All ‘Bout Census

- Word Study: What Is a Census?
- Post Reprint: “U.S. growth nears record low in census”
- Post Reprint: “Your questions about the 2020 Census, answered”
- Post Reprint: “Shifts to South likely to benefit Republicans”
- Student Activity: What a Census Reveals
More Than Numbers

Taking a census is more than counting the number of people residing in a house, apartment or other dwelling. Although the accuracy of that enumeration is very important to a state’s representation in Congress and federal funding, the census provides additional information about the American society of a decade.

Use the Word Study What Is a Census? to provide an historic perspective on the who and why a census was conducted. Years later, the U.S. Constitution required that a census be held every ten years for reapportionment and taxation purposes. Use this activity to begin discussion of what is included on a census form.

Post articles and informational graphics covering the initial release of 2020 Census data provide teachers with a foundation for helping students to understand why the U.S. continues to take a census after the first one in 1790. “Your questions about the 2020 Census, answered” is a straightforward Q&A that focuses mainly on the political implications of the census. As more census data is released in the summer of 2021, this feature will be expanded online.

The maps and charts in “U.S. growth nears record low in census” are rich with information to be discovered. Use the headline and subheads and informational graphics to unfold the story told with data.

The political ramifications of a census are explored in “Shifts to South likely to benefit Republicans.” Make use of the map accompanying the article and the In the Know vocabulary provided with the online May curriculum guide as you read and discuss this article.

Using the activity What a Census Reveals with the articles, it will become clear that a census provides multiple implications and is much more than a bunch of numbers.
What Is a Census?

The New Testament writer Luke includes why Joseph and Mary were in Bethlehem, instead of Galilee, in his telling of the birth of Jesus. Caesar Augustus, the Roman emperor, had declared that a census was to be held. This required that all Jews had to return to the towns of their lineage. So Joseph, a descendant of David, was required to go to Bethlehem to be counted.

Andrew Whitby, a data scientist and author of *The Sum of the People: How the Census Has Shaped Nations, from the Ancient World to the Modern Age*, gives the history of the Roman practice of taking a census; however, it was not a census in the current definition because women were not included in the count. He suggests that the first modern census took place in “Iceland in 1703, which recorded exactly 50,366 people and was about as accurate as a census today.”

“Census” is the Latin word *census* meaning “the enrollment of the names and property assessments of all Roman citizens,” originally past participle of *censere* “to assess, appraise, value and judge.” Since property was a main basis for taxation in Rome, “census” also meant “one’s wealth, one’s worth or wealthiness.” “Census” appears in 1610 in works referring to the registration and taxation in Roman history.

The Constitution of the United States (Article 1, Section 2) states that representatives and “direct Taxes shall be apportioned … according to their respective Numbers.” It mandates “[t]he 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. The Number of Representatives shall not exceed one for every thirty Thousand, but each State shall have at Least one Representative.” This is followed by the number of representatives each of the thirteen colonies has until the first enumeration. Virginia received ten, the largest delegation, and Delaware and Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, the fewest with one each.

So the new American nation in 1790 and Revolutionary France in 1791 built on the old idea of a census for taxation purposes and the new concept of every resident being counted and other “details” being gathered to obtain a picture of changing aspects of the people, the economy, political and social landscape.

“The inclusion of a recurring census in the Constitution marked the first time that a nation made an enumeration the basis of representative government. In essence, the census connects the American people to their government,” according to the U.S. Census Bureau. “As the nation grew in size, it would also grow in population, both through natural increase and immigration. The founders’ stipulation that the census of population be conducted every ten years anticipated this geographic and demographic dynamism.

“Counting the population every decade, they believed, would allow political representation to be reapportioned regularly and fairly. Starting in 1790, the United States has conducted a census of its population every decade, and reapportionment has followed almost every count.”
The United States’ population growth slowed in the past 10 years to its lowest rate since the 1930s, according to data released Monday by the U.S. Census Bureau.

