

TEACHER RESOURCE

Glossary

American Community Survey (ACS): Most of the questions that were included in past decennial census forms are now part of the ACS. Unlike the decennial census, which is conducted once every 10 years, the ACS goes to a much smaller population, but is conducted more often.

Apportionment: The legislative process of allocating House of Representatives seats to different states.

Cartogram: A conventional map has fixed boundaries, like the border of the United States, but a cartogram changes shape according to whatever data it includes.

Census: A full count of the population—mandated by Article 1, Section 2 of the Constitution—in order to allocate seats in the House of Representatives.

Collection versus Representation: The U.S. census generates millions of data points every 10 years. The census is an act of data collection, while a map is a tool for data representation. A map is a quick and easy way to present data to users.

Electoral College: Established in Article II of the Constitution, the Electoral College is the body of electors who formally elect the United States president and vice president. Through apportionment, census data affect the makeup of the Electoral College.

Gross Domestic Product: The total monetary value of all goods and services produced in a country during one year, excluding payments on foreign investments.

Legislation: The act or process of making a law or laws.

Projections: Calculations for a future date. Because census data are so useful, the Census Bureau produces projections for population data.

Redistricting: The process by which state legislators or other officials redraw the lines for congressional districts within a state.

Undercounts: The difference between the number of people counted during the census and the number of people that the Census Bureau determines in a post-census analysis.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

**Want to learn more about what the Census Bureau has to offer?
Explore and bookmark these sites!**

Census Web sites:

- **2010 Census** Web site: <http://2010.census.gov>
- **U.S. Census Bureau** Web site: www.census.gov
- **Census in Schools** Web site: www.census.gov/schools
- **American FactFinder** Web site: <http://factfinder.census.gov>