

PART II - Document Analysis - Past Census Questions:

Analyze the following documents by looking closely at the excerpts from past census surveys. An overview of each census survey can be found on the census.gov/history. Think of how each document helps you answer the question:

How and why has race evolved throughout the history of the census?

After analyzing all the documents, complete Handout 1. Note that every person is counted for the purpose of representation and apportionment but pay close attention to how the race or color labels continued or changed throughout time.

Document A: [1790 Census](#)

Source: The Census Bureau

The six inquiries in 1790 called for the name of the head of the family ⁶and the number of persons in each household of the following descriptions:

- Free White males of 16 years and upward (to assess the country's industrial and military potential)
- Free White males under 16 years
- Free White females
- All other free persons
- Slaves

*Historical context: The U.S. Constitution was ratified on September 17, 1787. This is the first census after the Constitution. The only mention of representation of enslaved persons was the 3/5 Compromise. Slaves were counted as 3/5 of a person for representation in the House of Representatives of the U.S. Congress. The Naturalization Act of 1790 only allowed free white persons of good character to become citizens.

⁶ Head of the family or Head of the household: The person who pays the majority of the household expenses