

Do we need to ask Everyone?

In July 2010 at the Big Bang Fairs, we asked children 'What is a census?' Below are some of the answers. Which one is the correct definition?



(You can check the answer on the Office for National Statistics website.)

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|--|--------------------------|--|--------------------------|
| 1) A game | <input type="checkbox"/> | 2) A questionnaire sent by the Government every 10 years | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3) A count of all people and households in the country | <input type="checkbox"/> | 4) A festival | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5) A collection of data from every one in the country | <input type="checkbox"/> | 6) One of the planets/horoscope | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Work in a group (or sample) of six. Ask the group the following questions. Then from your results predict what you think your whole class will answer. (Try to use fractions and percentages as well as numbers if you can.)

How do you communicate with friends?

Group results.....
Prediction for Class.....

Were you born in England?

Group results.....
Prediction for Class.....

Are you male?

Group results.....
Prediction for Class.....

What is your favourite Olympic sport?

Group results.....
Prediction for Class.....

Have you moved house in the last year?

Group results.....
Prediction for Class.....

How do you travel to school?

Group results.....
Prediction for Class.....

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On this page are the answers to the questions as given by the pupils in the initial results of *CensusAtSchool*. Are their answers similar to yours or different?

Do the answers depend on the question asked or on the amount of people asked?

Discuss.

Think up three questions that are likely to get the same results in a group of six as if a large number of people were asked and three questions that will get different results.

Results from *CensusAtSchool*

Question	Responses							
How do you communicate with friends?	Internet 6%		Person 35%		Text 25%		Social Sites 23%	
Were you born in England?	Yes $\frac{23}{25}$				No $\frac{2}{25}$			
Are you male?	Yes 49%				No 51%			
What is your favourite subject at school?	Art 16%	English 5%	Maths 5%	P.E. 26%	Technology 6%	Science 5%	History 6%	Other 3%
Have you moved house in the last year?	Yes 11.9%				No 88.1%			
How do you travel to school?	Walk 31%	Car 24%	Bus 40%	Cycle 3%	Train etc 2%	Other 1%		