KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER

HISTORY YEAR 6

What can the census tell us about our local area?

MY LEARNING JOURNEY

1	2	3	4	5	6
What is a census?	What can it reveal about Victorian children?	What jobs did people do in the 1800s?	Why did some women boycott the 1911 census?	What changed in the 1921 census?	Who lived in our local area in the past?

Previously, I learnt to…

- Use primary and secondary sources.
- Evaluate reliability and usefulness.
- Support interpretations with evidence.
- Use inventories to investigate lives.

In this unit, I am learning…

- ❑ Identify census information and make inferences.
- ❑ Ask questions about Victorian child workers.
- ❑ Compare records to identify change.
- ❑ Corroborate records using other sources.
- ❑ Explain changes in the 1921 census.
- ❑ Plan and carry out a local history enquiry.

Looking ahead: Later in Year 6, I will learn…

- Investigate WW2 using accounts and photographs.
- Evaluate accuracy, reliability and usefulness.
- Explain varied wartime experiences.

VOCABULARY

Word	Meaning
census	An official survey recording information about a population.
decade	Ten years.
head of household	The person listed as the household's head in a census.
historical enquiry	Investigating the past by asking questions, examining sources and piecing together what happened.
inference	An interpretation supported by clues in a source.
local history	The history of an area, including its past events, people and changes over time.
occupation	A person's job or profession.
politics	Activities or ideas involved in making decisions for a country, city or group.
reliable	Something or someone that can be trusted.
suffrage	The right to vote in political elections.

Census and local history · Year 6

Census milestones in England and Wales (not to scale)

1801	1841	1911	1921	1931 / 1942	2011 / 2021
First national census	Named records survive	Some women boycott	More work and family detail	1931 returns destroyed in 1942 fire	Online responses

Reading census evidence

Records can list names, ages, occupations, birthplace and household relationships. Questions changed over time. A return is a snapshot, not a complete life story. Misheard names, mistakes and missing entries can limit it.



Protest and change

In 1911, some women refused to complete the census to protest against exclusion from voting. In 1921, questions added employer and workplace detail, divorce, and whether children's parents were alive. These reveal social changes.

Information or inference?

Invented practice record: Mary Carter, age 12, occupation "domestic servant". Information: the record lists her age and job. Inference: she may have worked away from her parents. It does not prove how she felt.

Corroborating evidence

Check an inference against birth, marriage and death records, school records, newspapers and later censuses. Another source may support, challenge or add to the census. Explain why each source is useful for your question.



Local enquiry: Kempshott

How did people's jobs and homes change in the Kempshott and Basingstoke area? Choose dates, find local census records and compare maps. Match people carefully. Record evidence, consider gaps and reach a justified conclusion.



What can maps add?

Maps and plans show roads, buildings and land use. Check the date, scale and purpose. The supplied map is an example of this source type. Compare an authentic local map with a census before claiming a local change.