Six Degrees of Separation Handout

Directions: Analyze the documents to understand events and their connection to the essential question in bold below. Note that the starting point and ending points have been written in for you. Fill in the empty boxes as you read through the documents. You will not use all the documents. 1) In each box, look for the census year and read the corresponding document. List all the answer options for someone who is not considered "white" as a race. 2) On or next to each arrow, indicate how the census changed or continued (with no changes) from one census to the next. 3) Lastly, in the large, center box, write complete sentences to briefly answer the questions.

How and Why has *Race* Evolved Throughout the History of the Census?

Starting Point:
September 17, 1787
United States Constitution ratified

*The Constitution led to the first census. The 3/5 Compromise needed slaves to be counted

Document A: 1790
-All other free persons
-Slaves

*The Civil ended slavery. Industrialization led to the increase of immigrants from certain countries.

Document C: 1870
Black, Mulatto, Chinese, American Indian

*The Chinese Exclusion Act (1882) led to an increase of Japanese immigration.

Document D: 1890
Black, Mulatto, Chinese, Quadroon, Octoroon, Japanese, Indian (Native)

*The census added more descriptors such as Mexicans and Filipino.

Document E: 1930 Black, Mexican, American Indian, Chinese, Japanese, Filipino, Hindu

*The Vietnam War affected the immigration patterns which were reflected on the census.
*The Immigration Act of 1965 also removed nationality quotas to allow for more diversity.

Document G: 1980
Vietnamese, Asian, Indian, Hawaii, Guam, Samoan, Eskimo, Chicano, Cuban, etc.

*The census continues to increase the number of answer choices but also includes sections for people to fill in.

Document H: 2010
Allowed a space to specify one's origin, tribe, or race.

*This can be a space for students to reflect what they learned or what their role is for the 2020 Census.

Ending Point:
2020 Census – I will ensure my family and friends are counted!

Study your completed chart: How has race evolved throughout the history of the U.S. Census? Why did these changes take place? How do you feel about these changes?

Student answers may vary.

The census has shown changes in the categories for race and color throughout American history. You can use the census to understand the reaction to political and social changes. Immigration policies, other political policies and social definitions of race affects the questions on the census form. It is intriguing to see the changes in the American population as the world moved more towards a global economy. It is crucial that all people be counted in the 2020 Census, regardless of age, sex, race, and citizenship status, to ensure that the state and all its people get the federal resources and representation they deserve.