

The 2020 Census



The 2020 census is a real current event that is going on right now in our country. Here are some words that will be helpful to know before reading the text, watching the videos, and answering the questions. Look at the story below. Your vocabulary words are in bold. Look up and write a simple definition for each word. Then read the story.

census: _____

decade: _____

tax: _____

electoral: _____

representatives: _____

survey: _____

funding OR funds: _____

(this one is not in the story below)

The 2020 Census

Every ten years, or **decade**, America takes a **census** to count the number of people living in the nation. This year census day is April 1. The census impacts how **tax** money is used, the number of **representatives** for the state and nation, and the amount of **electoral** votes each state receives for voting. It is part of our democratic government process.

In the census, people are mailed a **survey**, or list of questions, in the middle of March. Each member living in the household is counted, including children and babies. Then the survey is returned in the mail. Census workers receive the survey, count the numbers, and save the information. This year people can also respond to the census survey by Internet or phone.

The census this year is in the year 2020. The next census will be in 2030, then 2040. It is updated every ten years. Ten years is a decade. 'Deca' means ten.

Now watch the videos.

Questions to answer AFTER reading the story and watching the videos:

- 1) Who is counted in the census? _____

- 2) Do you think it's really necessary to count children in the census? Why or why not? _____

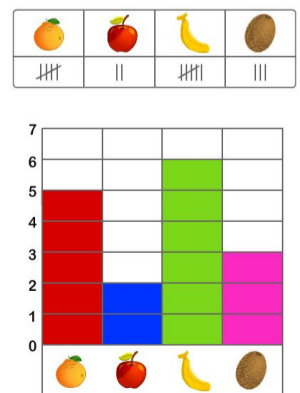
- 2) How do census workers get all their information? _____

- 3) Were you included in the last census? _____ How do you know? _____

- 4) When will the next census be and how old will you be? _____
- 5) Name 3 reasons why the census is important, either from the story or the videos.
 - 1) _____
 - 2) _____
 - 3) _____
- 6) If you could ask a census worker a question, what would it be? _____

Family Project: (woo hoooo!)

Take a mini census in your own household. You can include pets if you like just for fun. Or take a census of your dolls, stuffies, or action figures if you'd rather do that. Create some sort of a table, bar graph, or picture graph showing the information (for example: show 3 of the people in the home being children and 2 being adults; **OR** show 2 of the action figures being from Star Wars, 7 being superheroes, and 5 being army men; etc.) Just put it in a graph or table format. See the sample table/graph to the right. Give it a title and write 3 questions someone could answer after looking at your graph/table. Be as creative as you like. Take a picture (or video) and email it to your teacher. Have so much fun!



Table/graph samples