

Government Virtual Learning

12th grade Government
US Census: What They Can and
Can't Ask You!

April 23, 2020

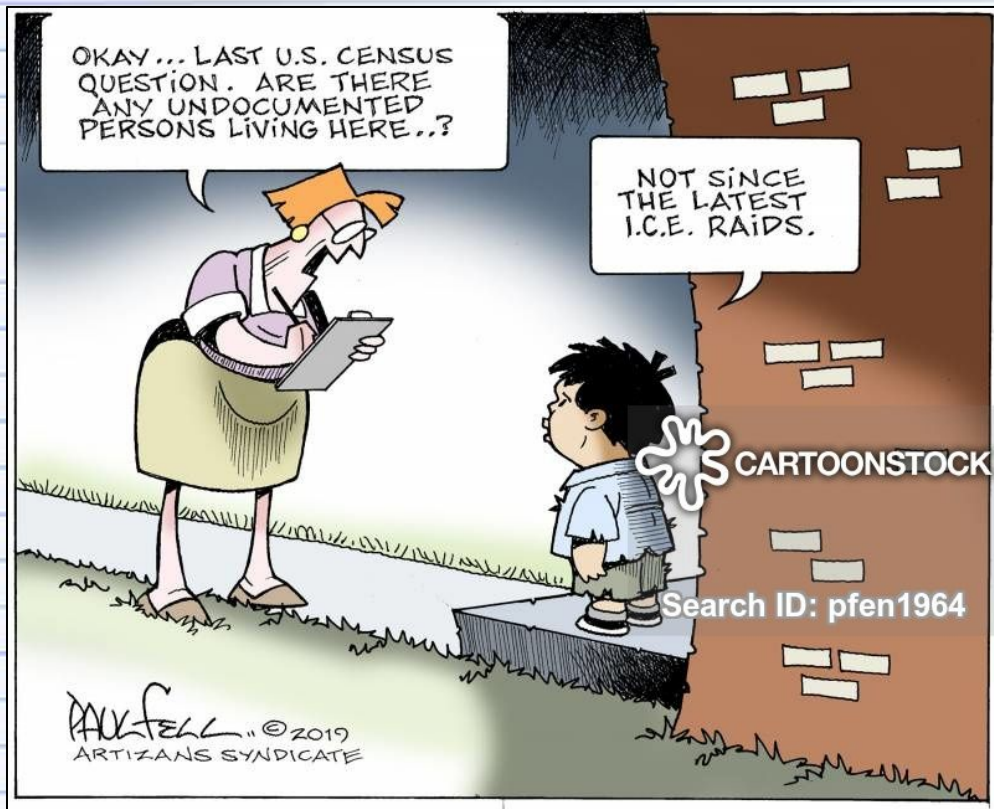


Lesson: #24 April 23, 2020

Objective/Learning Target:

Learning Target: I can analyze the US Census questions for constitutionality

Warm Up



In today's political climate (the nation's beliefs about a topic) why would people be hesitant to answer citizenship questions asked directly by the US government?

Lesson Activity

Why does the Trump administration want a citizenship question on the census?


The President appeared to refer to that concern when asked Friday why he wanted the question included. "Well, you need it for many reasons," Trump said. "Number one, you need it for Congress. You need it for Congress, for districting."

Districts are typically drawn based on total population, so that each member of Congress represents a similar number of total people, regardless of whether that person can cast a ballot, or can't -- the case for children, non-citizens, and some felons, for example. The data produced by a citizenship question could lead to states drawing representative districts based on eligible voters instead.

Lesson Activity

What's at the heart of the census citizenship question controversy?

Is this person a citizen of the United States?

- ☐ Yes, born in the United States
- ☐ Yes, born in Puerto Rico, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, or Northern Marianas
- ☐ Yes, born abroad of U.S. citizen parent or parents
- ☐ Yes, U.S. citizen by naturalization – *Print year of naturalization* 

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- ☐ No, not a U.S. citizen

Lesson Activity

Chief Justice John Roberts joined the Supreme Court's four liberals to block the proposed citizenship question from the census. The problem, per Roberts, wasn't the question itself — it was that Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross gave a “contrived” explanation for why he was doing it, rather than a “genuine” one.

It's unclear how much of a difference dropping the question will make, but to the extent that this was a plot to undercount heavily Latino states and therefore advantage Republicans in the next redistricting for the House of Representatives, it seems to have been foiled, for now.

The widespread expectation was that the question would stoke fear among unauthorized immigrants and their family members, scaring off millions of mostly Latino residents from responding, and meaning states where those residents are concentrated will be undercounted. (Those states, which mostly favor Democrats, would then get smaller House of Representatives delegations and less federal funding because of the undercount.)

Practice



What long term damage could the threat of having a citizenship question on the census have on the US?

List 3 things that could be affected just by the threat?

Practice CHECK



What long term damage could the threat of having a citizenship question on the census have on the US? List 3 things that could be affected just by the threat?

Answers will vary- Underrepresented citizens, benefit republican party in redrawing district lines, states lose necessary funding due to unreported citizenry

PRINCIPLES OF THE CONSTITUTION

POPULAR SOVEREIGNTY

The people establish government and are the source of its power.

LIMITED GOVERNMENT

Government powers are restricted to protect individual rights.

SEPARATION OF POWERS

The power to govern is divided among executive, legislative, and judicial branches to prevent the concentration and abuse of power by any one branch.

CHECKS AND BALANCES

Each branch of government has the authority to check, or restrain, some powers of the other two branches.

JUDICIAL REVIEW

The judiciary has the power to strike down laws and other government actions as invalid under the Constitution.

FEDERALISM

The rights of the states are protected by dividing powers between the national government and the state governments.

Reflection

The Supreme Court blocked the addition of the citizenship question, which principle of the constitution does this action most represent?

Supreme Court blocks Executive order
= _____

Checks and Balances! YES!