



# POPULATION EXPANSION AND DISTRIBUTION IN THE UNITED STATES: 1790-2010

## Activity Item

This activity uses the following online tool:

- Gaining and Losing Shares – Population Distribution by Region: 1790–2010  
[www.census.gov/dataviz/visualizations/006](http://www.census.gov/dataviz/visualizations/006)

## Student Learning Objectives

- I will be able to gather information from a data visualization tool to explain changes in the U.S. population distribution over time and by geographic region.
- I will be able to analyze the causes and effects of these changes in population distribution.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Navigate to the data visualization tool by typing the URL from the start of this activity into your browser. Then use your cursor to click and drag the marker along the timeline to see the shifts in population distribution among the four U.S. regions over time. Record three observations and/or questions about the data.
2. How was the U.S. population distributed among the four regions in 1790, and how did that population distribution compare with the 1840 distribution?
3. What social, economic, or political factors could explain these changes in population distribution between 1790 and 1840?



7. What impact do population shifts like these have on local and state governments and their infrastructure?  
Think broadly and deeply.

8. What do you predict the data visualization for the four U.S. regions will look like in future years?