

Name: _____ Date: _____ Class: _____

West Virginia: Our Beautiful Home

INTERNET ACTIVITY



Chapter 4: The 21st Century Global Economy

Counting On West Virginia's Human Resources

West Virginia's economy depends on its people. But how can we know how many people live here? What trends can we find in the population? What are the effects of these trends? To answer these questions, look at data from the United States Census.

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

Instructions: Use the information from the links below to find information to create graphs and look for trends in West Virginia.

United States Census Sources: [1910-2020](#) [2000](#) [2020](#)

Part I: Finding the Facts

Take a moment to see how the data is organized at each source. In the first link, find West Virginia's data in the list of states. At the second link, look for Table 1 on page 1 (page 19 of the PDF). The third link has recent census data.

1. What was the population of West Virginia in 2020? _____
2. What was the population of West Virginia in 1920? _____
3. Write a sentence describing West Virginia's population change between 1920 and 2020.

4. Let's see what that looks like as a percentage increase (Hint: use this equation:
$$[(\text{population in 2020} - \text{population in 1920}) \div \text{population in 1920}] \times 100 =$$

5. Use the same process to calculate the percent change in the population of the United States during the same period and record that information. _____
6. Write a sentence comparing the population trend of the U.S. with that of West Virginia during this period.

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7. Complete the table with population data from West Virginia using data from the websites. Write a statement summarizing the data.

Year	Population
1920	
1930	
1940	
1950	
1960	
1970	
1980	
1990	
2000	
2010	
2020	

Part II: Graphing Your Data

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

- Begin by clicking “Line” since a line graph shows “data over time,” and this graph will show how the population of West Virginia changed from 1920-2020.
- Click the “Data” tab. Complete each field. Hint: Add your name to the Source field. Each year of data should be entered in the “Item Label” column. Enter the population in the “Value” column.
- Click the “Labels” tab and click “No” for Show Label. You can experiment with this feature later to decide if you want to choose “Yes” for your final graph.
- Click the “Preview” tab to inspect the graph. If necessary, return to the other tabs and make changes to improve your graph.
- Click the “Print/Save” tab. Follow onscreen instructions to Print and/or Save the graph. Attach a printed copy of your graph to this sheet, or follow your teacher’s instructions for sending the graph electronically.

Part III: Use the directions you followed to create another graph. Choose a data set about the state of West Virginia and use your technology skills to create a graphic representation of the data. Print a copy of the completed graph and attach it to this activity sheet. Write a summary of the information in the graph. How would this information help state leaders make decisions about the economy of West Virginia?
