

Worksheet for "Racial Measurement in the American Census"

Era	Census	Racial data collected as part of census	Logic/Historical Events behind changes in census
1790-1840	1790 1800 1810 1820 1830 1840	Freemen, "Indians", slaves (Africans) 3/5 th "Color" added to census "Colored Insane"	Constitution, Article 1, Section 2 for taxes and political representation. Race was used to mark legal and political status. First challenge to accuracy of census
1850-1890	1850 1860 1870 1880 1890	Black, White, Indian, Mulatto (color & free/slave) Added Chinese & Indian in CA Added Japanese in CA Omitted Indians not taxed Jap, Chin., Am. Ind, tax/notax. Mul. Quad/Oct.	Scientific racism, NS slavery conflicts Immigration becomes issue First Modern census Concerns over immigration, racial purity
1900-1940	1900 1910 1920 1930 1940	Omit Oct/Quad replace with Black/mulatto "Other Race" Omit Mulatto, Negro Added Mexican, Filipino, Hindu, Korean Mexicans subsumed in White population	Census office founded in 1902. Jim Crow made distinction irrelevant, hypodescent became logic for blacks, but Hyperdescent for American Indians Jim Crow trumps scientific racism Immigration, U.S. colonization of Philippines, agro laborers. One drop rule institutionalized. Mex-Am leaders effort to count as white Undercounts of minorities discovered
1950-1960	1950 1960	Deleted term "color"	Moved to self-identification, redefined race from attributions based on phenotype to self-identification. census used to ensure representation of minorities, poverty, economic opportunities, employment/housing discrimination.
1970-1990	1970	Reported social characteristics by age and race for Blacks, Whites, and Spanish origin	New Federalism, racial data played an unprecedented role in affairs of national govern.