

了解人口普查 Making sense of the census

Hello. This is 6 Minute English from BBC Learning English. I'm Neil.

大家好。这里是 BBC 学习英语栏目的六分钟英语。我是内尔。

And I'm Sam.

我是萨姆。

In recent years, many people have wanted to find out more about where they come from.

最近几年，很多人想要更多地了解他们来自于哪里。

Millions have tried to trace their family history and discover how their ancestors lived hundreds of years ago.

几百万人曾经尝试追溯他们的家族史并且发现他们的祖先几百年前是如何生活的。

The internet has made it much easier to find historical documents and records about your family history - and one of the most useful documents for doing this is the census.

互联网让寻找关于你家族历史的历史文件和记录变得容易多了 —— 而对于这个最有用的文件之一就是人口普查。

A census is an official count of all the people living in a country.

人口普查指的是官方计算的这个国家居住的所有人的数量。

It collects information about a country's population and is usually carried out by the government.

它收集某个国家人口的相关信息，并且通常由政府进行。

In Britain, a census has been carried out every ten years since 1801. In 2002, when census records from a hundred years before became available online, so many people rushed to their computers to access them that the website crashed!

在英国，自 1801 年开始每十年会进行一次人口普查。在 2002 年，当时在网上可以查到一百年前的人口普查记录，所以很多人冲向他们的电脑获取这些信息，于是那个网站崩溃了！

But before we find out more about the census and its related vocabulary it's time for a quiz question, Sam.

但是在我们进一步了解人口普查以及它的相关词汇之前，是时候问问题了，萨姆。

Someone who knows a lot about his family history is British actor, Danny Dyer.

一个非常了解自己家族历史的人是英国演员丹尼·戴尔。

When BBC television programme, Who Do You Think You Are? researched his family history, they discovered that the actor was related to someone very famous - but who was it?

当 BBC 的电视节目《你认为你来自哪？》研究他的家族历史时，他们发现这个演员跟某个很有名的人有关系 —— 那么是谁呢？

添加的词汇

commonly

英:/'kɒmənlɪ/ 美:/'kæmənlɪ/

adv. 一般地；通常地；普通地



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A) King Edward III, B) William Shakespeare, or C) Winston Churchill?

A.国王爱德华三世, B.威廉姆·莎士比亚, 还是 C. 温斯顿·丘吉尔?

Well, I know Danny Dyer usually plays tough-guy characters so maybe it's C) , war hero Winston Churchill?

嗯, 我知道丹尼·戴尔经常扮演硬汉角色, 所以可能是 C, 战争英雄温斯顿·丘吉尔?

OK, Sam, we'll find out later if that's correct.

好的, 萨姆, 我们稍后会揭晓是否正确。

Now, although the first British census took place in 1801, other censuses have a much longer history.

尽管英国第一次人口普查是在 1801 年, 其它人口普查的历史要久得多。

In fact, the bible story of Mary and Joseph travelling to Bethlehem is linked to a Roman census.

事实上, 圣经故事玛丽和约瑟夫旅行到伯利恒就跟一次罗马人口普查有关。

So, what was the original reason for counting people and what did governments hope to achieve by doing so?

所以计算人口的最初原因是什么呢, 以及政府这样做希望达到什么希望呢?

Here's Dr Kathrin Levitan, author of a book on the cultural history of the census, speaking to BBC World Service programme, The Forum.

以下是卡瑟琳·莱维坦, 一本关于人口普查的文化历史的书的作者, 对话 BBC 世界服务节目《论坛》。

I think there were probably two most common reasons.

我认为可能有两个最常见的理由。

One was in order to figure out who could fight in wars, so basically military conscription.

一个就是为了弄清楚谁能够在战争中战斗, 所以基本上就是军事征兵。

And in order to find out who could fight in wars, ancient governments like the Roman Empire had to find out how many men of a certain age there were.

而且为了弄清楚谁能够在战争中战斗, 古代政府, 例如罗马帝国, 不得不弄清楚某个年龄的男性有多少人。

And I would say that the other thing that censuses were most **commonly** used for was for purposes of taxation.

我要说的是人口普查的另一个最常见的目的是征税。

According to Kathrin Levitan, ancient censuses were used to figure out, or understand, how many men were available to fight wars.

根据卡瑟琳·莱维坦的说法, 古代的人口普查是为了弄清楚, 或者说了解有多少男性能够上战场。

The Roman Empire needed a strong army, and this depended on conscription - forcing people to become soldiers and join the army.

