

Name(s): _____

DATA 101 Assignment 1: ANSWER KEY

Work in teams of 2

Instructions. Answer the following questions using the linked census documents. Always write down the page number and table where you found your information. Write your responses in the spaces provided.

1. Using [1800 Census: Original Printed Returns](#), what was the population of Carlisle in 1800? What about Dickinson College? Was Dickinson College's student population recorded on this census?

Carlisle's population is under Carlisle Borough which was 2,052. Unfortunately, from the 1800 census we cannot see Dickinson College's population. A common answer may be Dickinson Township but it is actually a different place.

2. From the same census, randomly pick three municipalities recorded in Cumberland County in 1800. (you can roll a die, or flip a coin) Do you recognize any of these names as they are used today? Here are the [current municipalities](#) in Cumberland County.

Examples you can pick from the 1800 listings include Carlisle Borough, East Pennsborough, West Pennsborough, Hopewell, Frankford, Allen, Dickinson township, Newton, Silver Spring. The spellings of the names of some municipalities changed a bit, but they remained mostly the same: Carlisle Borough, East Pennsboro Township, West Pennsboro Township, Hopewell Township, Frankford Township (became upper and lower Frankford), Allen Township (also become upper and lower Allen), Dickinson Township, Newton Township (became North and South Newton), Silver Spring Township.

3. Suppose an outsider knew nothing about slavery and only had this 1800 census table. What does the structure of the data itself reveal about the ethical failures built into that system?

Even without outside context, the 1800 census table reveals several ethical failures of slavery. For example, the respondents are sorted into "free white males/females," "all other free persons," and "slaves." Free white categories are broken down by age whereas all other free persons and slaves were only counted as totals, which encodes inequality in the data structure. Enslaved persons are recorded as only as undifferentiated totals, erasing identity, family ties, and rights. The counts existed for apportionment and taxation, not welfare, which reflects a system that extracted value while denying personhood. Lastly, slave children were not distinguished from adults, which leaves their presence hidden in the totals.

4. Using [1930 Census, Population Vol. I, Ch. 9](#), find Carlisle Borough's population in 1870 and again in 1930. Did the number go up or down? By how much?

From the 1870 published tables for minor civil divisions that list Carlisle Borough totals: 1870: 6,650. 1930: 12,596. Change is up by $12,596 - 6,650 = 5,946$

5. Would you be able to tell that Pennsylvania experienced one of the deadliest conflicts in U.S. history just by looking at the data in [1900 Census Bulletin No. 44, Pennsylvania](#)? What does this suggest about the limits of census data?

No. The 1900 Census Bulletin No. 44 (Pennsylvania) shows only population totals by county and minor civil divisions, with no information about cause-specific losses or wartime events. You see changes in population levels, but not why those changes happened. If we want to understand the impact of the Civil War (1861–1865), we would need more detailed records such as data on casualties, migration, or veterans.

6. Bonus: Go to [Dickinson Archives](#). Using the panel on the left to access content, identify one research question that interests you involving data analysis.

One interesting possibility is to go through THE DICKINSONIAN issues going back to 1872 and run text analysis to identify if the topics discussed remain similar or there have been significant changes with events that took place in history.