



Geography Standard: Understands the nature, distribution, and migration of human populations on Earth's surface

Benchmark: Understands demographic concepts and how they are used to describe population characteristics of a country or region

The Census Counts

Starting with the first census in 1790, the U.S. has had a census every ten years. The census counts every person living in the U.S. on a certain date. It also includes American citizens, such as soldiers, living abroad. The census data gives useful **statistics**. It tells where Americans live and the size of their families. It tells how many people have come from other places. It shows the number of people in each age group. The census finds out what people do for a living, how much money they earn, and how much education they have. It reports the number of births, deaths, marriages, and divorces. Although the census asks personal information, no names are attached to the public data. No one can find out another's private information—like age or salary.

The Constitution requires a census once a decade to decide how many people each state should have in the House of Representatives. The states with the biggest population send the most people to Congress. States with fewer people do not send as many. After a census, some states may gain seats in the House of Representatives. Other states may lose seats. Based on the 2000 census data, New York State lost two seats.

The government needs the census data for other reasons, too. They look to see if the population is growing. They can tell if it is increasing in some areas and decreasing in others. By looking at the age groups, they can see if people are living longer. They can figure out average life expectancy (how long a person usually lives). By looking at the number of births, it's possible to predict the number of babies to expect in the near future. If the number of children is rising, there may be a need for more schools and teachers.

Census data helps the government and businesses decide where to spend money. Census numbers determine how federal funds get spent on housing, schools, and welfare. Companies can use census data to choose where to build a new factory. They want to put it in an area with many workers. Stores want to be near plenty of shoppers.

Today, nearly 90 percent of the world's countries do a population census. The U.S. collects the most detailed data of all. The 2000 census resulted in over half a million pages of information.

The Census Counts (cont.)

Comprehension Questions

1. The U.S.A. takes a census once every
 - (a) year.
 - (b) five years.
 - (c) decade.
 - (d) century.

2. On a historical timeline, what happens last?
 - (a) Every person in the U.S.A. must respond to the census questions.
 - (b) The government takes a census.
 - (c) Businesses make informed decisions.
 - (d) The government publishes the data it gathered.

3. A group of pediatricians examines the census data to help decide in which state they should set up their practice. What information would most interest these doctors?
 - (a) the education level of people in each state
 - (b) the number of divorces in each state
 - (c) the average income of the people living in each state
 - (d) the number of children living in each state

4. *Statistics* are
 - (a) pieces of information; often numerical facts.
 - (b) government budgets.
 - (c) tips about the stock market.
 - (d) estimated information.

5. Which of these questions would not be asked on the U.S. census?
 - (a) What is your occupation?
 - (b) What do you weigh?
 - (c) Where were you born?
 - (d) What is your marital status?

6. Picture the pages stored on the CD-ROM that the U.S. government creates to make the census results public. What do you see on the pages?
 - (a) private information about each specific person in the U.S.
 - (b) mostly photographs
 - (c) mathematical formulas
 - (d) graphs and charts showing data

7. Do you think that the census should be taken more often? Explain.

The Four Applicants

Read each source below and on page 83. Then complete the activities on pages 84–85.

Source 1

Wanted: The Right Set of Eyes!

Company: iRis Media

Location: Arcadia, CA

Hours: Part-Time (20 hrs. per week)



Job Description:

Are you a prolific reader who has an eye for detail? Do you know the difference between a colon and a semicolon? Are you the type of person who, in a nice way, corrects your friends when they say things like “You and me are smart” or “I write good”? Do you find yourself catching every spelling error on the menu whenever you go to a restaurant? And finally, do you enjoy laughing?

If you leapt out of your chair and shouted, “That’s me!” to any or all of these questions, then we have the perfect opportunity for you. iRis Media is a new Web-based company that specializes in online humor. Everything that we print is hilarious (at least we think so)! Our publications include books, magazines, newspapers, and comic books; and we are looking for a brilliant enthusiastic individual with amazing people skills and the ability to find a needle in a haystack (or a missing comma in a 40-word sentence).

