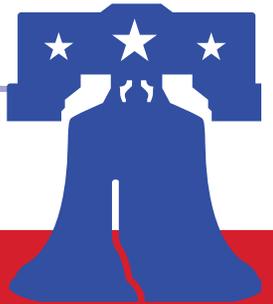


# Fun Facts: Constitution Day



## 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](http://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.

## 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 at <https://www.census.gov/schools/facts/> to see how many people live in your state along with other interesting facts.

## Middle School Level

**Census and Taxes:** Review the handout’s “Collecting Taxes” section with student(s) and have a discussion with them about the local taxes (e.g., sales, income, property, and business) collected by your state. Then, have student(s) pick a state and research that state’s Department of Assessments and Taxation Web site to find out more about the taxes it collects.

**Census and Congress:** To teach student(s) about the impact of the census on Congress, have them watch the video [www.census.gov/programs-surveys/sis/resources/videos/apportionment-machine.html](http://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/sis/resources/videos/apportionment-machine.html). Then, have them to pick a state and use the Apportionment of the U.S. House of Representatives map at [www.census.gov/programs-surveys/sis/resources/maps/apportionment.html](http://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/sis/resources/maps/apportionment.html) to determine the number of congressional seats gained, lost or that remained the same from 2000 to 2010.

## High School Level

**News You Can Use:** Have student(s) review the “Freedom of Speech” section and 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.

**Researching the Facts:** Have student(s) conduct research using the data.census.gov tool at <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=Veterans&hidePreview=false&t=Veterans&tid=ACSST1Y2018.S2101> to determine the total number of veterans in each state. Student(s) can write and share summaries of their findings (as well as what the Constitution says about the armed forces) with the class or an adult at home.