



Theme

Census 2011

Objectives

That the child will be enabled to:

- develop an awareness of the upcoming census on April 10th 2011
- ask questions to develop an understanding of the census
- begin to use a meaningful vocabulary and describe the census process
- answer questions that show an understanding of the census process

Methodologies

- ✓ Problem-Solving
- ✓ Collaborative Learning
- ✓ Using the Environment
- ✓ Active Learning
- ✓ Skills through Content
- ✓ Talk and Discussion

Mathematical Skills

- ✓ Applying and Problem-Solving
- ✓ Communicating and Expressing
- ✓ Integrating and Connecting
- ✓ Reasoning
- ✓ Implementing
- ✓ Understanding and Recalling

Tasks

- Talk and discussion – revision of ideas and concepts from Lesson One.
- Whole class activity – Meeting Census Charlie and asking questions about the upcoming census.
- Pair Work – question and answer session
- Plenary – discuss investigation / clarify steps in process / Hot Seating – Census Charlie and asking questions about the Census

You will need

- Props to help children to understand the Census process e.g. sample Census form, map of Ireland,
- Resource 2.1 Steps in Investigation Process
- Resource 2.2 Image of Census Charlie
- Resource 2.3 Key Question Words
- Resource 2.4 ‘Charlie and Census 2011’ ~ Story
- Resource 2.5 Question and Answer Cards

Key Messages

- A census is an official count of the population of a country.
- Ireland takes an official population census once every five years.
- Every household in the country takes part.
- The information is used to plan for a better future.
- The CSO conducts the census for the government.

Integration and Linkage:

English: Oral language: Talk and discussion, asking questions, answering questions, reasoning, describing, explaining, comparing...

Drama: Hot-Seating Census Charlie and deciding what answers he would give to the questions asked by the children

Language Development:

Census, government, household, collect, question, information, form, ask, Sunday, April, population, record, plan, future, check, count, important, decisions.

Assessment

The children will

- describe the steps in the investigation carried out in Lesson One
- ask Census Charlie key questions to learn more about the census
- answer key questions in relation to the census
- participate in the hot-seating session in which ‘Census Charlie’ talks about the Census process

Teacher Observation Tips

Record in a notebook any significant events you notice such as a child having difficulty asking and answering key questions. Note children who do not understand the ideas and concept behind the census.

Note also children who may need to be challenged with the extension suggestions provided.

Extension

Children could create a simple presentation on the key census questions on a chart, in a scrapbook or using presentation software.

Home/School Links

For homework the children can ask their parents/guardians about the last Census that was carried out. Children could ask Charlie’s key questions at home. It would be interesting for children to find out what questions are generally included on the census from.

Teacher's Notes - Lesson 2



Introduction

Talk and Discussion

- **Can you remember what we needed to do in our last lesson to get information from people?**

We needed to ask a good question.

- **We carried out an investigation in our last lesson on ‘Birthdays’.**
We wanted to find out “How many children have a birthday this month?”
We needed to ask a question. Can anyone remember what question we asked?

In what month is your birthday?

- **Let’s think about the steps in our investigation. What did we do first... next... then...?**

Step 1: Ask a question

Step 2: Collect the information

Step 3: Record the information

Step 4: Show the information

Step 5: Count each set

Step 6: Answer questions from the graph

Use large A4 cards to show each step of the investigation process. Six children can stand holding these cards in a sequence while the remainder of the children in the class can describe the process (Resource 2.1).

Extension: These steps can be jumbled and the children can re-order these steps while explaining the process using the example of the investigation that was carried out in the last lesson. The skills the children will develop in this activity are talking, discussing, reasoning, understanding, describing, explaining...

Whole Class Activity

- Explain to the children that a large investigation will be carried out by the Government of Ireland on Sunday April 10th 2011.
- Tell the children that this important investigation in Ireland is called the CENSUS.
- Introduce children to a new character Census Charlie who will be able to tell the children all about the Census [Resource 2.2].
- Encourage the children to ask Census Charlie some questions that will help them to learn more about the Census. Guide them to ask good questions using key question words i.e. What? Where? Who? When? Why? How? [Resource 2.3].

- Read the story ‘Charlie and Census 2011’ to the children. This story will help them to understand what the census is about [Resource 2.4]
- Discuss each of the key questions in turn with the children. Display the question and answer card after each question is discussed [Resource 2.5]. Read with the children and practice asking and answering this question with them. Use props to help children understand the question e.g. sample Census form, map of Ireland, April 2011 calendar, images e.g. meeting, government buildings, graphs...

Key Questions

What is the Census?

The census is a count of the number of people in the country.

Each household in the country get a Census form and all of the important questions on this form must be answered.

Where does the Census take place?

The Census is held all over the country. Every house in Ireland will have a Census form to be filled on Census day.

Who conducts the Census?

Every person in Ireland will be counted on Census day. A Census team (CSO) delivers and collects the Census forms. The answers on all of the Census forms are checked and counted.

