

Population and the House of Representatives

DIRECTIONS: Look at the data below on population and the House of Representatives. Think about the following question as you analyze the chart: **How have changes in the nation's population impacted representation in the House of Representatives for large and small states?**

Census Year	State with Most Representatives	State(s) with Only One Seat (only one Representative)
1920	New York Number of Reps:43	Arizona, Delaware, Nevada, New Mexico, Wyoming
1940	New York Number of Reps:45	Delaware, Nevada, Vermont, Wyoming
1960	New York Number of Reps:41	Alaska, Delaware, Nevada, Vermont, Wyoming,
1990	California Number of Reps: 52	Alaska, Delaware, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Vermont, Wyoming.
2010	California Number of Reps: 53	Alaska, Delaware, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Vermont, Wyoming.

U.S. Census Bureau. 2010 Census Brief: Congressional Appropriations. By Kristen d. Burnett. Issued November 2011.

<https://www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/briefs/c2010br-08.pdf>

1) What trends do you see in the data above?

Students should notice a large gap in representatives between the largest and smallest states.

2) How has the power of large and small states been impacted by changes in population?

Answers will vary but students should note how larger states have more votes in the House of Representatives.

3) How does this trend impact or relate to the arguments made by Madison in Federalist #51?

Answers will vary but students should connect representation in the House of Representatives to Madison's argument.

Day One Closing Question: *Be sure to respond to the question below only after the class discussion.*

Based on the information you learned today, why is the census important to California's representation in the federal government (answer in a 2-3 sentences)?

Answers will vary but students should at a minimum connect an accurate population count with the level of a state's representation in the House of Representatives.