# American Government YL Learning Packet #9

## ESSENTIAL QUESTION:
- How do the results of the United States Census affect the United States House of Representatives?
- How do the results of the United States Census affect me?

## PROCEDURES:

**Day One** - Please read the article titled “Reading #1-About Congressional Apportionment”. Then answer the 10 questions that follow in the box labeled “Assignment #1”.

**Day Two** - Please read the article titled “Reading #2-2020 Census: Importance of the Data”. Then answer the written response question in the box labeled “Assignment #2”.

**Day Three** - Please look at the map labeled “Apportionment of the U.S. House of Representatives Based on the 2010 Census”. Then complete the 10 questions in the box labeled “Assignment #3”.

## WORK TO BE RETURNED:
- **Assignment #1** - Responses to 10 questions
- **Assignment #2** - Response to written response question
- **Assignment #3** - Responses to 10 questions

## RESOURCES:
- **Assignment #1**- Census Article-About Congressional Apportionment [https://www.census.gov/topics/public-sector/congressional-apportionment/about.html](https://www.census.gov/topics/public-sector/congressional-apportionment/about.html)

## TIME ALLOCATED:
- **Assignment #1** - 20 minutes
- **Assignment #2** - 20 minutes
- **Assignment #3** - 20 minutes

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**Reading #1-About Congressional Apportionment**
"Apportionment" is the process of dividing the 435 memberships, or seats, in the House of Representatives among the 50 states. The Census Bureau conducts the census at 10-year intervals. At the conclusion of each census, the results are used to calculate the number of House memberships to which each state is entitled. While there are numerous other uses for census data, a second major use is for geographically defining state legislative districts.

**Why It's Done**
Drafted by the Constitutional Convention in 1787 and subsequently ratified by the states, the U.S. Constitution includes this passage from Article I, Section 2:

Representatives and direct Taxes shall be apportioned among the several States which may be included within this Union, according to their respective numbers....The actual Enumeration shall be made within three Years after the first Meeting of the Congress of the United States, and within every subsequent Term of ten Years, in such Manner as they shall by Law direct.

Ratified in 1865, Amendment XIV, Section 2, to the Constitution gave additional guidance on conducting the census.

**How Long It's Been Done**
As prescribed by the Constitution, the first decennial census was conducted in 1790. Thomas Jefferson, Secretary of State at the time, directed the enumeration. Since then, the census has been taken in each year ending in the zero digit. Thus, the 2020 Census is the second census of the 21st century.

**Who's Counted**
The apportionment calculation is based upon the total resident population (citizens and noncitizens) of the 50 states. In the 2020 Census, the apportionment population also includes U.S. Armed Forces personnel and federal civilian employees stationed outside the United States (and their dependents living with them) that can be allocated back to a home state. These segments were also included in the apportionment population in the 1970, 1990, 2000, and 2010 censuses. The population of the District of Columbia is not included in the apportionment population.

**How It's Calculated**
The Constitution provides that each state will have a minimum of one member in the U.S. House of Representatives, and then the apportionment calculation divides the remaining 385 seats among the 50 states. Congress decides the method used to calculate the apportionment.

**Delivering the Numbers**
Title 13, U.S. Code requires that the apportionment population counts be delivered to the President within 9 months of the census date. In the 2020, 2010, and most 20th century censuses, the census date has been April 1, meaning that the Office of the President received the counts by December 31 of each census year.

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**Assignment #1**

**Directions:** Complete the following questions below using Reading #1 on the previous page.

1. Define “apportionment”.
2. How often does the census come out?

3. According to the article, what are the two major uses for census data?

4. List the two places in the Constitution that the census is discussed.

5. When was the first census conducted?

6. When will the next census results be released? (year only)

7. What population group will be included in the 2020 census?

8. Explain how the seats/membership in the House of Representatives will be calculated.

9. Who must the census data on apportionment be delivered to? How soon after the completion of the census must this be delivered?

