

LESSON M

CENSUSMANIA

Standards: Geography Standard Three: Students will develop an understanding of the diversity of human culture and the unique nature of places.

History Standard Two: Students will gather, examine, and analyze historical data.

History Standard Four: Students will develop historical knowledge of major events and phenomena in world, United States, and Delaware history.

- Objectives:**
- 1) The students will understand the purpose of the census.
 - 2) The students will understand how the census can reveal information about people and history.
 - 3) The students will create their own census.

- Materials:**
- 1) *Lesson M, Delaware Public Archives, 1850 New Castle County Census, RG 0720*
 - 2) Worksheet
 - 3) Drawing Paper or Graph Paper

- Procedures:**
- 1) What is a census? (A census is an official count of the people living in a country or district. Information concerning their age, gender, and type of work is also collected.) Discuss the recent 2010 census and the importance of filling out the form and returning it to the census bureau.
 - 2) Inform the students that they will be reviewing a census sheet from New Castle County that was completed in 1850.
 - 3) Give each pair of students the 1850 New Castle County Census. Review the headings of each column and ask why the government may have desired this information. Look for various answers. Briefly discuss the information on the sheet. Pay close attention to the occupations, the extended families, the place of birth, and whether the child attended school. (See transcription sheet.)
 - 4) Pass out the “Censusmania” worksheet and give the students 10 to 15 minutes to complete the assignment. Review answers.

- 5) This census shows individuals located in an urban (city) area of the state.
Why did so many immigrants flock to the cities of America?
(Employment was easier to find in the urban areas. In addition, many of their family members who had already immigrated were settled in those areas.)
- 6) Inform the students that they will be designing their own census sheets.
Using the 1850 census as a guide - what information would the students require to be answered in their census? Inform the students that the first two headings concerning "dwellings visited" and "families visited" can be omitted on their census.
- 7) Ask for volunteers to present their census to the class. Discuss the merits of each census with the class.
- 8) To summarize learning, have students complete an acrostic summary.
Down the lefthand side of a piece of paper, students will write the word CENSUS. Students must write a word or phrase beginning with each letter in the word CENSUS. For example, C = Count of people, E = Everyone is required to fill out the form and return it, etc.

EXTENSION: Why were so many Irish coming to Delaware and America? What was happening in Ireland at that time?

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

With the ratification of the United States Constitution, there was an immediate need for a census of the population to be taken. The number of seats in the House of Representatives and the States' respective shares in paying for the Revolutionary War debt were to be based on population. The U.S. Constitution stated:
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 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 2)

From 1790 to 1840, the census only included the names of the head of the household. Other members of the household were listed only by their gender, race, and their age range. However, as the nation's population began to expand and the country's social and economic situation became more complex, the importance of detailed information concerning the people living in the United States became greater. Beginning in 1850, the census started to add more information about individuals and their families.

THE 1850 CENSUS USED IN THIS LESSON

This is a part of the 1850 census (Record Group 0720) conducted in New Castle County. Beginning in 1850, the census listed everyone's name with their gender, age, and state or country of birth. Information concerning personal real estate, occupation, literacy, school attendance and recent marital changes was also listed. In addition, beginning in 1850, there was a column to identify individuals as "deaf and dumb, blind, insane, idiotic, pauper or convict." This census was taken by an Assistant U.S. Marshal who visited each home to record the information. The color description column is blank because the Marshals were instructed to leave the column blank if the individual was white. NOTE: If a last name does not appear with an individual the person had the same last name as the person above him/her. If a birthplace does not appear the individual was born in the same place as the person directly above him/her.

IS THE CENSUS IMPORTANT TODAY?

Yes! The census still determines the number of representatives serving in the United States Congress. In addition, the results of the census are used in redistricting state legislatures and other local governing bodies. Census statistics are also used in calculating many federal, state, and local government plans, grants-in-aid, and revenue sharing programs. Census data (population, housing, agriculture, etc.) is collected for market analysis, planning new services and facilities, affirmative action programs, studying environmental impact, and for research in a number of academic fields. It is even more important to fill out the form now than it was in the past!

