

Lesson 7

The Census and the Law



How this links to the curriculum: Strand 3 - Exploring democracy

Well-being indicators: Connected/Resilient/Aware

Learning Outcomes: Students should be able to:

- Identify laws that directly relate to their lives (3.7)
- Explain how laws are made, enforced and evolve over time (3.8)
- Investigate how individuals or groups have used the law to bring about change in society (3.11)
- Reflect on their ongoing learning and what it means for them (3.14)

Materials

- Whiteboard & marker
- Teacher laptop/overhead projector
- Student pens/copies/reflection notebooks
- iPad/Tablet for each student
- Photocopy of The Journey of a Census Form
- Photocopy of extract from The Statistics Act,1993, and the Statistics (Census of Population) Order, 2020

Activity 1: The Law and You (20 mins)

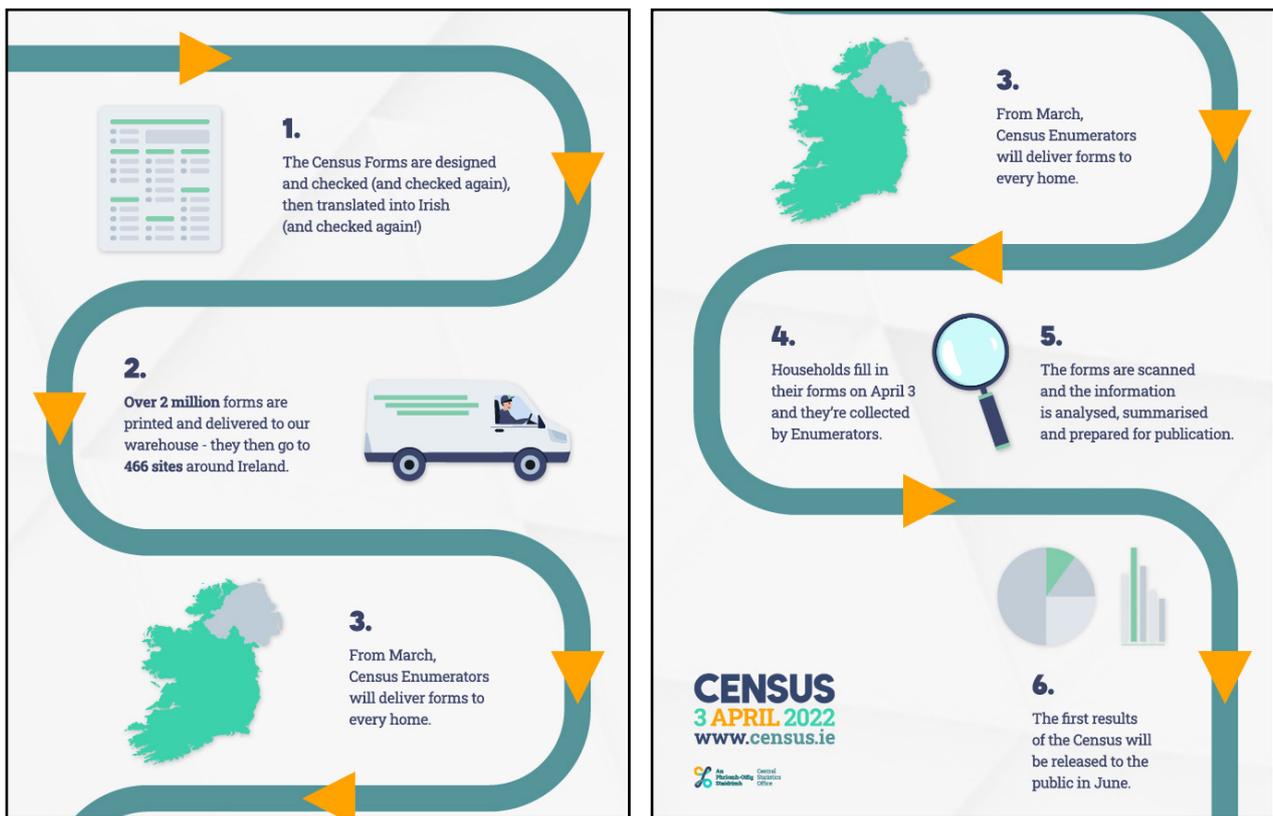
Explain to the students that the law affects us in many ways in our everyday lives, from wearing a seatbelt in the car, to the speed the bus travelled on the way to school, to the packaging on our cereal boxes.