The first numbers to come out of the 2020 Census show the U.S. population on April 1, 2020 — Census Day — was 331.5 million people, an increase of just 7.4 percent between 2010 and 2020. It is the second-slowest rate of expansion since the government began taking a census in 1790. In the 1930s, the decade with the slowest population growth, the rate was 7.3 percent.

Unlike the slowdown of the Great Depression, which was a blip followed by a boom, the slowdown this time is part of a longer-term trend, tied to the aging of the country’s White population, decreased fertility rates and lagging immigration.

But within the United States, some regions are booming while others are stagnating. The South and West grew the fastest in the past decade. Growth in D.C. mushroomed, possibly predicting trends in other cities once more detailed census data is released later this year.

The data, which is used to determine the reapportionment of House seats and electoral college votes, veered from the bureau’s own estimates by about 1 percent, according to Census Bureau officials. It resulted in fewer seat shifts than anticipated, with Texas and Florida gaining just two and one, respectively, and Rhode Island holding on to its second seat. A couple of the shifts were by razor-thin margins, with New York losing a seat by just 89 people and Minnesota holding on to one by just 26 people.

“This is the closest I’ve ever seen,” said Kimball Brace, president of Election Data Services, a political consulting firm specializing in redistricting, election administration, and the analysis and presentation of census and political data. “It shows you how just little, tiny things can make a difference. ... When you’ve got so many seats shifting around, 1 percent’s not going to cut it.”

Brace said the fact that the data was so “dramatically different” from the estimates was probably due to the coronavirus pandemic, which delayed and complicated the count, and the Trump administration’s efforts to add a citizenship question to the survey and exclude undocumented people from being counted in apportionment.

“All of that is causing things to go rather haywire,” he said.

In a preliminary report on quality metrics released Monday afternoon, Census Bureau demographers said the initial population counts from the 2020 Census were “generally aligned with benchmark data” and added that their analysis should not be taken as “an assessment of the accuracy or
reasonableness of the 2020 Census results.” They said further assessments would follow.

The overall slowdown was not a surprise. Since 2010, immigration has declined, driven by the economic crisis early in the decade and government restrictions under President Donald Trump. The birthrate has also dropped, and life expectancy has dipped in the past couple of years — a reversal that has been driven by factors such as drug overdoses, obesity, suicide and liver disease and that sharply accelerated last year during the pandemic.

The extent to which the coronavirus has contributed to population patterns is not apparent in the new census data because much of the related displacement and the deaths of over half a million people took place after Census Day. According to the Pew Research Center, 5 percent of U.S. adults said they moved because of the pandemic; it is not clear whether these moves will be permanent.

But it is clear that going forward, older populations, especially those over age 65, will continue to see far higher rates of growth than young ones. The percentage of Americans 65 and over has grown by 35 percent, based on census estimates released last year. In the coming decade, the large baby boomer generation will reach their 60s, 70s and 80s.

Without robust immigration, the United States would look more like Japan, Germany and Italy, where births and the influx of newcomers have been unable to keep pace with the graying of the population, placing burdens on social services and the labor force. A Pew Research Center analysis showed that over half of the U.S. population increase between 1965 and 2015 was due to immigration, which alone added about 72 million people. With no immigration in the next half-century, growth in the United States would nearly flatten.

But the rate of growth for a nation or a state doesn’t tell the whole story, said Steven Martin, a senior demographer at the Urban Institute.

“While growth creates many advantages for a state — a more vibrant economy and easier-to-balance state budgets — perpetual

### Change in population in the states, D.C. and Puerto Rico

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<th>State / District</th>
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<th>2010</th>
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Expanded table at [https://wapo.st/2Ru6prS](https://wapo.st/2Ru6prS)
growth cannot be a long-run solution in a finite world,” he said. The current fertility rate in the United States is 1.73, below the 2.1 figure considered to be the replacement rate, producing as many births each year as deaths. “Overall population growth is going to be small, and eventually flat, which has to happen at some point,” Martin said.