10. True/False: The United States Senate is directly affected by the results of the United States Census.

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**Reading #2-2020 Census: Importance of the Data**

The 2020 Census will provide a snapshot of our nation—who we are, where we live, and so much more.
The results of this once-a-decade count determine the number of seats each state has in the House of Representatives. They are also used to draw congressional and state legislative districts.

Over the next decade, lawmakers, business owners, and many others will use 2020 Census data to make critical decisions. The results will show where communities need new schools, new clinics, new roads, and more services for families, older adults, and children.

The results will also inform how hundreds of billions of dollars in federal funding are allocated to more than 100 programs, including Medicaid, Head Start, block grants for community mental health services, and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, also known as SNAP.

Redistricting

The U.S. Constitution mandates that the country count its population once every 10 years. The results are used to adjust or redraw electoral districts, based on where populations have increased or decreased.

State legislatures or independent bipartisan commissions are responsible for redrawing congressional districts. The U.S. Census Bureau provides states with population counts for this purpose.

Federal Funding

The results of the 2020 Census will inform decisions about allocating hundreds of billions of dollars in federal funding to communities across the country—for hospitals, fire departments, school lunch programs, and other critical programs and services.

The results of the 2020 Census will help determine how hundreds of billions of dollars in federal funding flow into communities every year for the next decade. That funding shapes many different aspects of every community, no matter the size, no matter the location.

Think of your morning drive to school: Census results influence highway planning and construction, as well as grants for buses, subways, and other public transit systems.

Or think of your local schools: Census results help determine how money is allocated for the Head Start program and for grants that support teachers and special education.

The list goes on, including programs to support rural areas, to restore wildlife, to prevent child abuse, to prepare for wildfires, and to provide housing assistance for older adults

Business Decisions

The 2020 Census will be valuable to businesses, as the results will provide a rich set of data on the communities they serve, including population trends and growth projections.

Business owners rely on census results to make decisions, such as where to open new stores, restaurants, factories, or offices, where to expand operations, where to recruit employees, and which products and services to offer.

Assignment #2

Directions: Using the information provided in readings 1 and 2 and your own knowledge respond to the following bulleted question in at least a 6 sentence paragraph
● Why is it important to fill out the United States Census?
● What impact will the results of the United States Census have on redistricting, federal funding, and business decisions?
● Include examples and specific details from the article and your own knowledge
Assignment #3
Directions: The map on the previous page shows the ways that the number of seats each state received in the House of Representatives changed from the 2000 to the 2010 census. Use the map to help you answer the following questions.
1. How many total seats are there in the United States House of Representatives?

2. What is the minimum number of seats a state can have in the House of Representatives?

3. List 5 states that gained seats in the House of Representatives from 2000 to 2010?
   1. 
   2. 
   3. 
   4. 
   5. 

4. Based on what you have learned about the census in the previous articles, what likely happened to the population of the states that gained seats in the House of Representatives?

5. List 5 states that lost seats in the House of Representatives from 2000 to 2010?
   1. 
   2. 
   3. 
   4. 
   5. 

6. Based on what you have learned about the census in the previous articles, what likely happened to the population of the states that lost seats in the House of Representatives?

7. According to the map, which state has the largest population on the East Coast?

8. How many representatives does Maryland have?

9. Based on the number of representatives Maryland has we can assume Maryland’s overall population is
   a. one of the most heavily populated in the country
   b. one of the least populated in the country
   c. One of the average sized states in the country

10. **Opinion Question:** The United States Congress, our federal legislative branch, has 2 houses- the U.S. Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives. The United States Senate is based on equal representation meaning each state gets 2 senators regardless of the population of that state. The House of Representatives, as you have learned, is based on the population of each state.

    - Do you think it is fair to base the House of Representatives on population using the data collected from the United States Census? **Answer in at least 3 sentences using specific details in your explanation.**