Ask them in pairs to think of three other ways in which the law affects them. Elicit student answers and put them on the whiteboard.

Tell students they are going to learn about the process of collecting this important information and that the people who deliver and collect the census forms are called census enumerators.

Give the students a copy of the Journey of a Census Form infographic.

The Journey of a Census Form



Ask them to create their own fact sheet on how the census is delivered, tell them they can represent this information in the form of:

- A newspaper article,
- A colourful graphic,
- A cartoon of the life of a census form.

Tell students that they can finish this work at home and that you will put the best on the classroom walls

Activity 2: Examining a Legal Document (20 mins)

Explain to students that completing the census form is underpinned by Irish law and that completing the census form is compulsory under Section 26 of *The Statistics Act, 1993*. Any person who fails or refuses to provide this information, or who knowingly provides false information, can be fined up to €44,440.

The Act defines how the Central Statistics Office (CSO) operates. It also outlines the importance of confidentiality of the information provided to the CSO in the census and its other surveys.

Ask the students to look at the extract from [The Statistics Act, 1993](#) below. Tell them to examine the kind of language used and then answer the following questions.

Statistics Act 1993

- (a) Read this extract and take note of the kind of language used.
- (b) Explain what each of the four sections (32, 33, 38 and 44) mean, in your own words.

[The Statistics \(Census of Population\) Order, 2020](#) states that Ireland will have a census on Sunday 3 April 2022. It specifies the questions which will be included in Census 2022 and reiterates that anyone in Ireland on that night must be included on a census form.

Census Order 2020

- (a) Read this extract and take note of the kind of language used.
- (b) When is Census Night?
- (c) Why do you think a Statutory Order is issued before each census takes place in Ireland?

Activity 2: Examining a Legal Document (20 mins)

Extract from the Statistics Act, 1993

PART V

PROTECTION OF INFORMATION

32. All information furnished by a person, undertaking or public authority under this Act shall be used only for statistical compilation and analysis purposes.
33. (1) No information obtained in any way under this Act or the repealed enactments which can be related to an identifiable person or undertaking shall, except with the written consent of that person or undertaking or the personal representative or next of kin of a deceased person, be disseminated, shown or communicated to any person or body except as follows.
- (a) for the purposes of a prosecution for an offence under this Act;
 - (b) to officers of statistics in the course of their duties under this Act;
 - (c) for the purposes of recording such information solely for the use of the office in such form and manner as is provided for by a contract in writing made by the Director General which protects its confidentiality to his satisfaction.
38. Any person who uses information furnished under this Act or the repealed enactments in contravention of section 32 of this Act or wilfully discloses information relating to any identifiable person or undertaking in contravention of section 33 of this Act shall be guilty of an offence.
44. (1) A person guilty of an offence under any provision of this Act shall be liable.
- (a) on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding £1,000, or (b) on conviction on indictment, to a fine not exceeding £20,000.

Activity 2: Examining a Legal Document (20 mins)

Extract from the Statistics (Census of Population) Order, 2020

Statutory Instrument Number 637 of 2020

2. In this Order—

“census night” means the period of time commencing at 9 p.m. on 3 April 2022 and ending at 7 a.m. on 4 April 2022;

“following morning” means the period of time commencing at 7 a.m. on 4 April 2022 and ending at noon on that day.

SCHEDULE 1

General nature of information to be provided for purposes of Census of Population to be conducted in year 2022

1. Information regarding the following housing characteristics and facilities of a private household referred to in Article 3(a) on census night or the following morning:

- (a) age of building;
- (b) type of dwelling;
- (c) whether the accommodation is owned or rented, and where the accommodation is rented, category of landlord;
- (d) number of rooms;
- (e) type of fuel used by central heating;
- (f) type of piped water supply;
- (g) type of sewerage facilities;
- (h) where the accommodation is rented, the amount of rent paid and frequency of such payment;
- (i) number of working smoke alarms;
- (j) whether the accommodation uses renewable energy sources;
- (k) number of cars and vans owned or available for use by members of the household;
- (l) type of internet connection and type of devices used to connect to the internet.