

Fun Facts: Fourth of July

TEACHING GUIDE

About Fun Facts

Fun Facts are student-friendly handouts that tie statistics from the Census Bureau to holidays, anniversaries, and other observances. These fact sheets—although originally created for teachers to use in classrooms—are easily adapted for use at home to keep kids entertained and learning. They are designed to be used at varying grade levels and across different subjects.

Using Fourth of July Fun Facts in the Classroom or at Home

Teachers, parents and caregivers should give students time to read and digest the information in the Fourth of July Fun Facts handout. Below is a list of ideas for using the fact sheet with children at any and all grade levels:

Any Grade Level

Discussion. Potential discussion questions include:

- What section of the fun facts handout interest you the most and why?
- Were you surprised to learn that the population on July 4, 2021, was 332 million?

Population Projections. Visit the population clock <www.census.gov/popclock/> to show students the current population. Then, lead a discussion about the different components that cause the population to change. Students can write down what they think the population will be on the Fourth of July next year.

Identifying Businesses. Review the “Backyard Barbecues” section of the fun facts and have students identify a specific business that falls under each category. For fun, students can guess how many of those businesses they think exist in their state.

Elementary School Level

Bar Graph Practice. Use the “Then and Now” section of the fun facts handout to have students create a bar graph with data from the “Signers” column. Discuss briefly the role the signers played in making our nation free. Then, students can create a bar graph. Guide students to look at the state with the largest number of signers first, then, use that number to determine their y-axis.

Practice Makes Perfect. Give students another opportunity to create a bar graph. Discuss briefly who the members of the 117th Congress are and have students identify the x- and y-axis. Next, have them create a bar graph using the numbers from the “117th Congress” column.

Visit www.census.gov/mycd/ to discover your state’s representatives.

Middle School Level

Interpreting Data. Using the “Backyard Barbecues” section of the fun facts, students can visit <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=0100000US,%240400000&n=31191&tid=CBP2020.CB2000CBP> to determine the top five states with the most snack food manufacturers. (Hint: View the “Number of establishments” column that shows “All establishments” in both of the “Meaning of Legal form...” and “Meaning of Employment size...” rows.) Then, brainstorm possible reasons why those states have the most snack food manufacturers.

Changes Over Time. Looking at the “A New Free Nation” section, students can access the U.S. population data using the U.S. and World Population Clock at www.census.gov/popclock/, and observe the changes that occur over the next 5 to 10 minutes. Then, have students explain how much of an impact population changes can have on the community.

High School Level

Business Proposal. Use the data.census.gov tool to conduct research at <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=0100000US,%240400000&n=335220&tid=CBP2020.CB2000CBP> in order to determine the states with the least amount of businesses that make household appliances. (Hint: View the “Number of establishments” column that shows “All establishments” in both of the “Meaning of Legal form...” and “Meaning of Employment size...” rows.) Next, have students develop a proposal for opening a new household appliances manufacturing business in one of those states. Students can present their proposals to the class.

Business Marketing. In honor of the Fourth of July, students can develop an advertising campaign for a special event they could plan for that day. Students should think about how their event would be different from all others taking place on the Fourth of July. Using the “Celebrating with a Bang!” and “Stars and Stripes” sections, look at the total value of fireworks and flags imported into the United States to help determine a budget for those items.