



## 2020 Census: What is the Census?

*The 2020 Census counts the population of the United States of America.*



### Transcript

*Read the transcript. Underline the words you don't know. Watch the video and read along with the transcript.*

Beginning in March, the US Census Bureau will invite households across the country to participate in the 2020 census. But what is the census? Simply put, the census is a headcount of every person living in the United States.

To be sure the government represents the people, the US Constitution requires a population count every ten years. Ever since 1790 the census has determined the number of seats each state receives in the US House of Representatives. It is and always has been a cornerstone of our democracy.

We still use it to determine representation, but leaders also use the data to make decisions. Your response helps guide planning for the future of our communities. The 2020 census will help inform decisions on how billions of dollars are allocated annually for critical public services like roads, schools, hospitals and health care clinics, fire and emergency response services, and hundreds of other programs.

In 2020, for the first time, you'll be able to complete the census online, by phone, or by mail. It asks a few simple questions, like, how many people live in your home on April 1st, including their age and sex, and if there are any children living there.

You should know that by law all census responses are completely confidential and your personal information cannot be shared with any law enforcement agencies.

Every person counts. No matter who you are or where you live. So whether your family has participated for decades, or the 2020 census will be your first, we all have a role in shaping the future of our country.

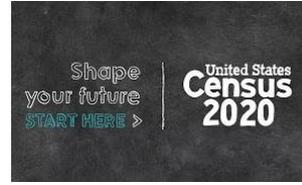
### Quiz

*Scan the QR code above with your phone. Watch the video and take the quiz.*



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*The 2020 Census counts the population of the United States of America.*



### Academic Word List vocabulary (gapfill)

Complete the sentences using the words below.

**decades    sex    critical    enforcement    communities**  
**requires    data    participate**

1. Beginning in March, the US Census Bureau will invite households across the country to \_\_\_\_\_ in the 2020 census.
2. To be sure the government represents the people, the US constitution \_\_\_\_\_ a population count every ten years.
3. Leaders use the \_\_\_\_\_ to make decisions.
4. Your response helps guide planning for the future of our \_\_\_\_\_.
5. The 2020 census will help inform decisions on how billions of dollars are allocated annually for \_\_\_\_\_ public services like roads, schools, hospitals and health care and hundreds of other programs.
6. The census asks a few simple questions, like, how many people live in your home on April 1st, including their age and \_\_\_\_\_, and if there are any children living there.
7. All census responses are completely confidential and your personal information cannot be shared with any law \_\_\_\_\_ agencies.
8. Whether your family has participated for \_\_\_\_\_, or the 2020 census will be your first, we all have a role in shaping the future of our country.