



Our U.S. Constitution includes a rule that every 10 years, the people of the United States must be counted. We call this a **decennial** (dih-SEN-ee-uhl) census.

With the results of the census, the government can decide how the 435 seats of the House of Representatives should be distributed. But we get a lot of other valuable **data**, or information, from census figures.

For example, these numbers help officials:

- figure out where to build schools.
- plan for new fire departments.
- decide how much government money should go to certain areas or groups of people.

Census history

The first census took place in 1790 and counted 3.9 million people. Today, 230 years later, the United States is home to more than 329 million people.

On the form

Questions on this year's census form ask about the people living in a household and how they're related to each other. For example:

- How many people were living or staying in this house, apartment or mobile home on April 1, 2020?
- How is Person 2 related to Person 1? Does this person usually live or stay somewhere else (such as at college)?



A census poster from 1940.

Mini Fact:
The 2010 U.S. census counted 309 million people.

Collecting the information

In mid-March, census forms will be mailed to all U.S. households. In places where there is no standard address, such as on some country roads or on Indian reservations, census workers will deliver the forms by hand.

People can respond to the census in one of three ways: **online**, by **phone**, or by **mail**.

From May to July, census-takers will visit homes that haven't responded to collect the information. Census workers will also visit homeless shelters, soup kitchens and streets to collect information about homeless Americans.



photos courtesy US Census Bureau

Keeping information safe

Sometimes people are afraid to share their information. Census officials said the personal information collected will not be released to the public.

For example, people who have come to the United States from other countries might not want to let the government know they're in the U.S. But census forms will not be shared with other parts of the government.

Each person who works for the U.S. Census Bureau must take an **oath**, or promise, never to share any information they learn about any individual.

Try 'n' Find

Words that remind us of the U.S. Census are hidden in this puzzle. Some words are hidden backward or diagonally, and some letters are used twice. See if you can find:

BUREAU, CENSUS, COLLECT, CONSTITUTION, COUNT, DATA, DECENNIAL, ENUMERATOR, FORM, GOVERNMENT, HOUSEHOLD, MAIL, OATH, ONLINE, PEOPLE, PHONE, QUESTIONS, TALLY, TEN.

D E C E N N I A L I A M S D A
J M G G O V E R N M E N T D T
L W T R O T A R E M U N E G A
Z E N O I T U T I T S N O C D
N C O L L E C T W B U R E A U
O A T H H T H O U S E H O L D
B P E O P L E R T Y L L A T S
S N O I T S E U Q C O U N T G
T W Q C E N S U S F O R M H Z
E N O H P J G N K E N I L N O



Cook's Corner

Sweet 'n' Sour Turkey Meatballs

You'll need:

- 1 pound ground turkey
- salt and ground black pepper
- 1 tablespoon canola oil
- 1 (15-ounce) can tomato sauce

- 1 cup plum sauce
- 2 tablespoons cider vinegar
- 1 teaspoon chili powder

What to do:

1. In large bowl, combine turkey, about 1/4 teaspoon salt and about 1/4 teaspoon pepper. Mix well and shape into 16 meatballs.
2. Heat oil in a large skillet over medium-high heat. Add meatballs and cook for 3 to 5 minutes, turning frequently, until brown on all sides.
3. In a small bowl, whisk together tomato sauce, plum sauce, vinegar and chili powder.
4. Add sauce mixture to pan and bring to a simmer for 5 minutes or until meatballs are cooked through.

Adapted from "The Robin Takes 5 Cookbook for Busy Families" with permission from Andrews McMeel Publishing (andrewsmcmeel.com).



* You'll need an adult's help with this recipe.

7 Little Words for Kids

Use the letters in the boxes to make a word with the same meaning as the clue. The numbers in parentheses represent the number of letters in the solution. Each letter combination can be used only once, but all letter combinations will be necessary to complete the puzzle.

1. ready to assist (7) _____
2. dog with floppy ears (6) _____
3. fancy suit (6) _____
4. summertime drink (8) _____
5. eighth month (6) _____
6. changing houses (6) _____
7. rich person (11) _____

ON	GLE	UST	ADE
ING	HELP	MILL	BEA
TUX	ION	AIRE	EDO
AUG	LEM	FUL	MOV

Answers: helpful, beagle, tuxedo, lemonade, August, moving, millionaire.



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Take a census

You and your classmates can become **enumerators** (ee-NOOM-er-ay-tors), or census-takers, in your classroom. Cut out this form and make a copy for each student. When you get the completed forms back, you'll be able to see valuable information about your class!

Question No. 1

What is your age and date of birth? (example: 09)

Question No. 2

How many people live in your home?

Question No. 3

Do you live in a city or in the country? (check one)

Question No. 4

How many pets do you have?

Question No. 5

How many people in your family work outside the home?

Question No. 6

Will your family participate in the 2020 census? Yes No

Tally, or count up, your answers and do some math to get an **average** answer for each question.

For example, what is the average age in your classroom?

Resources



On the Web:

- bit.ly/MPcensus

At the library:

- "Everybody Counts!" by Scholastic and the U.S. Census Bureau

Mini Jokes



Cassie: Is there a way to make a hamburger do the hula?

Carl: Order it with a shake!

Eco Note



The results of our decennial censuses show us how many more people are living in our country than once were. But all those extra people are using the same amount of water on the planet that we had 100 years ago! Turn off water faucets when you brush your teeth or wash dishes. Ask your parents to install low-flow faucets and toilets. Help fix leaking faucets. All these simple steps will help just one family save thousands of gallons of water each year.

adapted from epa.gov

For later:

Look in your newspaper for updates about the 2020 U.S. Census.

Teachers: Follow and interact with The Mini Page on Facebook!



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