He added: “A lot of people talk about cultural extinction if a nation doesn’t bring it up to two children per couple. That’s like saying that a 19-year-old is growing less than ever.”

If the nation were to keep growing at the rate it did in the 20th century, when it quadrupled from about 70 million to about 280 million, “essentially, within a couple of centuries, we’ll run out of space,” he said.

Over the nation’s history, growth ebbed and surged during wars, economic downturns and immigration waves. But the overall arc has been in the direction of a slowdown.

For the first century after the United States gained its independence, the country grew at a feverish pace, staying above 30 percent most decades. The percentage rate hovered in the 20s in the late 19th and early 20th centuries and mostly in the teens through the 1960s. It continued to flag toward the end of the century, and between 2000 and 2010, it fell to 9.7 percent.

The growth this past decade was about half the rate of the 1990s, when rising immigration and millennial-generation births pushed it up to 13.2 percent.

The slowdown was uneven across regions. Growth was less robust in the Northeast and the Midwest, compared with the South and the West. Three states — Illinois, Mississippi, and West Virginia — saw their populations shrink in the past decade.

West Virginia shrank most radically, losing 3.2 percent of its population. That continued a decades-long downward trend and reflects out-migration and aging of the population. The state, which is more than 90 percent White, is the only one to have a smaller population compared with 1950, when it peaked at slightly over 2 million people.

Most of the decline there has been in rural areas, where job losses and out-migration started several decades ago and continue to reverberate. “In the ’80s, we saw the loss of a lot of coal jobs and a lot of manufacturing jobs, shifting from miners to machines,” said Sean O’Leary, a senior policy analyst at the West Virginia Center on Budget and Policy. “And in the past decade ... dwindling coal supplies and the rise of natural gas have been putting pressure on the coal industry.”

West Virginia is also one of just two states where deaths exceeded births over the decade. (The other is Maine, which grew because it had a higher rate of in-migration.) The median age in West Virginia is between 42 and 43, compared with the national average of 38. The state’s population is projected to keep shrinking through 2040, according to the University of Virginia’s Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service.

While most states registered an uptick rather than a decline, the growth was in many cases much slower than in previous decades. California, for example, grew by 2.3 million people, or 6.1 percent, but lost a seat in Congress because other states outpaced it.

“California is kind of a signal that people are leaving expensive states to go to lower-cost states,” said William Frey, a demographer and senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, adding that trends show people increasingly moving inland from more costly coastal places.

Most of the fastest growth was in the South and the West, which have seen an influx in recent years of people moving in from other countries and other states. Utah grew by 18.4 percent, the highest rate of any state. That reflects its relatively high birthrate now and in recent decades, which has resulted in a young population compared with other states, but it also reflects the fact that more people are moving to Utah from other states than moving out of Utah to other states, Martin said.

Based on census estimates, in more than a dozen states, about half the gains are Hispanic people, including Texas, Florida, Arizona, New Mexico and Nevada, Frey said. Whites accounted for more than half the growth in only five states, plus the District of Columbia. In 27 states, the number of Whites declined.

Data on race and ethnicity won’t be released until later this year, but some states with high immigrant populations, such as Texas, Florida and Arizona, came in with lower populations than projected. “So I think it is reasonable to ask whether there was some undercount of Latinos,” Frey said.

The District of Columbia grew at 14.6 percent. A decade ago, the District’s growth rate was just 5.2 percent.

“It’s an inkling of what might happen to other cities over the course of this decade,” Frey said, noting that early in the decade, many people moved to and stayed in cities.

The regional shifts also reflect a continuation of economic trends, such as a diminishing of industrial and manufacturing jobs in the Mid-Atlantic and the Rust Belt. In some cases, the changes were driven by technology: “Air conditioning,” Brace said. “Once air conditioning came into being, people moved south.”

Florida is also growing because it continues to be a retirement destination, Martin said. The average age there is between 42 and 43. Puerto Rico’s population shrank by 11.8 percent.

