

The **population** in the United States has grown to 331 million, an increase of about 7%, over the past **decade**. **However**, it is the slowest **growth rate** since the **Great Depression** between the two world wars.

The **census**, taken every ten years, has an **impact** on the **Electoral College**, and, as a result, the **outcome** of the presidential election.

The 2020 census shows that Texas is the big winner with the largest growth rate. 29 million people live in the state, whose population increased by 16% since the 2010 **count**. The southern state gained 2 seats in the Electoral College. One reason for the change may be the fact that more and more high-tech companies are leaving **Silicon Valley** and setting up **headquarters** in Texas.



Census sign in a yard in Ohio

[Blervis](#), [CC BY-SA 4.0](#), via Wikimedia Commons

For the first time in history, California's population has actually **decreased**. Falling **birth rates** and more Californians leaving the state for other **destinations** have led to a **loss** of one electoral college seat.

**According to** the census, more and more Americans are leaving the north-eastern US and the Midwest and **heading towards** in the sunbelt states of the south. Apart from Texas, Florida is another winner and has **gained** one seat.

The results of the census could **increase** Republican chances of winning back the White House in 2024, as typically Democratic states like California and New York have lost Electoral College seats while Republican **strongholds** have gained a few.

## Words

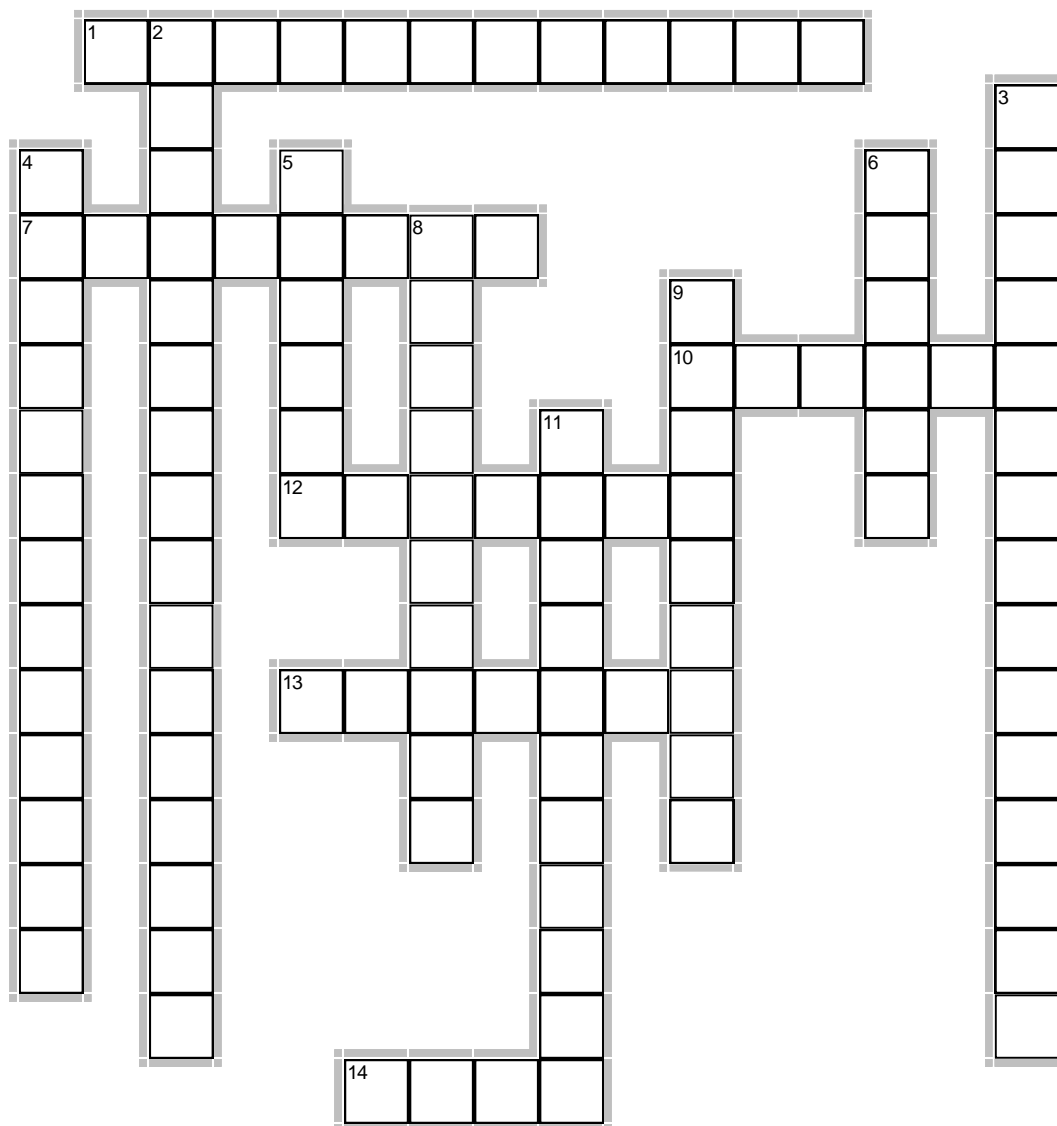
- **according to** = as reported by ...
- **birth rate** = the number of people born for every 1,000 people in a certain place every year
- **census** = the act of counting the number of people in a country
- **count** = here: counting of the population
- **decade** = ten years
- **decrease** = to go down
- **destination** = place to go to
- **Electoral College** = group of people chosen by each state, who come together to elect the President of the United States
- **gain** = get, receive
- **Great Depression** = time after the Wall Street crash of 1929 in which banks and companies closed, and many people were out of work
- **growth rate** = the speed at which something gets bigger
- **heading towards** = moving in a certain direction
- **headquarters** = the main building or offices that a company has
- **however** = but
- **impact** = influence
- **increase** = to go up
- **loss** = to lose something
- **outcome** = results
- **population** = the people who live in a country or state
- **Silicon Valley** = area around San Francisco which is known as the centre of the computer and high-tech industry
- **stronghold** = area where you have a lot of support and many voters

