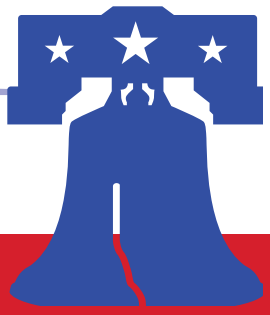
Fun Facts: Constitution Day



TEACHING GUIDE

About Fun Facts

Fun Facts are student-friendly handouts that tie statistics from the U.S. Census Bureau to holidays, anniversaries, and other observances. These fact sheets—originally created for teachers to use in the classrooms—can easily be used at home to keep kids entertained and learning. They can be used by students in different grade levels and subjects.

Using Constitution Day Fun Facts in the Classroom or at Home

Our Constitution Day handout includes many activities for students to do with their teacher in class or their parents/caregivers at home. Give students time to read and digest the information in the handout before discussing it. Here are some ideas for using the fact sheet with students at different grade levels.

Any Grade Level

Discussion: Potential discussion questions include:

- Why do you think the founders of the U.S. Constitution included a census every 10 years?
- What do you think could happen in a community where everyone isn't properly counted?

The Census in the Constitution: Have student(s) visit <www.census.gov/programs-surveys/sis/resources/constitution-day.html> to learn more about the constitutional mandate for a census – and discuss Article 1, Section 2, Clause 3, of the Constitution, which says:

> *Representatives and direct Taxes shall be apportioned among the several States which may be included within this Union, according to their respective Numbers .... 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.*

After the discussion, have student(s) write a paragraph explaining why they think our Founding Fathers felt it was important to include the census in the Constitution. Suggest they consider what the population count is used for in developing their summaries and share their thoughts with the class or an adult at home.

Exploring American History and the Constitution with Census Bureau Data Kahoot! game: Did you know the U.S. population was 2.5 million in 1776? It has grown more than 130 times larger today at over 330 million! Play this Kahoot! to discover historic data gems about America's population, how the once-a-decade Census count relates to the U.S. Constitution, and more kid-friendly statistics that illustrate the importance of census data in our everchanging world. Play it here: <*https://create.kahoot.it/details/3b96c553-26b7-475e-bcf3-f633f65982d5*>.

Elementary School Level

Understanding the Constitution: You can lead a discussion about why the U.S. Constitution is important. Share with student(s) that the Constitution is the basic written set of principles and laws of the nation, then check out the "From Founder to President" section of the handout and share the last names of the founders of the Constitution who also served as U.S. presidents. Have student(s) create their own "constitution" for the classroom or their home. Have them write two principles and explain why they should be included in their "constitution."

Class/Home Census: Have student(s) review the "We the People" section of the worksheet to see how the U.S. population has grown over time. Then, conduct a classroom, virtual class or at-home census. Have student(s) count the number of students in their class or their number of family members, tally how many males and females there are, and share their answers with the class or an adult at home. For added fun, check out "State Facts for Students" <*https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/sis/resources/data-tools/state-facts.html*> to see how many people live in your state along with other interesting facts.

How Many U.S. Representatives Does Your State Have?: With this warm-up activity, elementary students learn about apportionment by coloring a map—identifying states with the highest and lowest number of U.S. representatives based on the 2020 Census population count. Then, they see how their state's apportionment number compares to nearby states. <*https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/sis/resources/warm-up-activities/how-many-representatives.html*>

Middle School Level

Census and Congress: To teach student(s) about the impact of the census on Congress, have them watch the "What is Apportionment?" video <*https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/sis/resources/videos/2020census-apportionment.html*>. Then, have them pick a state and use the "Apportionment of the U.S. House of Representatives map" <*https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial/2020/data/apportionment/apportionment-2020-map01.pdf*> to determine the number of congressional seats gained, lost or that remained the same from 2010 to 2020.

America Then and Now Population Scavenger Hunt: Have students review key population data from the 2020 Census at <*https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/*> to uncover the population for the states counted in the first census in 1790. Then have them compare the population changes between the 1790 and 2020 Censuses. Have students discuss with a partner what surprised them the most about their findings.

States	1790 Census Population	States	2020 Census Population
Connecticut	237,946	Connecticut	
Delaware	59,096	Delaware	
Georgia	82,548	Georgia	
Kentucky	73,677	Kentucky	
Maine	96,540	Maine	
Maryland	319,728	Maryland	
Massachusetts	378,787	Massachusetts	
New Hampshire	141,885	New Hampshire	
New Jersey	184,139	New Jersey	
New York	340,120	New York	
North Carolina	393,751	North Carolina	
Pennsylvania	434,373	Pennsylvania	
Rhode Island	68,825	Rhode Island	
South Carolina	249,073	South Carolina	
Vermont	85,425	Vermont	
Virginia	747,610	Virginia	

Source: *https://www2.census.gov/library/publications/decennial/1790/heads-of-families-connecticut.pdf (Page 8)*

High School Level

News You Can Use: Have student(s) write a Constitution Day news story, blog, podcast, or video script that includes at least two facts from the handout. Student(s) can then share their media product with the class or an adult at home.

Exploring State Visualizations and Key Demographic Trends: Have student(s) conduct research on their state using the 2020 Census State Profiles page <*https://www.census.gov/library/stories/state-by-state.html*> to determine their state's total population, the change from the 2010 to 2020 Censuses, race and ethnicity, and more. Student(s) can write and share summaries of their findings with the class or an adult at home.

Population and Representation: With this warm-up activity, high school students can use an interactive map with historic apportionment data to discover population changes and population density for their state over multiple decades. <*https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/sis/resources/warm-up-activities/population-representation.html*>