Other contributors to population change were similar among all states, with birthrates and life expectancy down across the board, Martin said.

“At a time when Americans appear to be profoundly different from each other politically and culturally, their demographic patterns are moving in much the same ways,” he said. “The raw statistics of our lives seem to be telling us that in fundamental ways, we are much more alike than we are different.”

Ted Mellnik contributed to this report.
An Integrated Curriculum of The Washington Post Newspaper In Education Program

Change in population since 2010

-5%  0  +5  +10  +15  +20%

Each dot is 50,000 people
Outlined areas represent the number of new people since 2010

Utah grew by 18.4 percent, the most of any state.
California, grew by 2.3 million people, or 6.1 percent, but lost a seat in Congress because other states outpaced it.
West Virginia shrank most radically, losing 3.2 percent of its population.

D.C.'s growth continued, with the city adding more than 87,000 people in the last decade.

In more than a dozen states, including Texas, Florida, Arizona, New Mexico and Nevada, Hispanic people accounted for about half the gains.

ADRIÁN BLANCO AND TIM MEKO/THE WASHINGTON POST
Your questions about the 2020 Census, answered

BY TARA BAHRAMPOUR AND BRITTANY RENEE MAYES

• Originally Published April 26, 2021

Today the U.S. Census Bureau is scheduled to share its once-in-a-decade update of state population totals and use those figures to reallocate the number of House seats and electoral college votes that each state gets. It is the first release of data from the 2020 Census, with more to come later this year.

Here are the top questions readers are asking about the census:

Q: How will the 2020 Census affect representation in my state?

The number of seats in the House of Representatives — currently 435 — is set by law. The number of House seats allocated to each state is adjusted every 10 years based on the decennial census’s updated state population totals. Some states gain seats, some lose them. Population growth is no guarantee a state will gain seat if other states added more residents. Each state gets at least one representative, regardless of population size.

Q: Will my state use the 2020 Census for redistricting?

That will depend on a number of factors this year. Each state has its own laws and timelines for redistricting. The release of 2020 Census redistricting data has been delayed because of the pandemic. Instead of being released in April, as it has in the past, redistricting data is scheduled to be released in late summer, which is past the legally mandated deadline for redistricting in some states. There are also questions about the data’s quality because of the rush to finish the count last fall and the Census Bureau’s plans to use differential privacy, which is a way to share a massive data set while protecting the privacy of individuals. This is the first decennial census that the agency plans to implement differential privacy, and it is expected to explain how it plans to handle that closer to June. Sixteen states have joined a lawsuit filed by Alabama against the Census Bureau, challenging the bureau’s plans to use differential privacy.

Q: Are there still concerns about undercounts of minority populations in this Census, given that such undercounts have been a chronic problem with Census counts?

Yes. The count ended in mid-October, two weeks earlier than the Census Bureau had planned after the Supreme Court upheld a Trump administration order moving up the end date. The president wanted the numbers sooner as part of a push to exclude undocumented immigrants from apportionment before he left office. Some census enumerators reported that supervisors ordered them to cut corners or falsify data to meet the target threshold of 99 percent households counted. The bureau denied that it systematically falsified records. Minority populations are traditionally harder to count, as are low-income people, renters, children, and immigrants.

Q: Why were the results of the Census delayed?

The coronavirus pandemic froze the count just as it was getting started, leading the bureau to request a several months delay to conduct and analyze the census. Congress did not move on the request, and the bureau reverted to its original schedule after Trump announced he wanted to exclude undocumented immigrants.
immigrants from apportionment. In ensuing legal battles, the end date was in flux, causing confusion among enumerators and their supervisors as they tried to complete the count.

Q: What happened to the citizenship question?

Soon after President Donald Trump took office in 2017, administration officials began discussing adding a citizenship question to the census, and they officially announced it in 2018.

