

# North Carolina: People, Places, & Progress

## Chapter 2: North Carolina's Economy

### Internet Activity



The Constitution of the United States requires that a census be conducted every ten years. The count gives us a look at trends in the country, such as changes in the economy and the population as a whole. In this activity, you will use data to create graphs showing changes in the population of North Carolina in the last half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and early 21<sup>st</sup> century. You will create other graphs to show information about North Carolina's economy.

**Instructions:** Use the information from the link below to find information to create graphs.

**United States Population Data:**

[1900-1999](#)

**North Carolina Population Data:**

[1900-1990](#)

[2000](#)

[2010](#)

### Part I: Finding the Facts

Take a moment to see how the data are organized. At the first link, notice years at the top of columns, with each row standing for the national, state, or parish population.

1. What was the population of North Carolina in 2010? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What was the population of North Carolina in 1940? \_\_\_\_\_
3. By how much did North Carolina's population change between 1940 and 2010?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Let's see what that looks like as a percentage increase (Hint: use this equation:  
 $((\text{population in 2010} - \text{population in 1940}) \div \text{population in 1940}) \times 100 =$  \_\_\_\_\_
5. Use the same process to calculate the percent increase in population of the United States during the same period and record that information.  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. In a sentence, compare the population trend of the U.S. with that of North Carolina during this time period.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

<b>Year</b>	<b>Population</b>
<b>1940</b>	
<b>1950</b>	
<b>1960</b>	
<b>1970</b>	
<b>1980</b>	
<b>1990</b>	
<b>2000</b>	
<b>2010</b>	

7. Complete the table with population data about North Carolina using information from the website. Write a statement to summarize the data.  
\_\_\_\_\_

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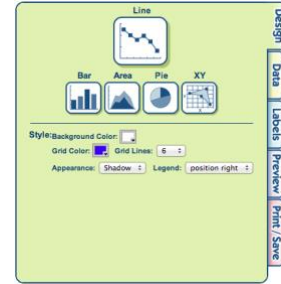
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#### Part II: Creating a Graph

Click here to visit the [Create-A-Graph](#) website. Use this online tool to create a graph.

- Begin by clicking “Line” since a line graph shows “data over time” and this graph will show how the population of North Carolina changed over 70 years.



- Click the “Data” tab. Complete each field, as shown below.  
Hint: you may want to put your name in the Source field!

Graph Title: North Carolina Population 1940-2010  
 X Axis Label: Year  
 Y Axis Label: Population  
 Source: US Census

Data Set: Items 8 Groups 1

Group 1  
 Group Label: NC Populati  
 Line Width: large  
 Point Shape: circle  
 Point Size: medium  
 Color: [Red] [Red]

Item Label	Value
Item 1: 1940	3571623
Item 2: 1950	4061929
Item 3: 1960	4556155
Item 4: 1970	5082059
Item 5: 1980	5881766
Item 6: 1990	6628637
Item 7: 2000	8049313
Item 8: 2010	9535483

Min-Value:   
 Max-Value:

NOTE: Values may only be numbers.

- Click the “Labels” tab and click “No” for Show Label.
- Click the “Preview” tab to inspect the graph. Return to the other tabs, if needed, to improve your graph.
- Click the “Print/Save” tab. Follow onscreen instructions to Print and/or Save the graph. Staple the copy to this sheet.

**Part III:** Use the directions that you just followed to create another graph. [Click this link](#) then click the links marked to see information from 2010 and from more recent years. Choose a data set about the state of North Carolina. For instance, compare percentage of Hispanic population in those two time periods.

Print a copy of the completed graph and staple it to this activity sheet. Write a short summary of the trend that you notice on the graph. What do these data mean for North Carolina? How would this information help planners learn more about the economy of North Carolina?

