. Students also expand their understanding of location, direction, size, and shape. A worksheet directs students to identify workers and the location of their work within the community.

### Grades 3-4

Students participate in a role-playing activity to learn the importance of an accurate count of the population in the decision-making process in representative government. Students learn that the population count determines how many congresspersons each state elects to the House of Representatives. Students complete a worksheet comparing the population, number of representatives, and square miles of four very different states. Using a second downloadable worksheet, students participate in a role-playing

activity that explores community members' concerns about answering the census. As a wrap-up, students create posters, brochures, bulletin boards, and online messages to increase the community's understanding of the importance of the 2010 Census.

### Grades 5-6

Students employ a role-play technique and a sports theme to collect data and create charts. This lesson illustrates what happens if all people are not counted in the census. Two downloadable student worksheets assist the teacher. The lesson encourages students to use resources to develop a multimedia campaign to teach their community about the importance of answering the census. A possible application includes a presentation to the PTA or in a school assembly.

### Grades 7-8

The middle school lesson's worksheets, "Community Power" and "It's About You" focus on their local community. After using the Census Bureau Web site to identify the response rate of their state, county, and city, students work in groups to identify their local response rates to the census and to plan how to increase their communities' response rate. Students use a second worksheet to develop a campaign using a variety of media to publicize the 2010 Census and encourage participation by the community.

In upcoming issues, we will highlight another strand of the Kindergarten through Grade 8 2010 Census in Schools lesson plans.

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### Facts for Hispanic Heritage Month 2009: September 15 – October 15

During National Hispanic Heritage Week, America celebrates the culture and traditions of those who trace their roots to Spain, Mexico, and the Spanish-speaking nations of Central America, South America, and the Caribbean. September 15 was chosen as the starting point for the celebration because it is the anniversary of independence of five Latin American countries: Costa Rica, El

Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. In addition, Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence days on September 16 and September 18, respectively.

### Population 46.9 million

The estimated Hispanic population of the United States as of July 1, 2008, making people of Hispanic origin the nation's largest ethnic or race minority. Hispanics constituted 15 percent of the nation's total population. In addition, there are approximately 4 million residents of Puerto Rico.

### More than 1

. . . of every two people added to the nation's population between July 1, 2007, and July 1, 2008, was Hispanic. There were 1.5 million Hispanics added to the population during the period.

### Families and Children 10.4 million

The number of Hispanic family households in the United States in 2008. Of these households, 62 percent included children younger than 18.

### 70%

Percentage of Hispanic children living with two parents.

### Education

#### 53%

The percentage of Hispanic 4-year-olds enrolled in nursery school in 2007, up from 43 percent in 1997 and 21 percent in 1987.

#### 3.6 million

The number of Hispanics 18 and older who had at least a bachelor's degree in 2008.

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

### 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/schools>>.

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