Civil rights groups and experts inside and outside the bureau warned the question would probably depress the count in immigrant communities and lead to an inaccurate count, and multiple lawsuits challenged it. The Supreme Court blocked it in 2019, though Trump ordered federal agencies to provide the bureau with citizenship information anyway. That effort ultimately failed — experts say it is impossible to ascertain how many undocumented immigrants reside in each state — and President Biden officially ended the effort shortly after he was sworn in.

Q: Can we redo the Census? Why wouldn’t the government redo it after the problems it had during collection?

Yes, Congress can ask for a do-over. But it’s a massive undertaking that takes years of planning. It is also a costly one. The price tag for the 2020 Census is around $16 billion.

Q: Is the Census going to be more inaccurate this year than it was before? Can we even consider the results of this Census to be valid?

This is an open question, although there will be different ways of assessing the quality of the data once the numbers come out. Census officials and outside experts will compare them to projections and other sources. The bureau also conducts its own quality reviews, including going back to some of the households they counted and double-checking their work.

For the first time, the agency will also publish several operational metrics when it releases the data, including how the bureau counted a household (or an address, if vacant) — through self-response, in-person or proxy interview, or using administrative records, for example — and how those methods were distributed across geographic areas.

In another first, the bureau has let in the American Statistical Association to conduct its own review of census operations. The ASA will be releasing reports on the quality of the decennial census data throughout the year.

Q: Can states challenge their apportionment results?

Yes. In the modern era, states have challenged their loss of a House seat or failure to gain one in court, but without success. In 2001 the state of Utah sued the government, saying its refusal to count Mormon missionaries living abroad cost Utah the chance to add a House seat after the 2000 Census. The seat, which Utah missed gaining by just 857 people, went instead to North Carolina. The Supreme Court upheld the bureau’s actions, and similar challenges in the past have been unsuccessful.

This year, concerns about the quality of the census may make it more likely for a state that fell just short of keeping or adding a seat to challenge the results.

Congress could always increase the number of House seats but is unlikely to do so any time soon.

NOTE: This FAQ will be updated online at https://www.washingtonpost.com/dc-md-va/2021/04/26/2020-census-faq/.
Shifts to South likely to benefit Republicans

BY MICHAEL SCHERER

Originally Published April 27, 2021

Political power in the United States will continue to shift south this decade, as historically Democratic states that border the Great Lakes give up congressional seats and electoral votes to regions where Republicans currently enjoy a political advantage, according to new data from the U.S. Census Bureau.

Texas, Florida and North Carolina, three states that voted twice for President Donald Trump, are set to gain a combined four seats in Congress in 2023 because of population growth, granting them collectively as many new votes in the electoral college for the next presidential election as Democratic-leaning Hawaii has in total.

At the same time, four northern states with Democratic governors that President Biden won in 2020 — Illinois, Michigan, Pennsylvania and New York — will each lose a single congressional seat. Ohio, a nearby Republican-leaning state, will also lose a seat in Congress.

The data released Monday was better for Democrats than expected, as earlier Census Bureau estimates had suggested the congressional gains in Florida and Texas would be even bigger. The margins in certain states that determined the final congressional counts were razor thin, with New York losing a seat because of a shortfall of only 89 people.

The numbers are the first to emerge from one of the most challenging population counts in the nation’s history, one disrupted by a global pandemic. Trump, during his term, also pushed to add a citizenship question and exclude undocumented immigrants from the census.

The release marked the start to a constitutionally mandated effort to redraw congressional districts across the country in advance of the 2022 elections, a tangled and litigious process that is likely to benefit Republican officeholders more than Democratic ones next year. That stands as a stark threat to Democratic control of the House, which will rest on a seven-vote margin, with four outstanding vacancies, once newly elected Rep. Troy Carter (D-La.) takes office in the coming weeks.

The results show that the country grew over the past decade by the second-slowest rate in history, owing to an aging population, decreased fertility and slowing immigration. A slightly lower rate of growth was recorded between 1930 and 1940, a decade that encompassed the Great Depression.

