

# THE 2010 CENSUS

## —THE FIRST U.S. CENSUS—

The first full U.S. census asked only seven questions and took nine months to finish. Seventeen U.S. Marshals appointed 200 assistants. They rode on horseback all over the young nation to count people. They wrote responses with quill pens on any scraps of paper they could find.

On April 1, an adult in your household will complete a census form that arrived in the mail. In 1790, there was no such thing. The United States government didn't even have enough money to print a form!

The first census cost about \$45,000, which was a lot of money then. But that's nothing compared to the estimated \$14 billion cost of the 2010 Census!

We are a large country with many people. Our census today also tells us much more than the census told us in 1790. That's why our costs are so high.



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