Candidates should meet the following requirements:

- * College degree in English, journalism, or other related field.
- * Ability to work under tight deadlines.
- * Ability to work well with others.
- * Excellent computer skills.
- * Flexible hours.

Pay starts at \$12 per hour. If you wish to apply for this position, send an e-mail to jobs@iRis.com. Please type “Job Applicant” in the Subject line of your e-mail.

In the body of your e-mail, briefly describe your experience and tell us why you would be a good fit for our company. If we are interested, we will then request a copy of your résumé.

The Four Applicants (cont.)

Source 2

From patpratt@catinahat.com

Subject HIRE ME

Wow I'd be perfect for this job!!! I am the funniest guy I know! Also I have very good grammar, and I can read really good. I have a degree in English so I must be smart. LOL! All of my friends say that I'm easy to get along with. When do I start?

– Patrick P.

Source 3

From highIQ@singular.com

Subject Job Applicant

To Whom It May Concern,

I am supremely qualified for this position. I am a voracious reader with impeccable grammar, and I have yet to make a spelling mistake in the last 11 years of life. While other candidates may be under consideration, my accomplishments are redoubtable. Without much effort, I earned a degree in English from a prestigious university. I am disciplined, detailed, and highly intelligent. In short, I have always been the most impressive person I know. I will lift up your company, and my co-workers will have no choice but to improve their performance if they wish to remain employed. While your job posting was cute and charming, it was riddled with errors. Thus, you must already know that your company is in dire need of my services.

Reply promptly so we can discuss salary.

Most respectfully,
Ivan Quinn

Source 4

From bwest@byline.com

Subject Job Applicant

Hello, iRis Media. My name is Ben West, and I believe I would be a good fit for your company. Reading and laughing are two of my favorite pastimes! As a writer and editor for my high school newspaper, I learned the value of teamwork and of meeting deadlines. In college, I worked my way up to Senior Editor by the time I graduated with a degree in journalism. I also write a blog and edit a successful online magazine.

I would welcome the chance to meet with you to discuss this opportunity and to see if I can become a member of your team.

Thank you,
Ben West

Source 5

From ace006@quicknet.com

Subject Job Applicant

Hey, Iris Media. I'm writing to tell you that I could do this job in my sleep! I've been reading since I was an infant. Seriously, it's not rocket science.

HAHAHA, JUST KIDDING!!!!!! See, I'm funny. What else am I? I am a good reader who will catch every error you can throw at me. I've been to school and all that, and my last boss said I was nice. I've attached my résumé, so you can see that I've had a lot of jobs. People keep hiring me, so I must be a good worker!

Let me know,
-Ace Evans

The Four Applicants *(cont.)*

Name: _____

Part 4: Refer back to the sources, and use complete sentences to answer these questions.

11. The applicant in Source 2 makes many errors. In the space below, rewrite the body of his e-mail. Use his words, but correct any misspellings and add any needed punctuation. Underline each correction.

12. Of the four, which applicant should iRis Media hire? _____

Give two reasons why this applicant could be a valuable asset to the company. Give one reason—along with supporting evidence—why each of the other three applicants would not be good hires for the company.

13. Write a paragraph to iRis Media explaining why you should be considered for the job. For the purposes of this exercise, pretend that you have already earned a college degree.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Unit 1: Writing a Thank-You Letter

Key Ideas

- **Letters** are a way of keeping in touch with friends and relatives.
- A **thank-you letter** expresses appreciation for something the person did for the writer.
- A **friendly letter** contains six parts: **heading, date, greeting, body, closing, and signature.**

