

People, Places, Power

Use demographic evidence within United States political boundaries.

SS.7.G.4.2 "Use maps and other geographic tools to examine the importance of demographics within political divisions of the United States."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each word or phrase that names a political division. Circle each demographic fact or geographic tool that could help you compare people across those divisions.

Reading Demographics Across Boundaries

- ① Political divisions give people places for representation and services. In the United States, these divisions include states, counties, cities, school districts, and congressional districts.
Demographics are facts about groups of people, such as population size, age, race or ethnicity, language, income, and where people live. Geographic tools help people compare these facts across boundaries. A map might shade counties by population density, while a data table can list each county's age groups. Together, the tools show patterns that a single number cannot.
- ② Every ten years, the U.S. Census counts residents. Census results are used to apportion the 435 seats in the U.S. House of Representatives among the states. After new census results, states use population data when drawing congressional and state legislative districts. A district map can show whether district boundaries contain similar numbers of people. Comparing totals by area also helps leaders notice where population is growing, shrinking, or spread far apart. These patterns can affect representation and planning.
- ③ Demographic maps do not tell leaders what decision to make. Instead, they provide evidence for questions about fair representation and community needs. For example, a map of older residents and a table of transportation access may point to places where bus service deserves study. Leaders should also compare more than one kind of data. A large population total may hide differences in age, language, or income within the same political division. Reading boundaries and demographics together supports better questions and more informed choices.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

- 1** Name two kinds of demographic facts and one geographic tool from the passage that could help compare people across political divisions.

- 2** What can a district map show about the people inside district boundaries?

- 3** How are U.S. Census results connected to political representation?

- 4** Why might a large population total not give leaders enough information about one political division?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose one political division in the United States. In 3 sentences, name it, explain two demographics you would compare with a map or table, and write one public-service question the comparison could help leaders answer.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each word or phrase that names a political division. Circle each demographic fact or geographic tool that could help you compare people across those divisions. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Name two kinds of demographic facts and one geographic tool from the passage that could help compare people across political divisions.	Any two of population size, age, race or ethnicity, language, income, or where people live, plus a map or data table.
2	What can a district map show about the people inside district boundaries?	It can show whether the district boundaries contain similar numbers of people.
3	How are U.S. Census results connected to political representation?	Census results are used to apportion the 435 U.S. House seats among the states. States also use population data when drawing congressional and state legislative districts.
4	Why might a large population total not give leaders enough information about one political division?	A large total can hide differences in age, language, or income within the same political division. Leaders need more than one kind of data.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I would study Harris County, Texas. I would compare population density on a county map with the percentage of residents under age 18 in a data table. Leaders could ask where additional libraries or youth programs may be needed.

Accept reasonable political divisions, including states, counties, cities, school districts, or congressional districts. The response should identify two relevant demographic measures, a geographic tool, and a question connected to a public service or representation.