

# **Electing Our Presidents: Who Counts?**

The Electoral Process and the U.S. Census



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# Constitutional Vocabulary

# e·nu·mer·a·tion\*

/əˌn(y)ooməˈrāSH(ə)n/

noun

The action of establishing the number of something.

\*Remember for the Writing and Language portion of the SAT!!!



### What is the Census?

### Article I, Section 2

"The actual enumeration shall be made within three years after the first meeting of the Congress of the United States, and within every subsequent term of ten years, in such manner as they shall by law direct."

### Article I, Section 9

"No Capitation, or other direct, Tax shall be laid, <u>unless in</u>

<u>Proportion to the Census or enumeration herein before</u>

directed to be taken."

**Right:** The Preamble and Article I of the United States Constitution (National Archives

Identifier: <u>1667751</u>)





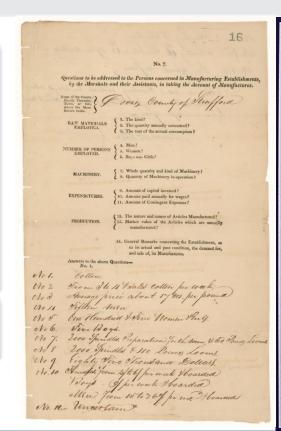
# Census of Agriculture

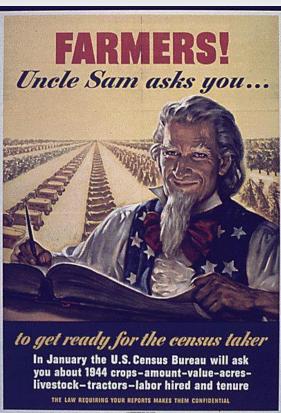
### Planning Dinner...Five Years in Advance

- Taken every five years
- Only source of uniform, comprehensive, and impartial agriculture data for every county in the nation
- Helps farmers make informed decisions about their operations

Learn more about the Census of Agriculture from the <u>United States Department of Agriculture</u>

**Right:** Dover County of Strafford, Cotton Factory – Questions to be Addressed, ca. 1820 - ca. 1821 (National Archives Identifier: <u>5730497</u>) **Far Right:** "Farmers, Uncle Sam asks you...To get Ready for the Census Taker" 1941-1945 (National Archives Identifier: <u>514239</u>)







### **Economic Census**



### **How's That Nation Business?**

- Conducted every five years
- Data collected from 4 million business locations
- Relied upon by nation for economic development, business decisions, strategic planning
- Statistical benchmark for current economic activity

**Left:** Anxious Depositors Making a Run on a Bank, 2/28/1933 (National Archives Identifier: 849137)



# Decennial Census of Population and Housing



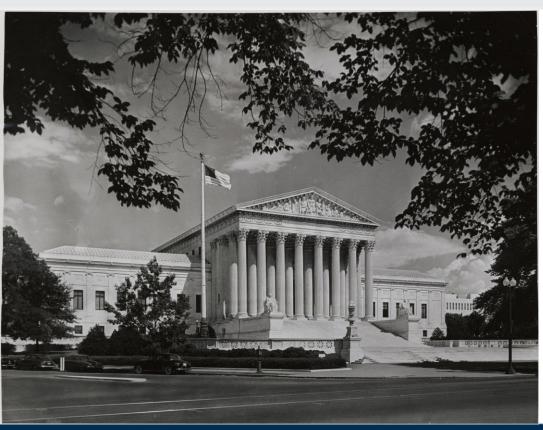
#### The One That Counts Us

- Carried out by <u>U.S. Census Bureau</u> every ten years since 1790
- Counts every resident in the U.S., regardless of status
- Responses are strictly confidential
- Evolves with America, checked by Judicial Branch

**Left:** An Enumerator collects a family's information for the 1940 U.S. Census (National Archives Identifier: <u>6200775</u>)



### Checks & Balances



#### **Federal Courts & The Census**

- Supreme Court: Census not limited to population headcount, 'necessary and proper' counts for enumeration okay
- In Morales v. Daley, District Court rules
  Census does not violate right to
  privacy under <u>Fourth Amendment</u>,
  information collected is confidential;
  affirmed by U.S. Court of Appeals
- Described by Supreme Court as "linchpin of the federal statistical system..."

**Left:** U.S. Supreme Court Building, Washington, D.C. (National Archives Identifier: 594954)



## Evolving With America: 1790-1860

# **Enslaved Constituents: Separate & Unequal**

- Enslaved Persons counted as 2/3 of a person in the Census to boost support for slavery in Congress
- Passage of <u>14<sup>th</sup> Amendment</u> is catalyst for counting whole person, regardless of race

Access more resources about the **Slave Trade** for your students from the National Archives

**Right:** Map Showing the Distribution of the Slave Population of the Southern States of the United States, 1861 (National Archives Identifier: 86455714)





# **Evolving with America: Segregation**



Card Punch Operators Working on Population Cards, Negro Section (National Archives Identifier: 7741404)



Card Punch Operators Working on Population Cards (National Archives Identifier: <u>7741405</u>)



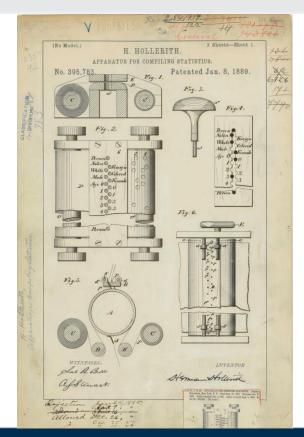
### **Evolving With America: Innovation**

