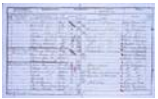


Census: Activity 1 - Introducing the Census **TEACHERS' NOTES**

Learning Objectives

- Understand what information is included on a census return
- Understand why and how census information was collected
- Learn about some of the different occupations of people in 1851
- Develop children's research skills in using historical sources, in particular census pages, maps and photographs

Sources



Source 1a. An 1851 census page for part of Brighton Road, Worthing



Source 1b. A typed transcript of 1a



Source 2a. An 1851 census page for part of Brighton Road, Worthing



Source 2b. A typed transcript of 2a



Source 3. An 1879 Map of the area covered in the census pages



Source 4. A c1899 photograph of coastguards and their families at Southwick, near Hove

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Note: these census pages cover Brighton Road from Warwick Road in the west to what is now Seamill Park Avenue in the east.

Column headings

The first lefthand column is the number written by the enumerator for each household visited - not the house number. If a house was divided into separate apartments it could contain several households.

The first building listed (household number 1) is in fact number 4 Brighton Road, as listed in the second column. The houses listed as 3 and 4 in the left-hand column do not have house numbers so the address is just listed as Brighton Road. Other houses are listed by name, for example: Marina Mansion, Eden Villa, Feest's Farm.

The other columns show:

- The names of the people living there on the date of the census.
- The relationship of the people to the head of the family.
- Their "condition" i.e. married or unmarried.
- Their age and whether male or female.
- Their occupation.
- Where they were born.
- Whether they were blind, or deaf-and-dumb.

Abbreviations or unusual words used

- Abode = "lived in"
- Do = Ditto, meaning "the same"
- Daur = daughter
- Widr = widower
- Servt = servant
- N.K. = "not known"
- Ag Lab" = "Agricultural Labourer"

Why would the government have wanted to collect this information?

Over two thousand years ago, the Greeks, Romans, Egyptians and other countries counted the people living under their rule, usually to help them collect taxes, or know how many men were available for the army. The first time there was any kind of census in Britain was the Domesday Book in 1086.

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In the late 18th century, the British government was worried about the rapid increase of the population, and possible problems in supplying enough food for everybody. It decided to hold a census to gather information about the number of people living in the country and where they lived, so a census was held in 1801. There has been a census every 10 years since then, except in 1941 during the Second World War.

In 1841, for the first time the names and addresses of people were recorded. From 1851, more detailed information about each person living in a household was gathered, including their age, their work, and where they were born. Having this sort of information meant the government could be more detailed in its economic planning, as well as knowing how many men were available to fight in case of war, or in more recent times to plan where and how many houses need to be built.

How was information collected?

From 1851, every household in the country was given a form to be filled in on Census day. On the next day, the "enumerator" (the person in charge of collecting information for each district) went from house to house to collect the forms and checked if they were filled in properly; if the householder could not read or write, the enumerator would fill it in for them. The information on the forms was then copied into a book (the pages we will look at here) and sent to the census office in London, where clerks would list information on ages, jobs, birthplaces, etc. which could then be put into tables of statistics.

The red and blue check marks on the census pages were made by the clerks when they noted down different information for the statistical tables.

Is census information collected in the same way today?

The method has hardly changed. Forms are distributed to every household, and up to 1991 they were collected by the enumerators. In 2001 special envelopes were provided with the forms and for the first time people could send in their census returns by post.

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NOTES ON THE DIFFERENT HOUSEHOLDS

Household number 1 (4 Brighton Road)

-There are eight people living here.

As well as the Plowman family - husband James, wife Susannah, and their two children - there are four lodgers all from different families.

-The men all work as painters and glaziers or carpenters. Note that James Plowman's son Samuel, aged 22, lives at home and works at the same job as his father.

-The Plowmans are local (born in Broadwater, Lancing, and Worthing).

The lodgers come from further away: Lincolnshire, Oxfordshire, Norfolk and Buckinghamshire. Two of the lodgers, Daniel Harbud and Mathias Whithead, are married but their wives are not living with them.

Household number 3 (Brighton Road)

-There are eight people living here.

Seven are from the same family - two brothers, James and Henry Munday, and their three sisters, plus a nephew and niece. They have a house servant.

-James works as an accountant, and Henry as a maltster (making or dealing in malt for breweries). One sister, Catherine, teaches drawing, another, Sarah, teaches music. There is no job listed for the third sister, Elizabeth.