Practice

	Heading	3453 Camino Road Williamston, MI 48895
	Date	January 15, 2001
Dear Mom and Dad,	Greeting	
	Body	Thank you for making my holiday weekend special. There were a few things that didn't go well, like the talent show being cancelled. But that was nobody's fault; you can never predict the weather! Sometimes, I like to be in a show, and I kind of make a big deal out of it. Anyway, thanks for making my two weeks fun and special by letting me stay up late, letting me sleep in, helping me buy the perfect gifts, and for spending time with me on New Year's!
	Closing	Love,
	Signature	<i>Sarah</i> (handwritten)

Directions: On your own paper, write a thank-you letter to your mom, dad, brother, sister, or other close relative thanking him/her for something he/she has done for you recently. Be descriptive and specific about the things for which you are thankful. Be sure to include all six parts of a friendly letter.

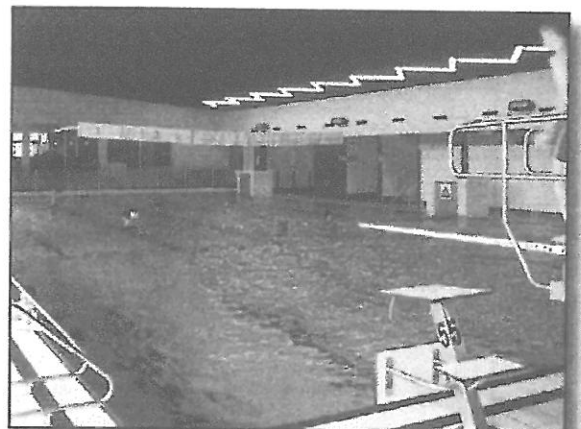


Safety Rules

Safety Rules

Swimming Pool Hours 10:30 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.

- Swimming is allowed only when a lifeguard is on duty.
- Swimmers must follow all instructions of lifeguards.
- Children under the age of 10 must be accompanied by an adult.
- No running or horseplay in shower areas, on pool deck, or concession stand area.
- Dive only in designated areas.
- Food and beverages in concession stand area only.
- Pets are not allowed.
- Be considerate of other swimmers.
- Pool manager reserves the right to deny use of pool to anyone at any time.



Safety Rules: Practice Activity

Name: _____ Date: _____

Practice

Directions: Use the Safety Rules document to answer the following questions.

1. Who must be present before you are allowed to swim? What is the textual evidence that supports your answer? _____

2. An adult must accompany any child under the age of _____.
3. What are the pool hours? _____
4. Where are you allowed to eat a candy bar? _____
5. Which words help the reader understand the meaning of **concession** as used in the sixth rule? _____

Apply and Evaluate

6. Create four safety rules for your school hallways. Give a reason for each rule.

Hallway Safety Rules	Reason for the Rule
Rule 1:	
Rule 2:	
Rule 3:	
Rule 4:	

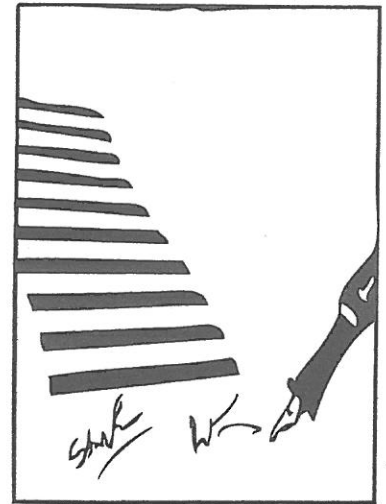
7. Which rule do you consider to be the most important? Explain using examples or details.

Name _____

Sign Here, Please

People like to collect things. Sometimes they do it to make money. Others do it just for fun. Something people like to collect is autographs. An autograph is a signed name. The name can be signed on a letter, a picture, or in a special autograph book.

Autograph collectors can limit the names they try to get. Some people collect signatures of TV or movie stars. Others collect different sports players' autographs. It is best to collect just one or two kinds of autographs. The more famous a person is, the more the autograph is worth.



