

Businesses on My Island

Topic(s):

Businesses, jobs,
community, counting

Grade Level:

K-2

Approx. Time Required:

35 minutes

Learning Objectives:

Students will be able to:

- Recognize and count numbers up to 100.
- Compare quantities, using the terms “more than,” “less than,” and “equal to.”
- Understand the concept of community and how distributing resources relates to the number of people living in a community.
- Identify different types of businesses found in a community.
- Understand the importance of being counted in the 2020 Census.

Introduction

The 2020 Census Statistics in Schools (SIS) program is designed to educate students about the decennial census and to teach them educational concepts and skills, such as data literacy, through the use of census data in the classroom. Responses to the 2020 Census affect plans for hospitals and schools, support for local programs, improvements in emergency services, and construction of roads. They also inform businesses that are looking to add jobs. By educating students about the 2020 Census, you can help encourage a complete count.

The 2020 Census SIS program can be used with educational standards across the country. You can use the topics and learning objectives above to determine which subject and unit plan or theme this activity will best fit into.

About the 2020 Census

In addition to the information that is built into instructions for this activity, the following points provide an easy, grade-appropriate way to explain the census to your students.

- The decennial census is a count of every person living in the United States that occurs every 10 years.
- It is important that every person be counted to make sure the government can provide money to each community for things like roads, schools, and hospitals.
- Make sure an adult in your home counts you in the 2020 Census.



Materials Required

- Printed student worksheets
- Markers or other coloring utensils
- Chart paper or a whiteboard or blackboard with a writing utensil

Worksheet Description

Students will learn about businesses on their island and compare the number of fast food restaurants across all Island Areas. They will also learn about the data the U.S. Census Bureau collects and why it is important to get an accurate count of the people living on their island.

Before the Activity—5 Minutes

1. Explain to students that the Census Bureau counts people and businesses, both in the United States and on their island. Share that this count happens every 10 years and shows government leaders where to spend money for things like hospitals, schools, and roads.

Tell students that the next census will happen soon, in 2020. Explain that it's important that the 2020 Census count everyone accurately, so that our schools and community get the resources they need. Let students know that today they will be looking at data from the Economic Census of the Islands Areas. The Economic Census of the Island Areas happens every five years, which is different from the decennial census, which happens every 10 years.

2. Hand out student worksheets.

During the Activity—25 Minutes

1. Say to students, "Let's count everyone in our class!" Lead students in counting out loud the number of students in the class. Have them record the answer to Question #1 on their student worksheet with the total number of students in the class.
 - For kindergarten: Model how to write the total number on the board or chart paper at the front of the room.
2. Explain that, just as we counted how many children are in our class, the Census Bureau counts many different things in our community. One thing the Census Bureau counts is how many different kinds of businesses there are in our community.



3. Ask students, “What is a business?” Some younger students might not be familiar with this term, so offer examples if necessary. Ask students what kind of businesses are found in their community and on their island. Have students raise their hands to provide answers, writing down as many answers as possible on the board or chart paper. Prompt students, if needed, with things like gas stations, grocery stores, pet stores, restaurants, ice cream stores, and movie theaters.
4. Select two kinds of businesses from the board and ask students how many of each they think are on the island. Then ask students if they have ever been to a fast food restaurant. Explain that today the class will be comparing the number of fast food restaurants across all Island Areas.
5. Direct students to the table and the graph on their student worksheet, which show how many fast food restaurants are on each island. Use the instructions below as a guide for tailoring this lesson to the needs of your students when they answer Questions #2 through #4 on their student worksheets.
 - For kindergarten and first grade: Lead the class in reading the graph and answering the questions on their student worksheet together.
 - For second grade: Have students read the graph and answer the questions on their student worksheet with a buddy.

Question #2: There are _____ fast food restaurants on my island.

Answers will vary, depending on the island. For example, the answer for American Samoa is 26.

Question #3: Which island has the most fast food restaurants? (circle one)

Answer: Guam

Question #4: Which island has the least fast food restaurants? (circle one)

Answer: Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

6. Emphasize that counting helps us know how many people there are in our class. That helps us know how many things we need, like chairs, markers, or snacks. It’s also important to know how many people and businesses are on our island, so we know where we might need things in our community, like schools or hospitals.
7. Give students 10 minutes to draw a picture of the people in their home going to a business or a store in your community. Then ask students to count all of the people in the picture and write the number of people who live in their home on their student worksheet.



After the Activity—5 Minutes

1. Ask several students to share their pictures with the class and explain how many people live in their home and which business or store they are going to.
2. Remind students that the 2020 Census is coming soon. Remind them that the census is a count of all the people in the United States and its territories—which includes our island! This count helps government leaders know where to spend money on resources for the island, like roads, schools, and hospitals. It's important that everyone is counted, so our island gets the resources it needs.

Home Extension

Teachers, please read the instructions for the students' homework assignment out loud to the class:

Take your student worksheet home and share it with an adult in your home. Tell them how many fast food restaurants are on your island. Then show them the picture you drew in class. Remind them to count you in the 2020 Census.