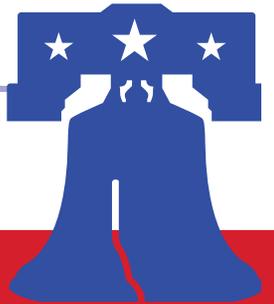


# Fun Facts: Constitution Day



## TEACHING GUIDE

### About Fun Facts

Fun Facts are student-friendly handouts that tie statistics from the U.S. Census Bureau to holidays, anniversaries, and other observances. These fact sheets—which are designed to be used at varying grade levels and across different subjects—can be used at the end of class (if students finish their work early), during a lighter day (perhaps when a substitute teacher is present), or on/before a holiday (when there may be an opportunity for flexibility outside the curriculum).

### Using Constitution Day Fun Facts in the Classroom

There are many activities teachers can do with their classes using our Constitution Day Fun Facts handout. Teachers should give students time to read and digest information in it before discussing contents. Below is a list of ideas for using the fact sheet with students at any and all grade levels.

#### Any Grade Level

**Discussion:** Potential discussion questions include:

- Why do you think the founders of the Constitution included a census every 10 years?
- What do you think could happen in a community where everyone isn't properly counted?

**The Census in the Constitution:** Teachers can have students visit [www.census.gov/programs-surveys/sis/resources/constitution-day.html](http://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/sis/resources/constitution-day.html) to learn more about the constitutional mandate for a census – and then discuss Article 1, Section 2, Clause 3, of the Constitution, which says:

*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.*

After the discussion, have students write a paragraph explaining why they think our Founding Fathers felt it was important to include the census in the Constitution. Suggest they consider what the population count is used for in developing their summaries and share their thoughts with the class.

## Elementary School Level

**Understanding the Constitution:** Teachers can lead a discussion about the Constitution and why it is important. Share with students that the Constitution is the basic written set of principles of the federal government, then check out the “From Founder to President” section of the fun facts handout and share the last names of the founders of the Constitution who also served as U.S. presidents. Have students create their own “constitution” for the classroom. Split them into four groups and have each one write two principles and explain why they should be included in the classroom “constitution.”

**Class Census:** Have students review the “We the People” section of the Fun Facts worksheet to see how the U.S. population has grown over time. Then, conduct a class census and count aloud how many students are in the class. Have students individually tally up how many boys and girls there are and share their answers with the class. For added fun, pull up State Facts for Students and see how many people live in your state along with other interesting facts.

## Middle School Level

**Census and Taxes:** Review the handout’s “Collecting Taxes” section with students and follow with a class discussion about the local taxes (e.g., sales, income, property, and business taxes) collected by your state. Then, have students each pick a state and research their state’s Department of Assessments and Taxation Web site to find out more about the taxes it collects.

**Census and Congress:** To teach students about the impact of the census on Congress, have them watch the video <[www.census.gov/programs-surveys/sis/resources/videos/apportionment-machine.html](http://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/sis/resources/videos/apportionment-machine.html)>. Then, have each student pick a different state and use the Apportionment of the U.S. House of Representatives map <[www.census.gov/programs-surveys/sis/resources/maps/apportionment.html](http://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/sis/resources/maps/apportionment.html)> to determine the number of congressional seats that were gained, lost or remained the same there from 2000 to 2010.

## High School Level

**News You Can Use:** Have students review the “Freedom of Speech” section and write a Constitution Day news story, blog, podcast, or video script that includes at least two facts from the handout. Students can then share their media product with the class.

**Researching the Facts:** Teachers can have students conduct research using the American Factfinder tool <[https://factfinder.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/ACS/17\\_5YR/S2101/0100000US.04000](https://factfinder.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/ACS/17_5YR/S2101/0100000US.04000)> to determine the total number of veterans in each state. Students can write and share summaries of their findings (as well as what the Constitution says about the armed forces) with the class.