When is the Census held?

The Census is held in Ireland every five years. This year the Census day is on Sunday, April 10th.

Why is the Census held?

The Census is held to help the Irish government to make important decisions and to plan for the future.

How is the Census conducted?

1. The census forms are delivered to homes about a month before the Census.
2. On the night of the census, people all over the country read the questions on the census form and write the answers on the form.
3. The census forms are collected from our homes.
4. The census forms are checked and scanned into a computer in the central statistics office.
5. The answers / information is put on graphs or written down in lists.
6. People read these graphs or lists and write a report.
7. The people who run our country (government) make plans for our country so that it will be a better place in which to live.

Plenary Session

In this session, the children work together to discuss elements of the lesson:

- Children work in pairs – taking turns to ask and answer questions relating to the census. Question prompts using the Key Questions Card [Resource 2.3] can help the children create questions.
- Introduce Census Charlie once again and ask the children why he visited the classroom today i.e. to teach the children about the Census.
- What key questions did we ask Census Charlie about the Census?

What? Who? Where? When? Why? How?

- Revise each question once again asking the children what answer Census Charlie gave to each.
- Point to each question and answer card displayed and read with the children.
- An enjoyable activity for the children is to ‘Hot Seat’ Charlie ~ one child takes on the role of Census Charlie and answers the questions provided by the other children.

Extension work

- Create a simple presentation on the key census questions on a chart, in a scrapbook or using presentation software.

Home/school links

For homework the children can ask their parents/guardians about the last Census that was carried out and what they remember from it.

Encourage children to ask Charlie’s key questions at home.

Find out what questions are generally included on the census form. Make a list of these questions on a flipchart.

Let's Investigate



Ask a question



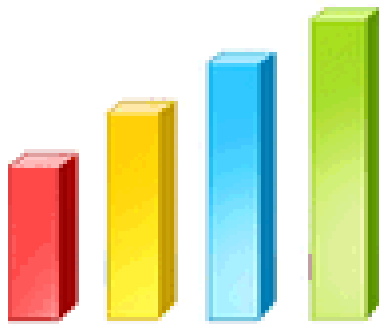
Collect the Information



Record the Information



Show the Information



Count each set



Census Charlie





Census 2011

Charlie and Census 2011

It was a rainy March evening. Mrs Kelly was busy helping the children with their homework. In the kitchen, Mr. Kelly was preparing dinner for the family. A loud knock was heard on the front door.



Mrs Kelly opened the front door.

"Good evening", said a man in a friendly voice. "My name is Census Charlie. I work for the government in the Central Statistics Office (CSO). I have some important information for you".

"Come in young man", replied Mrs Kelly. Census Charlie stepped into the house and sat down. Mr. Kelly gave the man a cup of tea. The family crowded around Charlie to hear what he had to say. "What is the information you have for us Census Charlie?" asked Mr. Kelly.



"Sunday, April 10th is a very important day this year because it is the day on which the national Census will take place", told Charlie.

"What is a Census?" asked young Mike.

"Well, young man, the Census is a count of the population of the country - everybody living in Ireland will be counted on that day", explained Charlie.

"WOW! That's a lot of people", shouted Mike.

"Will everybody have to line up and be counted like we do in school?" asked Ann.

"Oh no, my dear! That would be far too difficult. I have a Census form here for every household. There is a list of questions which must be answered on the form on Sunday, 10th April", answered Census Charlie.

"That will be fun. We can watch Mum and Dad doing homework!" laughed Ann and Mike.

"Oh yes. I will be around a few days later to collect the completed forms and to check the homework!" joked Charlie. "It is important to answer every question very carefully and to keep this Census form in a safe place".



"What will you do with the forms when you collect them?" asked Peter.

"The forms that are collected all over Ireland are brought to a large office and all of the answers are checked and counted. Graphs and diagrams are then made to show the results".



"That sounds like a lot of hard work", said Mike.

"Indeed it is. But it is worth all the effort. The information collected is used to help our government to plan for a better future for all of us. We can plan ahead for schools, for hospitals, for transport, for health and lots of other things if we have enough information", explained Charlie.

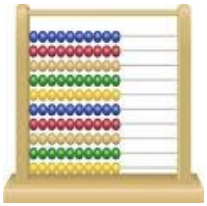
"Now, I better go as I have many other houses to get to. Thank you for the tea. I will return next month to collect the census form".



On Sunday night, April 10th, the Kelly family gathered around the table to complete the census form they had looked after so carefully. Mr. Kelly called out the questions and everybody helped to answer them. Mrs Kelly wrote all the answers on the census form. Census Charlie called the following week to collect the form and to bring it to the central statistics office to be checked and counted with all the other forms from around the country.



What is the Census?



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Where is the Census held?

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Ireland will have a
Census form to be
filled on Census day.



Who conducts the Census?

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Answers on these forms are checked and counted.



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