**Answer the following questions.**

1. How many people live in the United States, according to the 2020 census? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. How often is a census taken? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Which important American institution does the census affect? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Which state has the largest growth rate? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Why are more and more people moving there? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Which state shows a decrease in population? \_\_\_\_\_
7. Which region of the U.S are people leaving? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. Why does the outcome of the census improve Republicans chances of winning back the White House in 2024? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**TRUE or FALSE**

		T	F
1	The population of the United States has dropped by 7% in the past 10 years.		
2	Texas' population has increased by 16% since the last census.		
3	An increasing number of companies are setting up headquarters in Silicon Valley instead of Texas.		
4	California has gained one seat in the Electoral College.		
5	The population in the sunbelt states is constantly growing.		
6	California and New York usually vote for Democratic presidential candidates.		
7	Texas is a typically Republican state.		



### Across

1. main building or offices of a a company
7. to go up
10. influence
12. nickname for the southern and western states of the US
13. state in the southern US
14. get, receive, improve

### Down

2. group of people chosen by each state who directly vote for the president (2 words)
3. time between the two World Wars that was bad for the economy (2 words)
4. area around San Francisco known for the computer industry and high-tech firms (2 words)
5. the act of counting the number of people in a country
6. a period of ten years
8. area where you have a lot of support and many voters
9. number of babies born for every 1,000 people per year (2 words)
11. place to go

**KEY****Answer the following questions.**

1. 331 million
2. every ten years
3. the Electoral College
4. Texas
5. High-tech companies are leaving Silicon Valley (California) and moving to Texas
6. California
7. Midwest, Northeast
8. Traditionally Republican states (Texas, Florida) have gained population

**TRUE or FALSE**

		T	F
1	The population of the United States has dropped by 7% in the past 10 years.		✓
2	Texas' population has increased by 16% since the last census.	✓	
3	An increasing number of companies are setting up headquarters in Silicon Valley instead of Texas.		✓
4	California has gained one seat in the Electoral College.		✓
5	The population in the sunbelt states is constantly growing.	✓	
6	California and New York usually vote for Democratic presidential candidates.	✓	
7	Texas is a typically Republican state.	✓	