TRANSCRIPTION OF 1850 CENSUS

SCHEDULE I.—Free Inhabitants in Christiana Hundred Sub Divi[sion] No. 13 in the County of New Castle State of Delaware enumerated by me, on the Twenty-First day of August 1850. O.D. Jester Ass't Marshal.

The headings across the top are:

1. Dwelling-houses numbered in the order of visitation (by census taker)
2. Families numbered in the order of visitation (by census taker)
3. The Name of every Person whose usual place of abode on the first day of June, 1850, was in this family.
4. Age.
5. Sex.
6. Color, {White, black, or mulatto.}
7. Profession, Occupation, or Trade of each Male Person over 15 years of age.
8. Value of Real Estate owned.
9. Place of Birth. Naming the State, Territory, or Country.
10. Married within the year.
11. Attended School within the year.
12. Persons over 20 years of age who cannot read or write.
13. Whether deaf and dumb, blind, insane, idiotic, pauper, or convict.

The numbers along the top of the transcription pages correspond with the headings listed above.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1	142	146	Taylor Crosby	35	M		Machinist	Del				
2			Sarah -	30	F			N.J.				
3			Margaret -	10	F			Del		1		
4			Ann M. -	8	F			Del		1		
5			James -	6	M			Del		1		
6			George H. -	4	M			Del		1		
7	143	147	John McCowan	28	M		Shoemaker	Ireland				
8			Mary -	32	F			Ireland				
9			Mary E. -	3	F			Del				
10			Sarah J. -	1 6/12	F			Del				
11	144	148	Catherine Baxter	40	F			Ireland			1	
12			Mary -	18	F			Ireland			1	
13			Jane -	12	F			Ireland				
14			E. Isabella -	7	F			Del		1		
15			Michael -	4	M			Del		1		
16	145	149	Bridget Carrigan	38	F			Ireland			1	
17			Mary -	13	F			Ireland				
18			Jane -	7	F			Ireland		1		
19			Bridget -	4	F			Ireland		1		
20			James -	3	M			Ireland				
21			James Carrigan	36	M		Sailor	Ireland				
22	146	150	Mary Hewes	34	F			Ireland			1	
23			Rose Shields -	13	F			Ireland				
24			Bridget -	11	F			Ireland		1		
25			Elizabeth -	9	F			Ireland			1	

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
26			Peter -	7	M				Del		1		
27			Mary A. -	3	F				Del		1		
28			Michael Hackett	30	M				Ireland				
29			Hugh Donald	40	M		Stone Mason		Ireland			1	
30			Antonia -	40	F				Ireland			1	
31			Hugh -	9	M				Ireland		1		
32			Margarett -	7	F				Ireland		1		
33			Barna(Barney?) -	5	M				Del		1		
34			Mary E. -	1	F				Del				
35			Alice Hollin -	18	F				Ireland				
36	148	152	Ellene Welch	60	F				Ireland				
37			Sarah -	28	F				Del				
38	149	153	Thomas Walker	23	M		Refiner		Ireland				
39			Mary -	23	F				Ireland				
40			Margaritt -	4	F				Del				

CENSUSMANIA
answer key

1. List three occupations held by persons on the census list?

machinist, shoemaker, refiner, sailor, stone mason

2. What three places of birth are listed on the census?

Delaware, New Jersey, Ireland

3. How many persons are listed as born in Ireland?

24

4. Who is the oldest person listed on the census and what is their age? Who is the youngest person on the census and what is their age?

oldest Ellene Welch age 60 (no. 36) youngest Mary E. Donald age 1 (no. 34)

5. How many persons had attended school within the last year?

14

6. How many persons did not know how to read and write?

7

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oldest _____ youngest _____

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