

# Diversity: Everyone Is Special!

**Topic(s):**

Collecting data,  
graphing, comparing  
numbers (more/less)

**Grade Level:**

Prekindergarten (4-year-olds)

**Approx. Time Required:**

22 minutes

**Learning Objectives:**

Students will be able to:

- Identify whether the number of objects in one group is bigger than, smaller than, or the same as the number of objects in another group.
- Organize information into similar groups.
- Orally count to 10.
- Use one-to-one correspondence when counting objects.

## 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 use of census data in the classroom. Responding to the census helps your community get its fair share of funding. Census data guides how more than \$675 billion in federal funding is distributed to states and communities each year. These funds support vital community programs that help children, such as schools, hospitals, housing, and food assistance. By educating students about the 2020 Census, you can help encourage a complete count.

## About the 2020 Census

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

- Every 10 years, everyone living in the United States gets counted. It's called the census.
- It is important that every person be counted, so that all communities have enough money for things like roads and parks.
- Make sure a grownup in your home counts you in the 2020 Census.



## Materials Required

- Printed student worksheets
- Chart paper or a whiteboard
- A writing utensil

## Worksheet Description

Students will continue their exploration of counting by looking at the differences among students in their classroom, including differences in their families and living arrangements at home. Students can count the number of siblings they have, how old they are, and how many languages besides English are spoken at home.

## Before the Activity—2 Minutes

Tell the class that they will take a survey of all the students in class. Explain that a survey is a set of questions that asks people for information.

## During the Activity—15 Minutes

1. Say to the students, “In our survey, we will look at ways that we are the same and ways that we are different. Everyone has things about them that are different and special.” Give students an example, such as, “My name is Ms. Ramirez, and I speak Spanish and English and have two brothers. But Mr. Adobka speaks English and has a sister.” Say that differences are what make each of us special. Then say, “Let’s see how we are all different.”
2. Conduct your in-class survey. First, ask students to raise their hands if they have any brothers or sisters. Then ask students to raise their hands if they *don’t* have any brothers or sisters. Count the number of students who do and who don’t have siblings and write the totals on the chart paper or whiteboard. Next, ask how many students live with someone who speaks a language other than English. Finally, ask students how old they are: 3, 4, or 5. For each question, count the answers and write the totals on the chart paper or whiteboard.
3. After the survey, say again that we all have things about us that are the same and things that are different. Then tell the class that there is a group called the Census Bureau that asks questions like these for the whole country. Explain that by asking *everyone* questions and counting the answers, the Census Bureau shows us just how many different and special people are in our country. Counting people also helps the Census Bureau learn how many people live in different places.



## After the Activity—5 Minutes

Say to the class, “Today we learned about surveys and how they help us find out about each other. We also learned about the Census Bureau. The Census Bureau counts everyone in the whole country. That’s a lot of people. Counting all those people helps the Census Bureau find out how many different kinds of people live in different places. That information helps us know how much money a school gets for computers or how many hospitals we need in our community. That’s why it’s important for everyone to be counted!”

## Home Extension

Students will take their student worksheet home and share it with an adult in their home who will be completing the census. Students will draw a picture of everyone who lives in their home. Then they’ll count each person in the picture and write the total on their worksheet.

