

# THE 2010 CENSUS

## GOVERNMENTAL NEEDS

The government needed a census to decide how many seats should be in the House of Representatives, to make sure that Americans were fairly represented in Congress. If you lived in a town with 6,000 people and your cousin lived in the next town, with 600 people, should your towns each have one representative in the House of Representatives? Shouldn't a person in the House of Representatives be elected by – and representing – about the same number of people as all the other representatives?

The Census is taken so that we find out how many people from each state should be in the House of Representatives, how big their districts will be, and how many people they will represent. These are the people, who, along with the U.S. Senate, make our federal laws and

decide how the federal government will spend money.

**Activity:** The data that is obtained from the Census will be considered when determining how much money we spend on education and how it is spent.

But the information from those numbers will be added to other information that is known about

schools. What advice would you give a government official who was making decisions about school spending?



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