

Census Clues

Use census data to identify regional population patterns.

S.USI.b "applying geographic skills to determine patterns and trends of people, places, or events;"

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each place name, circle each number or percent, and number 1, 2, or 3 beside clues that show where growth was fastest, slowest, or different within a region.

Where Did Growth Happen?

- ① Every 10 years, the U.S. Census counts people living in the country. Census data can reveal geographic patterns, such as which broad regions have the most residents and which are growing quickly. The table compares four U.S. regions from 2010 to 2020. Read population totals and percent change as different kinds of evidence.

U.S. REGIONAL POPULATION CHANGE, 2010 TO 2020

Region	2020 Population	Percent Change, 2010 to 2020
Northeast	57,609,148	4.1%
Midwest	68,985,454	3.1%
South	126,266,262	10.2%
West	78,588,572	9.2%

- ② In 2020, the South had the largest population, and the Northeast had the smallest. The South also had the highest percent growth during the decade. The West was close behind in growth. The Midwest and Northeast grew more slowly, even though each region added people. This pattern points to faster growth in the nation's southern and western areas.
- ③ Looking inside regions can show more detail. Texas and Florida, both in the South, each added more than two million people between 2010 and 2020. In the West, Utah's population grew 18.4 percent, while California's grew 6.1 percent. Population data shows where growth happened, but it does not prove why people moved or stayed.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 Which region had both the most people in 2020 and the greatest percent increase from 2010 to 2020?

2 Which region had the second-largest population in 2020 but the lowest percent growth?

3 Compare the South and the West. What pattern do their percentages show about population growth?

4 Why can the population data not prove why people moved to Texas, Florida, Utah, or California?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Choose two of the four census regions. Write three sentences: give each region's 2020 population, compare their percent growth, and state one geographic pattern that your comparison supports.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each place name, circle each number or percent, and number 1, 2, or 3 beside clues that show where growth was fastest, slowest, or different within a region. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which region had both the most people in 2020 and the greatest percent increase from 2010 to 2020?	The South.
2	Which region had the second-largest population in 2020 but the lowest percent growth?	The Midwest.
3	Compare the South and the West. What pattern do their percentages show about population growth?	The South and West had the two highest growth rates, 10.2% and 9.2%, so growth was faster in those regions.
4	Why can the population data not prove why people moved to Texas, Florida, Utah, or California?	The data shows where population growth happened, but it does not give the reasons people moved or stayed.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The South had 126,266,262 people in 2020, while the West had 78,588,572. The South grew 10.2 percent, which was 1.0 percentage point more than the West's 9.2 percent. This comparison shows that the southern and western parts of the United States both had rapid population growth.

Accept accurate comparisons that use two regions and include correct population totals and percent-growth values. Geographic claims must be supported by the data, not by unsupported reasons for migration.