

Using Census Data for Primary Research

Concept Based (Enduring Understanding, Essential Question, Key Concept):

What information can the Census data provide in research?

Materials/Resources:

[Link](#) to video on the 1950s Census.

[PSAs](#) promoting 1950s Census.

[Link](#) to 1950s Census Info.

Learning Goal (content standards/indicators):

Learn Primary vs Secondary Sources for Research

Learn about the Census data as a Primary Resource.

Learn What is the Census and why is it done.

View public service announcements promoting the Census in 1950.

Learn how to read a Census report.

Learn how Census data is helpful in researching a person.

Use Census data in researching people tied to the Green Books Sites.

Success Criteria:

Students know where to access U.S. Census data.

Students have uncovered information pertaining to one of the Green Book Sites.

Procedures and Routines:

Introduce topic.

What is a Primary Resource? Have students name a primary resource.

Quick summary primary vs secondary source. Primary sources are the original records created by firsthand witnesses of an event. Secondary sources are documents, texts, images, and objects about an event created by someone who typically referenced the primary sources for their information.

Examples of primary sources include:

Original photographs. Video Clips. Maps. Newspaper Articles. Podcasts. Audio Recordings. Posters. Advertisements. Speeches. Infographics. Handwritten Letters. Oral Interviews. U.S. Census.

Examples of secondary sources include:

Books. Scholarly journal articles. Magazine articles. Encyclopedia entries. Reviews.

Today we are going to introduce you to one primary source which is the U.S. Census?

For this project, we are going to focus on the 1950 census. Census data back to 1790 is available.

VIDEO showing PSA to promote the 1950s Census.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9dVu5AeE204>

There is a 72-year privacy law protecting personal data collected through the census. On April 1, 2022, the 1950 census data was released by the National Archives and Records Administration.

What can I find in the 1950 Census?

For researchers like all of you will be, you can find a person's name, address, sex, race, if they were married, did they have kids and where they worked and how many hours they worked.

Let's do some searching. (May need to set-up account through Ancestry in advance)

[Link](#) to 1950s Census Info through Ancestry.com

Show example of Isaac Friedman

1950 United States Federal Census

New York, NY, USA



Image courtesy of Missouri State Archives

Search below to find your family in the 1950 census, or explore the maps in our 1950 Census district finder experience.

[Explore maps](#) [Learn more about the 1950 US Census here](#)

Search Match all terms exactly

First & Middle Name(s) <input type="text" value="Isaac"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Exact...	Last Name <input type="text" value="Friedman"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Exact...
Year Birth <input type="text"/>	Location <input type="text" value="City, County, State, Country"/>
Lived In <input type="text" value="—"/>	<input type="text" value="Omaha, Douglas, Nebraska, USA"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Exact to...
Any Event <input type="text"/>	<input type="text" value="City, County, State, Country"/>

Add family member: [Father](#) [Mother](#) [Sibling](#) [Spouse](#) [Child](#)

First & Middle Name(s)	Last Name
Father <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> X
Mother <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> X



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Browse this collection

To browse this image set, select from the options below.

State

County

Populated Place

Enumeration District

All 1950 United States Federal Census results for Isaac Friedman



Provided in association with National Archives and Records Administration

Your search



Broad Exact

Isaac

Friedman

Lived In: Omaha, Douglas...

Apply

▼ All Categories

> Census & Voter Lists

> 1950s

1950 United States Federal Census

A U.S. census record is only available to the general public 72 years after Census Day. This census may help you discover more about how the Great Depression, World War II, and the start of the...

[Learn more about this database...](#)

[Browse Individual Records](#)

Results 1-20 of 290

View Record	Name	Relatives	Home in 1950	Birth Year	Birth Place	Relation to Head of House	View Image
To get better results, add more information such as Birth Info or Death Info —even a guess will help. Edit your search or learn more .							
View Record	Isaac H Friedman	Ruth, Steven M	Omaha, Douglas, Nebraska	abt 1907	New York	Head	
View Record	Isaac Friedman	Ida, Albert	Washington, Washington, District of Columbia	abt 1890	Russia	Head	
View Record	Isaac Friedman	Fannie	Malden, Middlesex, Massachusetts	abt 1883	Russia	Head	
View Record	Isaac Friedman	Ruth, Estelle	Dover, Ocean, New Jersey	abt 1920	Michigan	Head	
View Record	Isaac Friedman	Millie, Arnold	North Bergen, Hudson, New Jersey	abt 1898	Poland	Head	
View Record	Isaac Friedman	Jennie, Harry	Bayonne, Hudson, New Jersey	abt 1895	Poland	Head	
View Record	Isaac Friedman		Detroit, Wayne, Michigan	abt 1888	Russia	Lodger	
View Record	Isaac Friedman	Esther, David	Detroit, Wayne, Michigan	abt 1898	Russia	Head	



