



Canadian Census – Reading and Learning from Historical Records

The process by which a government counts its people is called a census. Censuses—sometimes called enumerations—are also used to learn about the lives of Canadian citizens. The information contained in a census can show us who people live with, what their jobs are, what they own, and much more.

Looking at an example from the 1901 Canadian Census available through Library and Archives of Canada: [Search: Census of Canada, 1901 - Library and Archives Canada \(bac-lac.gc.ca\)](http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca)

Chose a family “Surname” and search the Library and Archives of Canada database to find a suitable entry. Then select the entry to learn about the lives of that family during 1901. Use the questions below to help guide your investigation.

Investigation sheet:

Census Investigation Questions:	Census Investigation Findings
What is the family’s surname (last name)?	
What are the first names of the adults?	
Are there any children? How many are there?	
What are the children’s names?	
How old are the adults?	
How old are the children?	
Who is the head of the household?	
Are the people all from one family?	

Census Investigation Questions:	Census Investigation Findings
What occupations do the adults have?	
Where were the adults born?	
Where were the children born?	
If the family is not originally from Canada, when did they come to Canada?	

What information on the Census page did you think was interesting?

Is there anything that surprised you about what the Census asked people about their lives?