Some famous people do not have time to sign all the requests they get for autographs. They have machines that sign their names. Machine autographs are not worth any money. There are autograph dealers who can tell if an autograph is really signed by a famous person.

Most of the people who signed the Declaration of Independence also signed many other papers. One man signed only a few papers. His name was Button Gwinnett. Single papers with his autograph have been sold for as much as \$150,000.00.

Circle the letter in the "True" column if the sentence is true. Circle the letter in the "False" column if the sentence is *not* true. When you circle a letter in the "True" column, copy the sentence from the story that will prove your answer is correct.

- | | True | False |
|---|------|-------|
| 1. An autograph is a person's signed name. _____
_____ | Q | B |
| 2. Some people collect signatures of movie stars. _____
_____ | U | A |
| 3. An autograph made by a machine is very valuable. _____
_____ | T | I |
| 4. Button Gwinnett wrote hundreds of letters. _____
_____ | E | L |
| 5. Gwinnett's autograph has sold for a lot of money. _____
_____ | L | X |

DICTIONARY ACTIVITY: Put the five letters you circled on the line to spell a word. Look up the word in the dictionary. Write the meaning of the word on another piece of paper.

Name _____ Date _____

Read the paragraph. Then answer the questions.

A Great Writer

The language of William Shakespeare is full of figures of speech. In fact, it is Shakespeare's **extraordinary** use of language that made him such a great writer. For example, in the play *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, a character says, "Why then, the world's mine oyster." In another play, called *Antony and Cleopatra*, Cleopatra speaks of her love and respect for Antony with these words: "His legs bestrid the ocean; his reared arm crested the world."



1. The underlined words in this paragraph are an example of figurative language called
 - A. metaphor.
 - B. personification.
 - C. simile.
 - D. hyperbole.

2. The word that best reflects the writer's point of view is
 - A. frustrated.
 - B. condescending.
 - C. praising.

3. In this paragraph, the word **extraordinary** means
 - A. intense.
 - B. normal.
 - C. exceptional.
 - D. difficult.

4. Reread the paragraph. Write the main idea.

Name _____ Date _____

Read the paragraph. Then answer the questions.

It's the Law

Sometimes laws can seem as silly as a clown's clothes. Usually, these are laws that were once made for a reason but are no longer needed. Here are some **absurd** laws from Canada. In Saskatoon, you cannot catch fish with your hands. In Calgary, it's against the law to toss snowballs without the mayor's permission. Children can't eat ice cream cones on the streets of Ottawa on Sundays. Places in the U.S. have strange laws, too. Some make as much sense as a talking turtle.



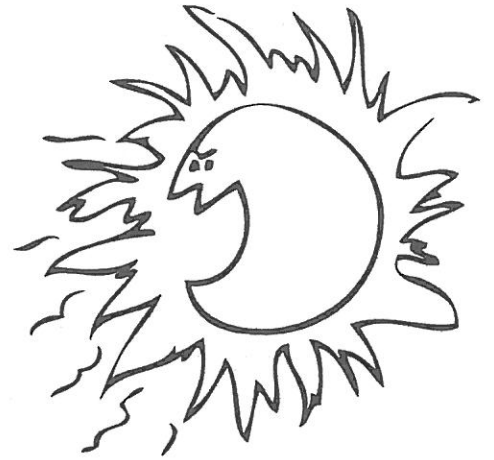
- The underlined words in this paragraph are an example of figurative language called
 - A. metaphor.
 - B. personification.
 - C. simile.
 - D. hyperbole.
- The title that best summarizes this paragraph is
 - A. Silly Laws From Canada.
 - B. Ask the Mayor for Permission.
 - C. Clownish Laws.
 - D. Strange Laws in the U.S.
- The word that best reflects the writer's point of view is
 - A. thrilled.
 - B. unamused.
 - C. sympathetic.
- In this paragraph, the word **absurd** means
 - A. abused.
 - B. ridiculous.
 - C. random.
 - D. outdated.

