

# What is a Census?

A Census includes everyone and is a simple collection of facts. The Office for National Statistics (ONS), who organise the National Census in England and Wales, does not collect opinions but gathers information in order to plan for the future. They provide information on numbers of people in a country, where they live and work and the houses they live in.

Countries all over the world have censuses. By looking at the suggested websites try to answer the following questions.

- 1) What has the Domesday Book got to do with the census?  
[www.learningcurve.gov.uk/snapshots/snapshot44/snapshot44.htm](http://www.learningcurve.gov.uk/snapshots/snapshot44/snapshot44.htm)
- 2) When did Britain hold its first census?  
[www.genuki.org.uk/big/eng/census.html](http://www.genuki.org.uk/big/eng/census.html)
- 3) Which country held the first ever recorded census?  
[www.census.ie/-in-History/The-Census-through-History.150.1.aspx](http://www.census.ie/-in-History/The-Census-through-History.150.1.aspx)
- 4) Why is there a gap in the British census in 1941?  
[www.ons.gov.uk/census/census-history/modern-census/index.html](http://www.ons.gov.uk/census/census-history/modern-census/index.html)
- 5) Why do people bother to fill in the census form?  
[http://comms.census.gov.uk/en/controller.php?content\\_id=111](http://comms.census.gov.uk/en/controller.php?content_id=111)
- 6) Does everyone have to fill in a form?  
[www.ons.gov.uk](http://www.ons.gov.uk) Search 'Fine'.
- 7) What is it called if only some, not all, of the population answer some questions?  
<http://www.stats.gla.ac.uk/steps/glossary> follow basic definitions
- 8) Explain what a household is.  
[http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/meta/long\\_HSD310200.htm](http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/meta/long_HSD310200.htm)
- 9) Find 5 countries that held a census in 2011.  
[Search the web!](#)
- 10) The UK census takes place every 10 years. Is this the same for other countries? [Search the web!](#)