

Teacher Guide: Diversity Collage



Today's theme

The goal of Statistics in Schools Week, Day 3, is to highlight diversity in the classroom and make the connection to how the census questionnaire highlights diversity in our country. Students will explore the idea that although the census is a count of every individual, we all come together to form one nation.

What students need to know about the 2020 Census

These are the most important points to convey to students about the 2020 Census:

- The census is a count of every person living in the United States that occurs every 10 years.
- Responses to the census help determine how hundreds of billions of dollars are distributed each year to states and communities to support things like schools, hospitals, housing, and parks.
- Every person needs to be counted so that the government knows where resources are most needed.
- You can do your part by making sure an adult in your home counts you—and every person living in your home—in the 2020 Census.

Materials needed

- This teacher guide
- Student worksheet
- Construction paper in a variety of colors
- Scissors
- Tape or glue
- Designed square with Maya Angelou quote for the center of the collage
- Markers, crayons, or colored pencils

Teacher directions

1. Begin by telling students that today the class will be learning about diversity in the United States. Explain that the word “diversity” is used to refer to the differences among members of a group. A synonym of diversity is “variety.” A diverse population is made up of people who are different in many ways. Ask students to share ideas about how their class is diverse (race, ethnicity, religion, family size, hair color, gender, etc.). Then ask students, “What does it mean for our community to be diverse?”



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2. Review key facts that your students have learned about the 2020 Census.
3. Tell students that the census is like a snapshot in time. Although that snapshot captures our entire population, it is made up of millions of individuals, each with their own story, background, and family.
4. Explain to students that they are going to create a “diversity collage” to highlight how each person counts in their own special way and how we all come together to make one nation.
5. Tell students that each of them will be drawing a self-portrait. Walk students through the directions and then pass out the worksheet.
6. Explain that students will use the worksheet to draw their self-portrait and to write their answers to two questions that are part of the 2020 Census form. The first question is about age. The census form asks for the age of every person living in the home. The second question is about what language is spoken in the home. Remind students that the census form is available in English and 12 other languages.
7. Have students start by writing their age and home language (e.g., English, Spanish, Tagalog) on the worksheet. Then ask them to draw their self-portrait.
8. After students have completed their self-portrait, ask them to cut it out and glue it to a piece of colored construction paper. Have students write their first name at the top of the construction paper.
9. Ask students to volunteer to share what makes them diverse with the rest of the class.
10. As a class, choose a space such as a bulletin board or the floor to put all the self-portraits together. Use the square with the Maya Angelou quote as the center of your diversity collage. Then, as if you were putting together tiles, arrange the students’ self-portraits into a large collage. See the example below.
11. Take a picture of your diversity collage to share with others. Be sure to post it on social media using the hashtags #StatsinSchools and #2020Census.



Cut out the square below and glue it to a piece of colored construction paper. Use this as the center of your classroom's diversity collage and arrange students' self-portraits around it.



2020 CENSUS | **SIS WEEK:**
EVERYONE
COUNTS!

**“In diversity
there is beauty
and there is
strength.”**

—Maya Angelou

