

Population Growth

1830 - 1870 - 2010

The pioneers came across the plains in all shapes and sizes, from newborn to grandparent and every age between. Before heading west on their journey along the Oregon Trail, they had worked as soldiers, farmers, teachers, preachers, blacksmiths, lawyers, and doctors.

Approximately 60% of these pioneers were departing from a rural life in farming, agriculture or small business, with dreams of prosperity and an idyllic new home in the West. Many also hoped to strike it rich in the gold and silver rushes in California, Nevada, Idaho, Montana, or Colorado.

In 1840 there were 26 states in the Union, but only three were located west of the Mississippi River. The population of the United States was 17 million in the 1840 Census. By 1870 the population had more than doubled to 38.5 million, and eleven more states had been admitted to the Union. As of the most recent US Census in 2010, the United States has grown to 308.7 million people living in 50 states, one district and one territory.

Many things have changed in the United States since the days of the pioneers, but one that remains the same is that a census is conducted every ten years to measure change in the growth and demographics of our nation. However, the questions we ask in the census have changed over the years, as you can see from these examples:

1870 United States Census Questionnaire Form

1. How many people were living or staying in this house, apartment, or mobile home on April 1, 2010?			2. Were there any additional people staying here on April 1, 2010 that you did not include in Question 1? Mark X all that apply.		3. Is this house, apartment, or mobile home — Mark X ONE box.		4. What is your telephone number? We may call if we don't understand an answer.												
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20

(zoom in to read the questions)



2010 United States Census Questionnaire Form

Use a blue or black pen.
Start here

The Census must count every person living in the United States on April 1, 2010.
Before you answer Question 1, count the people living in this house, apartment, or mobile home using our guidelines.

- Count all people, including babies, who live and sleep here most of the time.
- The Census Bureau also conducts counts in institutions and other places, so:
 - Do not count anyone living away either at college or in the Armed Forces.
 - Do not count anyone in a nursing home, jail, prison, detention facility, etc., on April 1, 2010.
 - Leave these people off your form, even if they will return to live here after they leave college, the nursing home, the military, jail, etc. Otherwise, they may be counted twice.

The Census must also include people without a permanent place to stay, so:

- If someone who has no permanent place to stay is staying here on April 1, 2010, count that person. Otherwise, he or she may be missed in the census.

1. How many people were living or staying in this house, apartment, or mobile home on April 1, 2010?
Number of people =

2. Were there any additional people staying here on April 1, 2010 that you did not include in Question 1? Mark X all that apply.

Children, such as newborn babies or foster children
 Relatives, such as adult children, cousins, or in-laws
 Nonrelatives, such as roommates or live-in baby sitters
 People staying here temporarily
 No additional people

3. Is this house, apartment, or mobile home — Mark X ONE box.

Owned by you or someone in this household with a mortgage or loan? Include home equity loans.
 Owned by you or someone in this household free and clear (without a mortgage or loan)?
 Rented?
 Occupied without payment of rent?

4. What is your telephone number? We may call if we don't understand an answer.
Area Code + Number
 - -

5. Please provide information for each person living here. Start with a person living here who owns or rents this house, apartment, or mobile home. If the owner or renter lives somewhere else, start with any adult living here. This will be Person 1.
What is Person 1's name? Print name below.
Last Name
First Name MI

6. What is Person 1's sex? Mark X ONE box.
 Male Female

7. What is Person 1's age and what is Person 1's date of birth? Please report babies as age 0 when the child is less than 1 year old. Print numbers in boxes.
Age on April 1, 2010
Month Day Year of birth

→ NOTE: Please answer BOTH Question 8 about Hispanic origin and Question 9 about race. For this census, Hispanic origins are not races.

8. Is Person 1 of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin?
 No, not of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin
 Yes, Mexican, Mexican Am., Chicano
 Yes, Puerto Rican
 Yes, Cuban
 Yes, another Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin — Print origin, for example, Argentinean, Colombian, Dominican, Nicaraguan, Salvadoran, Spaniard, and so on.

9. What is Person 1's race? Mark X one or more boxes.

White
 Black, African Am., or Negro
 American Indian or Alaska Native — Print name of enrolled or principal tribe.

Asian Indian Japanese Native Hawaiian
 Chinese Korean Guamanian or Chamorro
 Filipino Vietnamese Samoan
 Other Asian — Print race, for example, Hmong, Laotian, Thai, Pakistani, Cambodian, and so on.
 Other Pacific Islander — Print race, for example, Fijian, Tongan, and so on.

Some other race — Print race.

10. Does Person 1 sometimes live or stay somewhere else?
 No Yes — Mark X all that apply.

In college housing For child custody
 In the military In jail or prison
 At a seasonal or second residence In a nursing home or another reason
 For another reason

→ If more people were counted in Question 1, continue with Person 2.

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Form **D-61** (9-26-2009)

U.S. CENSUS BUREAU