Census 2020: America Is Counting on You

COMMON CORE / CAREER AND COLLEGE READINESS ANCHOR STANDARD — Reading 2: Determine central ideas or themes of a text and analyze their development; summarize the key supporting details and ideas.

READING LEVEL 4–6 | NATIONAL | PP. 1-2

Content Learning Objective
Learners will classify information from the story into the correct categories.

Before Reading
Ask learners what they know about the U.S. census.

Check Comprehension
Encourage learners to answer in complete sentences.
1. What parts of the U.S. will be included in the U.S. census? About how many people will that be? (The count will include all 50 states, Washington, D.C., and five U.S. territories. That should add up to about 330 million people.)
2. How often does the U.S. Census Bureau do the census? Why is there a census? (The census is done every 10 years. The census is part of the U.S. Constitution.)
3. Why is April 1 important for the census? What will households receive in the mail by April 1? (April 1 is the official Census Day. Households will receive a census form in the mail.)
4. What are some of the ways that government money is spent using the census results? (The money is spent on roads and highways, schools, emergency services, and social services.)

Discussion Questions
1. Have you ever been part of a census before? If yes, when and where?
2. Do you think the census is important? Why or why not?
3. What are some things you learned about the census from this story? What are some other questions you still have about the census?

In Which Category Does It Fit?
Ask learners how much government spending is decided by census data. (The answer is $675 billion.) Point out that the specific categories related to that spending are part of question 4 above. Let learners know that they will receive a list of types of government spending and decide under which spending category each one fits. You could give the following list and categories on a handout or on the board, and learners could write the category name beside each item. Alternately, you can say each one out loud to help boost listening practice.

The categories are: Roads/Highways/Bridges, Schools, Emergency Services, and Social Services. Answers appear below.
1. adding more playgrounds and parks
2. funding for wider roads
3. funding for new hospitals
4. low-cost meals at schools
5. adding senior centers
6. adding carpool lanes
7. preparing for natural disasters
8. adding health care providers
9. adding new bridges
10. getting funding for fire departments


Find more census resources for teachers at census.gov/schools and tinyurl.com/nclinks.

ANSWER KEY

A Timeline of the 2020 Count (3–4)
5, 3, 1, 4, 2

Most Americans Plan to Respond to Census, but Some Have Doubts (4–6)
Answers will vary. Accept reasonable, grammatically correct answers.

Census Bureau Works to Keep Lies and Rumors From Spreading Online (4–6)
1. It is working with Facebook, Google, and Twitter. (paragraph 5)
2. Russia used social media posts to disrupt the U.S. election. (3)
3. The lie was that thieves were pretending to be census workers to get into people's homes. (6) 4. There will be a picture, a mark for the Department of Commerce, and a date. (13) 5. You can call 1-800-923-8282. (14)

In 2010, the Census Told a Story of Growth and Diversity (3–4)
Arizona, Idaho, Louisiana, Michigan, Nevada, Ohio, Rhode Island, Utah

Do You Need a Job? Census Bureau Is Hiring Thousands of People (3–4)
Answers will vary.

What Does America's Future Look Like? (4–6)
1. young adults 2. working-age adults 3. baby boomers 4. people who are two or more races 5. people over age 65
A Timeline of the 2020 Count  Pg. 1

Put the events below in the correct time order (1 = first, 2 = second, etc.). Then talk about the discussion questions.

_____ The Census Bureau will give counts to each state.

_____ Census workers will start to visit homes that have not given answers.

_____ The Census Bureau will start to count people in far-away parts of Alaska.

_____ The Census Bureau will give the total count to the president and Congress.

_____ Census Day will happen.

Discussion Questions: Do you fill out forms and other information quickly? Or do you sometimes forget to finish those things?

Most Americans Plan to Respond to Census, but Some Have Doubts  Pg. 3

Use each vocabulary word in a sentence. Then talk about the discussion questions.

1. doubts: _____________________________________________________________

2. somewhat: __________________________________________________________

3. undercounted: _______________________________________________________

4. rate: ________________________________________________________________

5. awareness: __________________________________________________________

Discussion Questions: Will you respond to the U.S. census? Do you have any doubts about responding? Why do you think some people don’t want to respond?
Census Bureau Works to Keep Lies and Rumors From Spreading Online  

There are 14 paragraphs in this story including the red “Don’t Get Scammed” box with it. Number each paragraph from 1 to 14. Answer each question below using a complete sentence. Then write the number of the paragraph where you found the answer. Finally, talk about the discussion questions.

1. Who is the Census Bureau working with to try and stop lies from spreading online?

2. What did Russia do in 2016?

3. What was a lie that was spread on Facebook and on Nextdoor?

4. What will be on the ID for a Census Bureau worker?

5. What can you do if you are worried about a worker’s identity?

Discussion Questions: What do you do to find out if something is true and not a rumor? Do you think people spread a lot of rumors at your work or at school? Do you remember seeing a rumor or lie on social media? What was it?

In 2010, the Census Told a Story of Growth and Diversity  

Eight states are named in the story. Write them below in alphabetical order. Then talk about the discussion questions.

________________________  ______________________  __________________
________________________  ______________________  __________________
________________________  ______________________  __________________

Discussion Questions: Have you visited or lived in any of the states named in the story? Do you live in the South or West of the U.S.? Why do you think more people are moving to states in those parts of the country? What other states would you like to live in or visit?
Do You Need a Job? Census Bureau Is Hiring Thousands of People  Pg. 7

Note to teachers: You may want to have markers and poster board ready, if available, for learners to make posters. If not, they can use a blank piece of paper or the space below.

Pair Work! With a partner, make a poster to attract people to work for the Census Bureau. Use information from the story. Present your poster to the class. Finally, talk about the discussion questions.

Discussion Questions: Do you need a job? Do you know anyone who needs a job? Would you want to be a census worker? Why or why not?

What Does America’s Future Look Like?  Pg. 8

Write the correct group from the box beside each sentence. Then talk about the discussion questions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>young adults</th>
<th>baby boomers</th>
<th>people over age 65</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>people who are two or more races</td>
<td></td>
<td>working-age adults</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. ________________ This group is marrying and having children at later ages.
2. ________________ There are 3.5 people in this group now for every person of retirement age.
3. ________________ People in this group are a large generation.
4. ________________ This is the fastest-growing group.
5. ________________ This group will be larger than the number of children for the first time in U.S. history.

Discussion Questions: Do you think the look of America’s future described in the story is the same in your city or state? Why or why not? Does your area have more younger or older people? Do you think the area where you live is diverse?