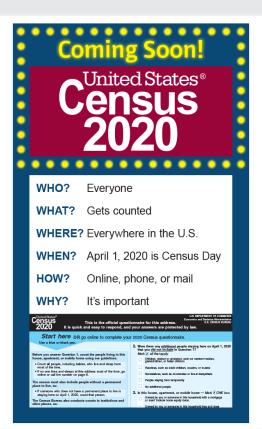
# From Manual Counts to Digitization

- Increased capacity and efficiency in carrying out enumeration
- Variety of data products available
- Expanding accessibility

Find out more about the <u>History of Tabulation</u> and <u>Processing</u> from the U.S. Census Bureau

**Right:** Patent Drawing for H. Holerith's Apparatus for Compiling Statistics, 1/8/1889 (National Archives Identifier: 7451900) **Far Right:** "Coming Soon! United States Census 2020" Digital Poster (U.S. Census Bureau)





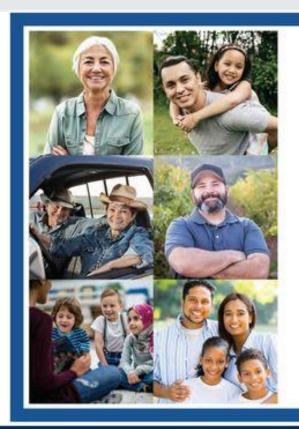


### **Evolving With America: 2020**

### Accommodating English Speakers of Other Languages

- 60 million U.S. residents are ESOL
- 4.9 million students learning English in public schools
- Online Census Content available in 59 languages

**Right:** 2020 Census I Count Poster, Spanish (U.S. Census Bureau)



Puedes responder al Censo 2020 en el Internet en **2020census.gov.** 

También puedes responder por **teléfono** y por **correo**.

Texto
"YoCuento" a 313131

Dale forma a tu futuro MPIEZA AQUÍ > Census 2020



### **But What Does It Do?**

#### The Census Hits Home

- Billions in federal aid your state receives for Medicaid, Medicare, community development and other programs
- What your school district receives in state aid for education, school meals
- Your state's number of U.S. House members & your town's number of state legislators; determines states' number of Electoral College votes

**How many U.S. House Members does your state have?** 

**Right:** Political Cartoon, "14<sup>th</sup> Census" 12/18/1920 (National Archives Identifier: 306177)





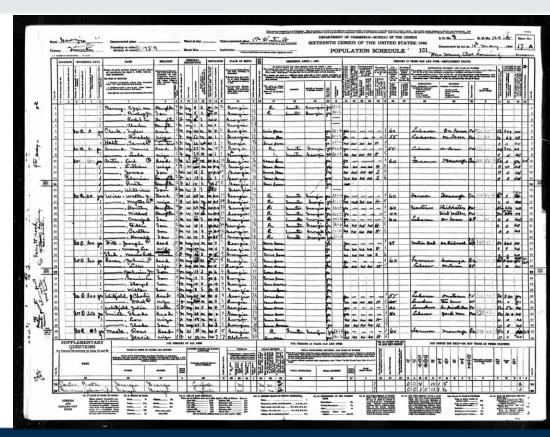
# Throwing Your Hat in the Ring?

# It Could Verify Someone's Eligibility to Run for President

- Verifies Jimmy Carter's Place of Birth as Georgia
- Confirms "Age at last birthday"
- Shows established residency on U.S. soil for more than 14 years

Visit the National Archives to investigate more **U.S. Presidents in the Census Records** 

**Right:** Transcript of Jimmy Carter in the 1940 U.S. Census (National Archives)





# **Electing Our President**

#### **Census-Electoral Math**

- 1. A person running for President must win the most **Electoral Votes**
- 2. Electoral Votes of a State = Number of U.S. House Members + 2 U.S. Senators
- 3. National average = 1 U.S. House Member per 720,000 people; the Constitution gives each state 2 U.S. Senators, no matter how many people reside there
- 4. The candidate with the most votes in each state wins all of its Electoral Votes
- 5. With 538 total Electoral Votes at stake, 270 are needed to win:

538 ÷ 2 = 269, + 1 for majority = 270 Electoral Votes Needed to Win



# **Electing Our President**

### **Case Study: State of Georgia**

- **Population in 2010 U.S. Census:** 9,687,653
- One representative for every 720,000 people living in a state
- 9,687,653 Georgians ÷ 720,000 = 13.5 U.S. House
   Members, but we can't have half of a representative, so round up to 14 U.S. House Members
- 14 U.S. House Members + 2 U.S. Senators =
   16 Electoral Votes



**Right:** Clip Art Outline of Georgia, the "Peach State" (Public Domain)



### Who Counts?

### **Technically, Everybody in America Does**

- Ineligible voters still count towards allocation of U.S. House Members & their state's number of Electoral Votes
- Participants provide crucial data to policymakers, economists, farmers & many others that impact our daily lives
- Being counted in the Census is probably the easiest Civic Duty for anyone to fulfill

**Right:** 2020 Census Poster, "Every Person Counts. Respond to the Census" (U.S. Census Bureau)

# EVERY PERSON COUNTS.

RESPOND TO THE 2020 CENSUS.



Visit www.2020census.gov to respond to the census safely and securely.



### **Further Inquiry**

<u>Carter Library Teacher Resources Page</u>

Carter Library YouTube Channel

National Archives Educator Resources

**U.S. Census Bureau** 

**DocsTeach** 

<u>Presidential Primary Sources Project on YouTube</u>

NATIONAL ARCHIVES and RECORDS ADMINISTRATION