Name _____

Too Much Sun

Before the 1900s, people did not want to have a suntan. The people who had the most money usually stayed inside most of the time. In those days, the poor people usually worked outdoors. Pale skin meant you were wealthy.

In the early 1900s, the rich people began to take vacations by the ocean. They would lie on the beach in the sunshine. People began to think that a suntan made them look very healthy. Everyone wanted to get a suntan in the summertime. They tried to make a lotion or cream that would protect them from the sun.



During World War II, doctors discovered that too much sun was not good for the soldiers. They invented a cream that helped keep the soldiers from getting sunburned.

Now, we have many kinds of things to protect our skin from too much sun. We know that sun can cause skin cancer or make our skin get wrinkles. The lotions we buy now have numbers on the bottles. The higher the number, the more protection we get from the sun.

Circle the letter in the "True" column if the sentence is true. Circle the letter in the "False" column if the sentence is *not* true. When you circle a letter in the "True" column, copy the sentence from the story that will prove your answer is correct.

- | | True | False |
|--|------|-------|
| 1. Many years ago, rich people stayed out of the sun. _____
_____ | S | B |
| 2. Soon, people began to go to the ocean to get a suntan. _____
_____ | O | K |
| 3. Soldiers got too much sun during World War II. _____
_____ | L | U |
| 4. Doctors invented suntan lotion to protect zoo animals. _____
_____ | G | A |
| 5. We do not use suntan lotion or sunscreen today. _____
_____ | H | R |

DICTIONARY ACTIVITY: Put the five letters you circled on the line to spell a word. Look up the word in the dictionary. Write the meaning of the word on another piece of paper.

Friggatriskaidekaphobia!*

Read each source below. Then complete the activities on pages 47–48.

Source 1



Source 2

Friday

1. the day between Thursday and Saturday
2. the last day of the workweek and first day of the weekend
3. the day named after Frigg, a Norse goddess

Source 3

What a disaster! My birthday was on Friday, and for the occasion, my parents had planned an extravagant party at our house. Mom bought me a beautiful gold dress to wear. We sent out shiny, golden invitations. Mom and Sis hung gold streamers and other decorations around our house. And then Friday came, and no one showed up.

First, Aunt Ana and Uncle Bob RSVP'd with a "no." Then Cousin Otto said he couldn't come. Next, it was Grandma Hannah who wrote, "I'm so sorry, Eve. I'll stop by on Saturday to see you." The worst was when my best friend, Elle, said her parents wouldn't let her go. She begged and pleaded, but they offered up some weak excuse like, "not on that day."

When I told Dad that, he figured it out. He said that all those people must be afraid to leave their houses on a Friday the 13th. He said some people have a phobia about that day. "Really?" I thought, "How silly!" I know that a phobia is an irrational fear, but I just don't understand it. The number "13" has always been one of my favorites, but maybe that's because of the year I was born in. As for Friday, isn't it just another day of the week?

Source 4

Glossary

golden birthday — when a person turns the age of his or her birth day (for example, when a person turns 10 years old on the 10th day of a month)

palindrome — a word, number, or phrase that reads the same backward as forward

* This word is pronounced *fri-guh-tris-kī-deck-uh-foe-bee-uh*.

Friggatriskaidekaphobia! *(cont.)*

Name: _____

Part 4: Refer back to the sources, and use complete sentences to answer these questions.

11. On what date was Eve born? Write it here: _____

On the lines below, cite as much evidence as you can to show how you came to this conclusion.

12. Using what you know about the number of days in a month, what is the oldest possible age at which a person could have their golden birthday? Explain how you arrived at this answer.

13. Have you already had your golden birthday? Circle one: **Yes** **No**

- If so, how old were you, and what was the exact date on which it happened?

- If not, how old will you be, and what is the exact date on which it will happen?
