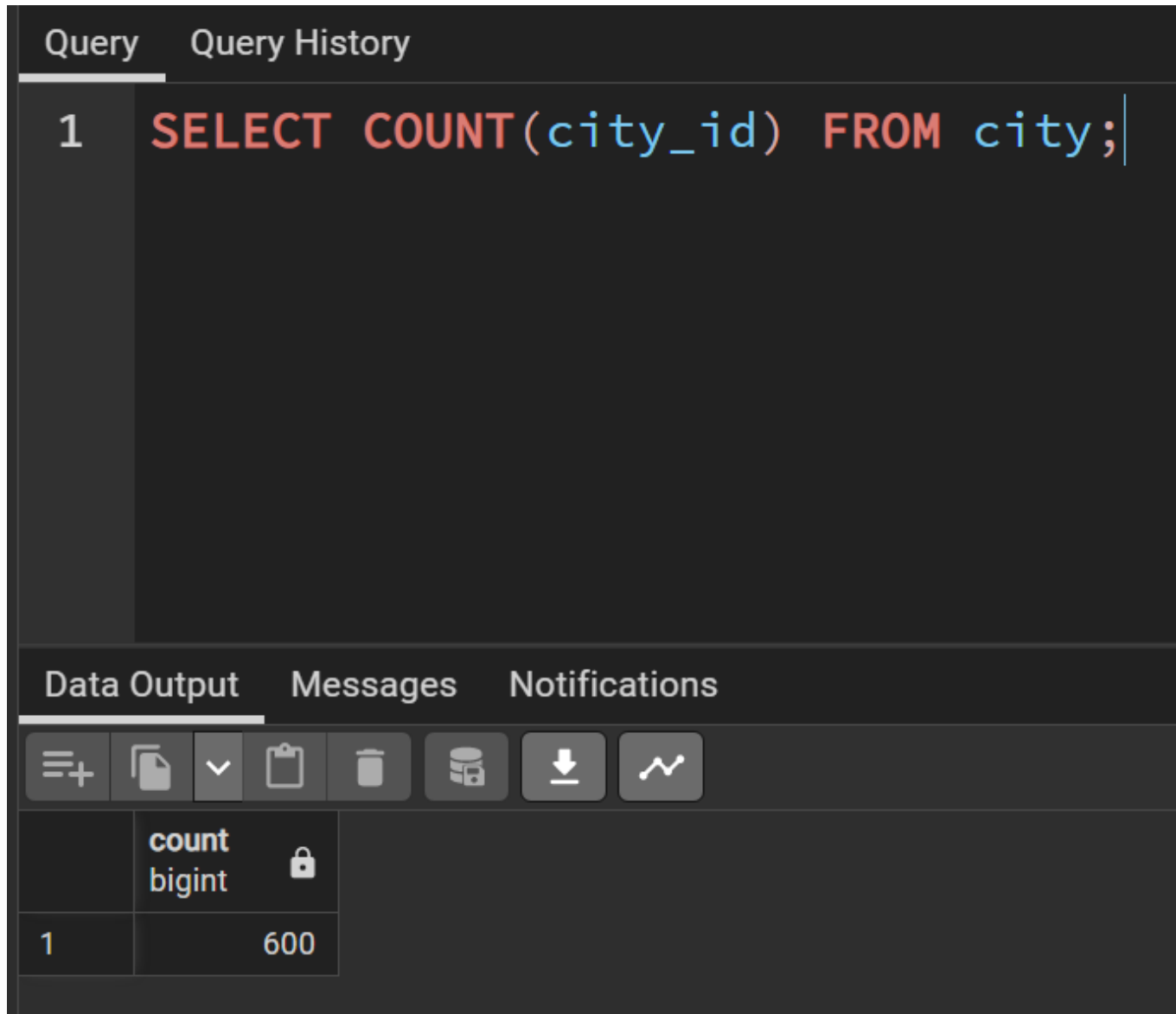


Notes 3 SELECT COUNT

If you wanted to count the number of items in a column in table:

```
SELECT COUNT(name) FROM table;
```

You actually *do* need to include the () parentheses, since COUNT is acting on SELECT and is not an independent syntax keyword unto itself.



The screenshot shows a SQL IDE interface with a dark theme. At the top, there are two tabs: "Query" and "Query History". The "Query" tab is active, showing a single query labeled "1" with the text: `SELECT COUNT(city_id) FROM city;`. Below the query editor, there are three tabs: "Data Output", "Messages", and "Notifications". The "Data Output" tab is active, displaying a table with the results of the query. The table has two columns: "count" and "bigint". The first row shows the value "600".

	count	bigint
1	600	

Query

Query History

1

`SELECT COUNT city_id FROM city;`

Data Output

Messages

Notifications

ERROR: column "count" does not exist
LINE 1: SELECT COUNT city_id FROM city;
 ^
SQL state: 42703
Character: 8

This is simply returning the number of rows in the table, which is almost certainly true regardless of which column is selected, i.e. you can also just do:

```
Query  Query History
1  SELECT COUNT city_id FROM city;

Data Output  Messages  Notifications
ERROR: column "count" does not exist
LINE 1: SELECT COUNT city_id FROM city;
                ^
SQL state: 42703
Character: 8
```

```
SELECT COUNT(*) FROM city
```

This does not appear to be slower, but using a column name instead of * can help remind what the goal of the query was to begin with.

How many unique names are there in the table?

```
SELECT COUNT(DISTINCT name) FROM table;
```

First, DISTINCT removes duplicate names. COUNT then counts the distinct names.

Query

Query History

1

SELECT COUNT(DISTINCT city) FROM city;

Data Output

Messages

Notifications

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⬇️

📈


	count bigint	🔒
1	599	

This returns an integer, not the actual distinct names. To find these, simply:

```
SELECT DISTINCT(name) FROM table;
```

```
1 SELECT DISTINCT(city) FROM city;
```



	city character varying (50) 	
1	Southport	
2	Taguig	
3	Tokat	
4	Atlixco	
5	Mukateve	
6	Pontianak	
Total rows: 599 of 599		Query complete 00:00:00.058