

Frequently Asked Questions



Who develops the SIS materials?

SIS materials are created by teachers, for teachers. Teachers and subject matter experts across the country—including teachers from the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands—work with Census Bureau experts to create each SIS activity. That helps ensure the value, relevance, reliability, and usability of the activities and makes them engaging for students.



Do I need special expertise to use SIS?

No. These activities are easy to follow and can be used by all teachers to supplement their instruction. You don't need any special understanding of statistics, and every activity comes with a teacher guide. Each activity includes a list of materials, a student worksheet, and easy-to-follow teacher directions.



How does SIS benefit my students?

By using SIS materials, you will enhance students' learning, boost their statistical literacy and data-finding skills, and prepare them for a data-driven world. The new materials for the 2019-2020 school year will provide even more value by highlighting the importance of counting everyone in the 2020 Census of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, especially children. The count affects the amount of federal funding your islands, school, and community receive for programs and services that can make a real difference in the education and lives of your students.



Why is the 2020 Census of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands so important for my school?

Responses to the 2020 Census of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands will drive decisions on the allocation of federal funds to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands each year for the next 10 years. That includes money for school programs and services such as special education, free and reduced-price lunches, class size reduction, technology purchases, teacher training, and after-school activities. Responses to the 2020 Census of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands help your community plan for hospitals and schools, support local programs, improve emergency services, construct roads, inform businesses looking to add jobs and more.



For what subjects and grade levels can I use SIS?

SIS activities are provided for pre-K through 12th grade. They can be used for math, English, history, geography, sociology, and more.



Are these activities compatible with the education standards I use in my classroom?

Yes. All of the activities include recommendations on how to align them with any standards used across the United States, including in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, making it easy to adapt the activity for use in any classroom.



How do I access SIS materials and resources?

It's easy and free, and it doesn't require any registration. Just go to census.gov/schools/CNMI, select the activities and resources you want—including those specifically designed for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands—and access or download them on the spot.