

NAVIGATING THE NEWS

**THIS LESSON USES
PRINT MATERIALS**

SECONDARY LEVEL

**RECOMMENDED
MATERIALS:**

The Nystrom U.S. Government & Civics Series (available as printed charts and online at StrataLogica.com)

Political Relief Series Map (available as a wall map and online at StrataLogica.com)

CONGRESS AND THE CENSUS

1. The 2010 Census

The U.S. Constitution requires a census of the population every ten years. According to results of the 2010 Census released last month, the population of the United States is more than 308 million.

The most important use of census data is allotting seats in the House of Representatives to each state. District boundaries will be redrawn in time for the next federal election, in 2012.

- Display the *Branches of Our Government* chart from the U.S. Government and Civics Series.
- Find the *House of Representatives* box under *Legislative Branch*.
- The House of Representatives has 435 members. Write 435 on the line for number of members.

Q. Who is the current representative for the congressional district where your school is located? (You can find this information at www.house.gov by typing in your zip code.)

- Add the name of your representative.

2. Your state's representatives

- Display the *United States Political Relief Series map*

Q. How many seats will your state have in the House of Representatives? (At www.census.gov click *Data Map*, then *Apportionment*. Drag the cursor over your state on the map for *Apportionment information*.)

- Locate your state on the *Political Relief map* and outline it.
- Label your state with the number of seats in the House of Representatives it was apportioned as a result of the 2010 Census.

Q. Will the number of seats for your state change as a result of the 2010 Census?

- Write the number of seats in Congress your state will gain or lose, using the + or – sign. (If there will be no change, write 0.)

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