

# THE 2010 CENSUS

## HOW AMERICA WAS COUNTED

In 1740, Benjamin Franklin himself was an official counter for a census of Philadelphia. That was a census of homes, not people, like many of the 38 censuses taken by the individual colonies before the first national census.

Don't forget, the colonies were then owned by Britain. The British asked for the censuses for the same reason lots of people use census results today: They wanted to know how many people there were so they could plan for the future of the colonies.

When Philip II sent the American Indians out to conduct a census, he prob-

ably didn't think about the problems they'd run into because they didn't speak the language in Mexico. Being able to communicate is an important quality in a census taker.



What other qualities would make a good census worker? Write a list of the qualifications needed. Then look at the Help Wanted ads to see how they're

written. Write one for a census taker, being sure to list the qualities you'd want to see in a person you were hiring.

© Copyright 2010 Hot Topics