罗马帝国需要一个强大的军队, 而这依赖于征兵 —— 强迫人们称为军人并加入军队。

The other main reason for taking a census was taxation – the system of taxing people a certain amount of money to be paid to the government for public services.

另一个主要的原因是征税 —— 向人们收取一定数量的金额作为税款支付给政府用于公共服务的系统。

Ancient and early modern censuses were large and difficult-to-organise projects.

古代和早期的现代人口普查是大型的且难以组织的项目。

They often involved government officials going from house to house, asking questions about the people who lived there.

它们经常需要政府官员挨家挨户地询问住在哪里的人。

But over time governments' desire to know about, and control, its citizens gave rise to new technologies for counting people.

但是随着时间的迁移，政府对于了解并控制其居民的意愿催生了计算人口的新技术。

Here's statistician and economist Andrew Whitby explaining how this happened in the US to BBC World Service programme, The Forum.

以下是统计学家兼经济学家安德鲁·惠特比向 BBC 世界服务节目《论坛》解释这在美国是如何发生的。

The 1890 census of the United States was the first in which some kind of electro-mechanical process was used to count people.

美国的 1890 年人口普查是第一个使用了某种机电流程的人口普查。

So instead of just, you know, armies of clerks kind of reading off census schedules and tabulating these things by hand, for the first time, an individual census record would be punched onto a card.

所以没有使用大量文员读取人口普查表格并手工列出表格，单个的人口普查纪录第一次被打孔到一张卡上。

So that there were holes in this card representing different characteristics of the person and then those cards could be fed through a machine.

这样这张卡上的洞代表了某个人的不同特征，然后这些卡片会被机器读取。

Old-fashioned censuses were managed by clerks – office workers whose job involved keeping records.

老式的人口普查由文员完成 —— 工作包含记录的办公室职员。

Thousands of clerks would record the information gathered in the census and tabulate it, in other words, show the information in the form of a table with rows and columns.

几千文员会记录下在人口普查中收集的信息并把它列成表格，换句话说，把这些信息展示在一个有条目和栏目的表格里。

The US census of 1890 was the first to use machines, and many censuses today are electronically updated to record new trends and shifts in populations as they happen.

美国 1890 年的人口普查率先使用了机器，而如今很多人口普查都进行了电子化更新来记录人口中的新趋势和转变。

In fact, so much personal information is now freely available through social media and the internet that some people have questioned the need for having a census at all.

事实上，现在很多个人信息可以通过社交媒体自由获得，而很多人拥有的互联网回应了进行人口普查的需求。

Yes, it isn't hard to find out about someone famous, like a TV star.

是的，了解某个有名的人的信息并不难，例如电视明星。

Someone like Danny Dyer, you mean?

你是指像丹尼·戴尔这样的人？

Right. In my quiz question I asked Sam which historical figure TV actor, Danny Dyer, was related to.

没错。我之前问萨姆电视演员丹尼·戴尔跟哪个历史名人有关。

And I said it was C) Winston Churchill.

我说的是 C. 温斯顿·丘吉尔。

Was I right?

我答对了吗？

It was a good guess, Sam, but the actual answer was A) King Edward III.

猜的不错，萨姆，但是事实上答案是 A. 国王爱德华三世。

And no-one was more surprised that he was related to royalty than the EastEnders actor himself!

没有人比这个东区演员自己更震惊于他竟然跟皇室有关联了！

OK, Neil, let's recap the vocabulary from this programme about the census - the official counting of a nation's population.

好的，内尔，我们来回顾本期跟人口普查 —— 官方计算某个国家人口 —— 有关的节目的词汇。

To figure something out means to understand it.

弄清楚指的是了解。

The Romans used conscription to force men to join the army by law.

罗马人利用募兵来强迫男性依法参军。

Taxation is the government's system of taxing people to pay for public services.

征税指的是政府向人民收税用于支付公共服务的系统。

A clerk is an office worker whose job involves keeping records.

文员指的是工作内容包含记录的办公室职员。

And tabulate means show information in the form of a table with rows and columns.

而列出表格指的是将信息展示在一个有条目和栏目的表格里。

That's all for our six-minute look at the census, but if we've whetted your appetite for more, why not check out the whole episode - it's available now on the website of BBC World Service programme, The Forum.

我们时长六分钟的对于人口普查的了解就此结束，但是如果我们吊起了你对于更多内容的胃口，何不查看整期节目呢 —— 它现在可以在 BBC 世界服务节目《论坛》的网站上观看。

Bye for now!

再见！

Bye bye.

再见。

