

Census 2006

Be part of the bigger picture

What is a Census?

A census is an official count of the population of a country. This kind of census is called a population census and has been taken since ancient times. Ireland has been conducting Censuses of Population since 1841.

Why is a Census conducted?

A census is the greatest source of information about a country. It is designed to provide valuable statistics in order to give a detailed picture of a country's progress.

Census results are essential for effective policy, planning and decision making. This planning occurs at national, regional and local level. The study of census results and statistics enables us to track developments over a long period with considerable accuracy.

Census History

Old census returns are valuable historical and genealogical records.

Unfortunately, **most of** the returns for 1813, 1821, 1831, 1841 and 1851 censuses were destroyed when the Custom House was burned in 1922.

The 1861 and 1871 census



returns were deliberately destroyed. The 1881 and 1891 census returns were pulped because of the paper shortages during the 1914-18 War. Of the pre-Independence censuses only the 1901 and 1911 census returns remain intact today. These census returns are the most frequently used records in

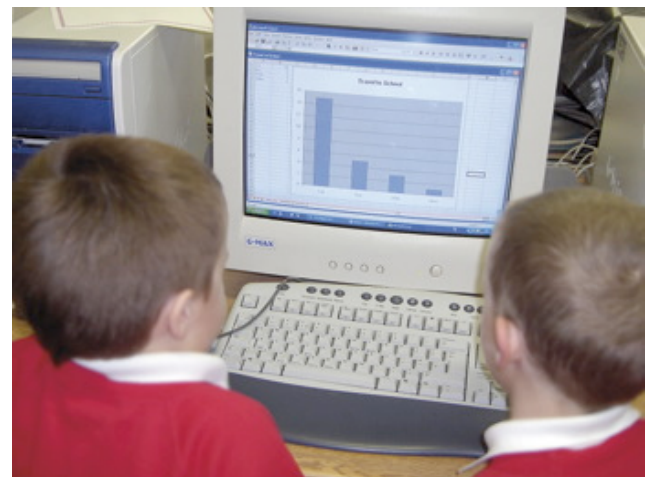
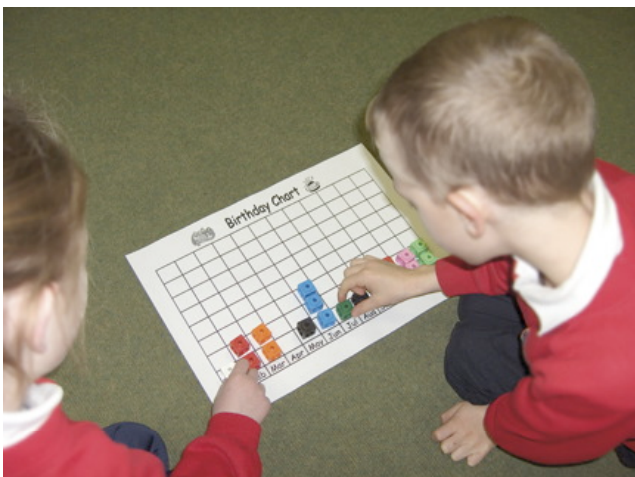
the National Archives, mainly for genealogical research.

Who carries out the Census?

The organisation that conducts the census in Ireland is the Central Statistics Office (CSO). The CSO is the Government statistical office and has been collecting and publishing a

wide range of social, economic and demographic information on Ireland since it was established in 1949. The Statistics Act, 1993 ensures that the data collected by the CSO is strictly confidential and can only be used for statistical purposes.

A temporary field force of nearly 4,500 persons is



employed to carry out the census at local and regional level.

Census 2006 for Schools

In the lead up to this year's census, a set of topic-based lessons has been developed by primary school teachers from first to sixth class.

This series of topic-based lessons has been designed to help children understand what the census is about and to learn how and why a census is conducted. These lessons have been piloted in classroom situations.

The aim of these lessons is to enable children to understand the census process and that data can be represented and

interpreted in different ways. By learning about Census 2006 and by engaging in related activities to solve real problems the children will value the importance of census statistics in helping to build our future as a nation. Each lesson has been developed specifically to incorporate the principles of the 1999 Primary School Curriculum.

The Census Lesson Packs include:

- Comprehensive teacher notes and lesson plans;
- Census information
- Census flashcard/fact cards.
- Sample Classroom Census forms.
- Language lists.

- Integration ideas.
- Assessment tasks.
- Home/school links.
- Extension activities.

Also included are graph templates and tally sheets, puzzles (with solutions), calendar activities and ICT tasks

The Census 2006 school lesson packs can be downloaded from:

www.cso.ie/census/
If you require further information on the census please contact:

Central Statistics Office,
Ardee Road, Rathmines,
Dublin 6.
Lo Call 1890 313414
or
email: census@cso.ie

Compiled by the Primary Curriculum Support Programme Mathematics Team.

With special thanks to Mr Oliver Hynes and the pupils of Scoil Bhríde, New Inn.

For further ideas on mathematics, visit www.pcpsp.ie

Why not visit the National Archives site

www.nationalarchives.ie/genealogy/censusrtns.html

THE CENSUS WILL BE HELD ON 23 APRIL

