

Middle Classes

Lesson One

<u>Theme</u>

Census

Objectives

That the child will be enabled to understand:

- what the census is and why the census is conducted
- how the census is conducted
- what information is collected
- how census data can be used

Follow-Up Activities

Class Census Census Poster Crazy Co-Ordinates

Key Messages

- The census is a very important source of information on our country.
- Facts and figures provided by the census are essential for planning for the future

Integration/Linkage

Maths: Shape and Space – Co-ordinates English: Oral Language / Writing Art: Drawing / Paint and Colour / Print

Teacher's Notes

Talk and Discussion

- Revise the main points covered in the Introductory lesson.
- Discuss with the children the data that is collected within the classroom on a daily basis.
- Talk to the children about the roll of attendance. Ask the children what information/data is entered in the roll book – name of pupil, date of birth, address, identification or enrolment number, attendance …
- Elicit from the children how this data may be of use for the class teacher/principal to keep track of attendance, to show pupil's progress through primary school, to plan for staff – class teachers/classroom assistants, for examination by Department of Education inspectors and School Attendance Officers, to provide enrolment figures for second level schools /records for historical interest...
- Explain to the children that in the same way as the teacher calls the roll each morning, the government also holds an official count of the population of a country. Ask the children if they know what this count is called and how often it is held (Census / Every five years).
- Give the children the opportunity to share their knowledge and experience of the census with the class.

The following information on the Census could then be shared with the children:

What is a Census?

A census is an official count of the population of a country. This kind of census is called a population census and has been taken since ancient times.

The word 'Census' comes from the Latin word *censere*, meaning " to assess or tax". This is because government officials made a register of people and their property. A value was then placed on the property so that taxes could be collected.

These government officials were known as censors.

Another reason for collecting detailed information of the population was to identify persons for the military service.

The Romans took the most complete censuses in the ancient world (beginning in the 500's BC).

As well as a census of population, other censuses are often conducted by the government of a country – census of agriculture, census of industry, census of trade...

Why is a Census conducted?

A census is designed to provide facts and figures (statistics) that are needed by the government to study the economic and social conditions of the country.

Nowadays, almost every country takes and official population once every five or ten years. The census is very important as it gives a very detailed picture of a country and is the greatest source of information about a country.

The information provided by the census is very valuable as it provides the basis for good government.

The government can tell:

- how the country is doing economically
- whether the population is increasing/decreasing
- alterations in age and gender balance
- number of people living in rural/urban areas (country/town)
- number of people in primary/secondary/third level education
- changes in occupation and number of people in employment
- methods of transport being used...

In the same way as the school principal collects information within the school, the government also collects information to help estimate future trends and for planning at different levels – national, regional and local.

<u>Activity</u>

Now that the children have a good knowledge of what the census is and why it is carried out, the children could then design their own class census form:

- *1*. The children could work collaboratively or individually on this task.
- 2. Discuss what information is being sought
- 3. Decide on questions that might elicit this information
- 4. Distribute the blank census forms
- 5. Allow time for the children to design their own class census forms
- 6. When completed, children could show the forms to the class
- 7. Discussion could follow on common/uncommon questions and how this information might be of use
- 8. Children's work could be displayed on a census notice board or census corner.

Supplementary Activities

- Children design a Census Poster for Census 2002 using ideas covered in the lesson.
- 'Crazy Co-Ordinates' is an activity integrating with the Shape and Space / Measures strand of the Mathematics curriculum.

Language Development

In the talk and discussion session, it will be important to develop vocabulary on the Census theme.

The following list may be helpful:

*	Census	*	Tax	*	Trade	*	Employment
*	Information	*	Military	*	Survey	*	Education
*	Population	*	Government	*	Statistics	*	Gender
*	Register	*	Agriculture	*	Social	*	Occupation
*	Property	*	Industry	*	Economy	*	Rural / Urban
*	Estimate	*	National	*	Trend	*	Data

Distribute one of the Follow-Up Activities to the children.



Crazy Co-ordinates

7																							
6																							
5																							
4																							
3																							
2																							
1																							
	Α	B	С	D	E	F	G	Η	Ι	J	K	L	Μ	Ν	0	Ρ	Q	R	S	Τ	U	V	W

Colour in green:	Colour in red:	Colour in blue:
A2 to C2 A2 to A 6 A6 to C 6	E2 to G 2 E2 To E 6 E6 to G6 E4 to G4	2 to 6 6 to K6 K2 to K6
Colour in yellow:	Colour in purple:	Colour in pink:
Colour in yellow: M2 to O2 O2 to O4 O4 to M4	Colour in purple: Q2 to Q6 Q2 to S2 S2 to S6	Colour in pink: U2 to W2 W2 to W4 W4 to U4
Colour in yellow: M2 to O2 O2 to O4 O4 to M4 M4 to M6	Colour in purple: Q2 to Q6 Q2 to S2 S2 to S6	Colour in pink: U2 to W2 W2 to W4 W4 to U4 U4 to U6

Area								
Let's find the area of		How many vowels in the						
each letter:	Which letter has the	word Census?						
	smallest area?	What is their total area?						
C =								
E =		How many consonants in						
N =	Which letters have an	the word Census?						
S =	equal area?	What is their total area?						
U =								
S =		What is the total area of						
		the word Census?						

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Now try listing your own co-ordinates for '2002':

- There are four digits so you will need four colours.
- Decide how many squares you will need for letter height and width.
- Try it out with a pencil first.
- List your co-ordinates in the table below.
- Give it to a friend to colour for you.
- Compare the results with your instructions. Did it work out? Why / Why not?



Colour in:	Colour in:	Colour in:	Colour in:
•	•	•	•
	•	•	•
	•	•	•
			_