Only seven of the 435 congressional seats will be reapportioned under the latest population count. Five of the seven states that lost a House seat voted for Biden, and five of the seven newly created seats will be added to states that voted for Trump.

The full partisan effect of the shifts will not be known for months, as states must sift through population data that will be released later this year to draw new congressional district lines, resulting in hundreds of decisions by state lawmakers and independent commissions about the partisan makeup of each individual district.

Partisan line-drawers will face numerous choices between creating fewer competitive seats that will protect their incumbent reelections and more ambitious maps that could allow greater shifts in political control later in the decade as population changes continue to transform the electorate.

But Republican control of the redistricting process in states such as Texas, Florida and North Carolina is likely to increase the
Redistricting landscape advantages Republicans

Control of post-census congressional boundaries in states gaining or losing seats

Districts drawn by: Republicans  Democrats  Both  Commission or other*  Single district  Seat gain  Seat loss

*Includes commissions with varying levels of political independence
Sources: Brennan Center for Justice, Census Bureau

number of congressional contests where Republicans have a chance of winning, observers say. Republicans will control line-drawing for 187 congressional seats over the coming year, with Democrats controlling 75 seats, while the remaining seats that need to be drawn will be decided by independent commissions or divided governments, according to the nonpartisan Cook Political Report.

“Redistricting favors Republicans, but it is not going to win back the majority on its own,” said Mike Thom, battleground director for the National Republican Congressional Committee. But, he added, “you could see many Republicans drawn into safer seats, which will free up resources to go on offense.”

Adam Kincaid, executive director of the National Republican Redistricting Trust, said that he does not expect Monday’s announcement to result in a partisan shift on its own. But by the end of the process next year, after lawmakers and commissions have drawn new district lines, he expects Republicans to have a new advantage. He said Democrats will gain between five and 15 safe seats in Congress, while Republicans pick up 20 to 30 reliable seats.

“It will be incumbent on the census over the next few months to spell out the accuracy of these counts,” Kincaid said about the narrow results. “Obviously, we were hoping for more seats in Texas and Florida.”

Census officials said Monday that narrow margins in some states were not an unexpected result. “We are very confident in the data released today,” said Victoria Velkoff, the bureau’s associate director for demographic programs.

Democrats are preparing their own plans to block Republican efforts to draw more safe Republican seats in these growing states, setting up a costly and contentious battle that is likely to be settled in the courts in states such as Florida, Texas and North Carolina.

“The reason that they are gaining seats is because of growth from voters that tend to vote Democratic,” said Kelly Ward Burton, executive director of the National Democratic Redistricting Committee. “The growth is happening in the Latino community, in the Black community, in the suburbs. It is an increase in young people. If they draw fair maps in those states, Democrats should pick up seats.”

In other parts of the country, the shifts in population will have a less obvious effect on partisan power.

The Democratic stronghold of California will lose a seat for the first time in its history, but that will be offset by gains of congressional representation in nearby states such as Colorado and Oregon, which have both trended toward Democrats in recent years. Montana, a once-purple state that has moved to the GOP in recent years, will also gain a seat.

The census announcement was a relief for Minnesota, Rhode Island and Alabama, which each had been projected to lose a seat in the new count, but will instead maintain the same congressional representation over the next decade.

Republicans will lose a member of Congress in West Virginia, where the all-GOP delegation will shrink from three to two, as the state’s population has shrunk over the past decade by 3.2 percent, the largest loss of any state in the country.

“It’s not fun and it’s a symptom of some long-standing problems we have had in West Virginia that have caused people to leave,” state Sen. Charles Trump (R) said of the continued reduction in his state’s federal power. “But I have strong hope in our future.”

Similar long-term demographic and migratory trends have affected northern states that border the Great Lakes for decades. The manufacturing industry has struggled, the population has grown older, and younger people have chosen to move away. After the 1920 Census, the eight states that border the Great Lakes elected 175 members of Congress. In 2022, they will elect 113 members, a decline of more than a third.