-The Munday family originally came from Wiltshire. Henry Shield, the servant, was born in Gloucestershire.

Household number 5 (Eden Villa)

-There are five people living here - a married couple, James and Louisa Tennent, and their three servants: a cook, a waiting woman, and a page.

-James Tennent is retired. He used to be a Major in the East India Company Service (the East India Company was the organisation that had a monopoly on trade between Britain and India, and also had military and political powers until it was dissolved in 1858).

-Only Joseph Parsons, the page, is local. Major Tennent was born in Scotland, his wife in England (place not known). Eliza Morley, the cook, comes from Kettering and Ann Croydon, the waiting woman, from Devon.

-Joseph, the page, would do jobs such as opening the door to callers and running errands, for example taking letters to the post office. As he is the only male servant he would probably also do some domestic jobs such as lighting the fires, cleaning knives, and cleaning boots and shoes.

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Household number 6 (Feest's Farm)

-There are six people living here - a married couple, James and Maria Feest, and four other people listed as servants.

-James is a farmer "of 78 acres, employing 5 labourers". Emily Dale is a house servant. The three other men living on the farm - David Feest (James's brother), George Bushby and Charles Heather - work as agricultural labourers on the farm.

-James and his wife, and the farm workers, are local: born in Heene, Tarring, and Worthing. Emily's place of birth is not known.

Note: The farm is quite large (78 acres, roughly the size of 9 football pitches), and the owner employs five labourers to do the heavy manual work. In 1851 there were no tractors or other machines to make the work easier.

Household number 7 (Turnpike)

-There are four people living here - a married couple, James and Charlotte Marner, and their two sons aged 7 and 6.

-James works as a coal porter and turnpike gate keeper. The two boys are listed as "scholars" which means they are going to school.

-They are all local: James was born in Goring, his wife in Tarring, and the two boys in Worthing.

Note: As turnpike gate keeper, James collects money from people using the turnpike road. The money was used to keep the road in good condition for the traffic such as horse-drawn coaches, carts and carriages. Apparently he is not earning enough money as a turnpike keeper - the opening of a railway station in Worthing in 1845 meant there was less traffic on the road - so he also delivers coal around town.

House number 8 (Coast Guard station)

-There are three people living here - a married couple, Isaac and Jane Dunford, and their daughter Emily aged 21.

- Isaac works as a coastguard boatman. Emily is a dressmaker.

- Both Isaac and Jane, and their daughter, come from the Isle of Wight.

Note: "Boatman" was the lowest rank at a coastguard station. At that time coastguards were usually sent to a station away from their home town so they would not have any friends among the local people who might be smugglers. Although in 1851 there was less smuggling than earlier in the century, coastguards would still go out on patrols to stop smugglers from bringing ashore luxury goods (such as brandy from France and gin from Holland) - without paying taxes. Isaac would also help to rescue sailors who had been shipwrecked, and could be called up to reinforce the Royal Navy in case of war.

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GENERAL NOTES

The people who live in the two houses closest to town all work as painters, glaziers and carpenters, and most of them have come a long way from where they were born. Worthing, like other West Sussex seaside towns such as Littlehampton and Bognor, was developing as a seaside resort with more houses being built as the town grew. People were needed to work on the new buildings, and would often come from far away, especially rural areas where there was not so much opportunity for them to find work.

Going along the road eastwards away from the town, the Munday family are mostly professional people - an accountant, and teachers. They employ a servant. Their 15-year-old niece, Emily, goes to school - while Jane Plowman, aged 13, whose father is a painter/glazier, does not go to school. Free schooling was not available everywhere so not every parent was able to send their children to school.

Major Tennent and his wife, in Eden Villa (named on the map), are retired and employ three servants. Worthing was becoming a fashionable resort and was already considered a good place to retire to - especially for somebody who was used to the warmer climate of India.

James Feest has a large farm (see group of buildings above T.P. on the right of the map) and employs five farm workers as well as having a servant. The farm workers were all born locally. Farming was a major activity in West Sussex and large farms would still be found relatively close to the town centres.

James Marner the turnpike keeper (T.P. on the map stands for turnpike) is a good illustration of someone living in housing built specifically for people working in certain jobs. So is Isaac Dunford the coastguard (the coastguard station was destroyed several times by high seas, and was not rebuilt after 1869 so does not show on this map).

In general, people tended to live close to where they worked and most of those living along the Brighton Road are good examples of this.