[✎ Add or update information](#)

[🕒 Report a problem](#)

Name	Isaac H Friedman
Age	43
Birth Date	abt 1907
Gender	Male
Race	White
Birth Place	New York
Marital Status	Married
Relation to Head of House	Head
Residence Date	1950
Home in 1950	Omaha, Douglas, Nebraska, USA
Street Name	Poppleton Ave
Occupation	Owner
Industry	Crown Liquor Store
Occupation Category	Working
Hours Worked	50t
Worker Class	Own Business

Household Members (Name)	Age	Relationship
Isaac H Friedman	43	Head
Ruth Friedman	37	Wife
Steven M Friedman	9	Son
Roger D Friedman	6	Son
Sanford Lee Friedman	4	Son

1950 United States Federal Census for Isaac H Friedman

Save

Line Num	House or Dwelling	Farm Acres	Name	Relationship	Race	Gender	Age	Marital Status	Birth Place	Occupational Category	Worked Last Week	Seeking Work	Employed	Hours Worked	Occupation	Industry	Worker Code	Code C
1			Isaac H. Friedman	Head	W	M	43	Mar	New York	021	W	no	no	no	50+ Owner Crown Lign. Sh. Co	390 489		
2			Ruth Friedman	Wife	W	F	37	Mar	Nebraska	042	H	no	no	no				
3			Steven M. Friedman	Son	W	M	9	Mar	Nebraska									
4			Roger D. Friedman	Son	W	M	6	Mar	Nebraska									
5			Sydney Friedman	Son	W	M	4	Mar	New Nebraska									
6	4670 110-70	70	John M. O'Neill	Head	W	M	52	Mar	Nebraska		W	no	no	40	Chief Clerk Union Prof. P.	370 506		
7			Frances M. O'Neill	Wife	W	F	48	Mar	Nebraska		H	no	no	no				
8			Norman O'Neill	Son	W	M	10	Mar	Nebraska									
9	4672 114-70	70	Norman J. Sontana	Head	W	M	38	Mar	Nebraska		H	no	no	400	Contractor of Mass. Sh. P.	320 246		
10			Sally Sontana	Wife	W	F	40	Mar	Nebraska		W	no	no	no	30 Sales girl of Brankin P.	400 446		
11			Neil Sontana	Son	W	M	17	Mar	Nebraska		H	no	no	no				
12			Sallyana Sontana	Daughter	W	F	11	Mar	Nebraska									
13	4684 115-70	70	Frank E. Callam	Head	W	M	50	Mar	Nebraska		W	no	no	40	Electric Worker Manufacturing Co	325 499		
14			Mildred M. Callam	Wife	W	F	49	Mar	Nebraska		H	no	no	no				
15			Larson, William D.	Son	W	M	19	Mar	Nebraska		H	no	no	no				

Closing Discussion:

Ask students to share any interesting things they uncovered.

1950 U.S Census Activity

Student Name:

Instructions:

1. [Link](https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/62308/) to 1950s Census Info <https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/62308/>
2. Type in First Name, Last Name and Where they Lived. Omaha/Douglas County/Nebraska/USA
3. Search
4. Select the name that corresponds to your research.
5. Select View Record
6. Save Record
7. View actual Census record form. Do a screen shot to save.

Fill in the information you uncovered? Information could include Name, Age, Married, Children and Ages, Occupation, Address, Where Born

If there is time, pick another name to research.

Names to pick from associated with the Omaha Green Book Project:

Anderson, Willa M.	Kuhns, John W.
Ashby, Gertrude 2228 Willis Ave.	Lincoln, Edward (Reva)
Britt, Ernest	Magrum, Lawrence
Carpenter, Lewis A	Morris, Gerald L.
Carter, Alex	Newte, Thelma
Cox, Floyd (Alline L) porter Barkalow Bros	Patton, Minnie and Nicholas
Craig, Geraldine (widow Buck)	Pettis, Mrs. Roxie
Duffy, Edward L. and Ruth	Phillips, Wiley
Franciscus, Matt	Rabes, Carl O
Friedlander, Morton (Sylvia)	Ramirez, Joe
Friedman, Isaac H.	Reid, Clyde J.
Gant, Elmer J. (Mary L)	Riley, John
Haas, Leonard	Robbins, Leroy C (Matilda-Tillie)
Hermansky, Frank	Savage, Elvira
Hoich, George W.	Savage, Thomas
Jackson, Mrs Ella	Stouder, Isaac T
Jackson, Myrtle W.	Strawther, Louise and William
Jackson, Thelma	Trimble, Charles R.
Jacobsen, Harvey Jr.	Trimble, Mrs. Rosa L.
Johnson, Milton E.	Von Tersch, Hubert A and Mrs. Hilda M.
Kaplan, Samuel	Walker, Johnny

Also, Feel Free to Search Family Members or Others You Know Alive in 1950