“The Midwest states for the most part, and western New York and western Pennsylvania, they have more folks who are
older and less folks who are younger,” said Rolf Pendall, a professor of urban planning at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. “You have more people passing away as a percent of the total, and you have fewer people being born there.”

Those same Midwestern states, however, are expected to maintain a primacy in future presidential contests, as the Frost Belt has shown a steady pattern of switching partisan allegiances in recent contests. Under the Constitution, the presidential election is decided by the electoral college, with electors assigned to each state based on the number of Congress members that they elect.

Biden defeated Trump by a margin of 306 to 232 electors in 2020. If the result was repeated in 2024 under the new apportionment, with the Democratic and Republican candidates winning same states, the Democrat would still win comfortably, by a margin of 303 to 235.

Ted Mellnik contributed to this report.
What a Census Reveals

The U.S. Census since 1790 has enumerated the population, influenced seats in the House of Representatives and impacted federal funding. Decades of data reflect changing economic, cultural and technological emphases that affect housing, employment, social interaction and other areas of daily life. Historians, genealogists and sociologists have diverse and plentiful data to gather to define the American population.

Think about and discuss:

- Who and what factors determine the categories of information gathered on the census every ten years?
- Who determines the word choice used on the official census?
- Thomas Jefferson, as Secretary of State, oversaw the marshals who conducted the first census in 1790 in the original 13 States, plus the districts of Kentucky, Maine and Vermont and the Southwest Territory (Tennessee). Who is in charge of conducting the 2020 Census and verifying its accuracy?

The first information from the 2020 Census was made public in April 2021. The Washington Post covered aspects of this first data release. Read “U.S. growth nears record low in census,” “Shifts to South likely to benefit Republicans,” and “D.C.’s explosive growth,” as well as the maps and charts accompanying these articles. Discuss and respond to the following questions.

1. Locate Puerto Rico on the census map.
   a. Why is Puerto Rico included on the map?
   b. What percent decline took place in the last decade there?
   c. What may have caused the decrease in population?

2. Find New York on the census map.
   a. What gain in population did New York have?
   b. How is it possible to gain population and lose a seat in the House of Representatives?

3. Some states gained in population, while others lost significant residents.
   a. Which four states had the greatest increase in population?
   b. Which three states had the greatest loss in population?
   c. What factors contributed to these changes?

4. The 2020 Census shows the second-slowest rate of population expansion since 1790.
   a. Which decade has the slowest rate of expansion and what influenced this slowing?
   b. What causes are attributed to the 2010 to 2020 slow rate?
   c. What government policies may influence slowing of population rate?
5. Some regions have a faster rate of population expansion.
   a. What regions in the U.S. have increased at a faster rate in the last decade?
   b. What accounts for population growth in these regions?
   c. What are the benefits of increased population?
   d. What are the drawbacks of increased population?

6. Five factors have impacted the drop in life expectancy.
   a. What are the five factors?
   b. Select one of the five factors. What do you think can be done to change this?

7. For the following industries, which states or regions might a company be most successful in expanding based on the first 2020 Census figures?
   a. Baby products and children’s clothing
   b. Retirement communities
   c. Tours and entertainment for senior citizens
   d. Select an industry of your own and explain what data makes you think it would be successful in a particular state or region.

8. West Virginia had a noteworthy loss of population in the last decade.
   a. What accounts for its significant 3.2 percent loss of population?
   b. What natural resources does West Virginia have? (Take a look at its state website, topographic map and other sources to make a list.)
   c. What businesses might be expanded to improve the economy?
   d. Who might find West Virginia a desirable retirement destination?

9. D.C.’s population grew by 14.6 percent in the last decade — to a population of 689,545. How might this growth impact the following?
   a. Employment
   b. Housing availability and cost
   c. Race relations
   d. Schools
   e. The case for D.C. becoming a state

10. Select one of the maps or other informational graphics. What additional picture of the U.S. is revealed in the data? Be sure to include which graphic you are using.

NOTE: The bulk of the 2020 Census information will be made available in summer 2021.