

# The Typical American

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_\_

<p>Who is the “typical” American today? According to the most recent census (2010), there are an estimated 313 million people living in the United States. Nearly a third of all Americans chose to identify themselves as minorities. Here’s how we describe ourselves:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 72.4% of us are White or Caucasian</li><li>• 12.6% of us are Black or African-American</li><li>• .9% of us are Native American</li><li>• 5% of us are Asian and Pacific Islanders</li><li>• 16.3% of us are Hispanic or Latino</li><li>• 2.9% of us are two or more races</li></ul>	<p>1. According to this article, what year was the last census taken?</p> <p>2. Rank each ethnic group in the U. S. from highest percentage to lowest:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1.</li><li>2.</li><li>3.</li><li>4.</li><li>5.</li><li>6.</li></ol>
<p>In general, the sharpest increase in population has occurred in the Asian population with a 43.3 percent increase from 2000 to 2010 (Wright 125). Closely behind them was the Hispanic or Latino population, which increased 43 percent during the same time period. The African-American population increased by 12.3 percent, while the number of White Americans grew by 5.7 percent.</p>	<p>3. What kind of citation is being used at the end of the first sentence?</p> <p>4. What two pieces of information are being given in the citation?</p> <p>5. What ethnic group’s population grew the most between 2000 – 2010?</p>
<p>According to the Department of Homeland Security, 1,062,040 immigrants were granted Legal Permanent Resident status in 2011. The largest group of LPRs was born in Mexico (143,446). Other immigrant homelands included the Philippines (57,011), Cuba (36,452), China (87,016), India (69,013), and the Dominican Republic (46,109).</p> <p>California was the state of residence of one-fifth (20 percent) of persons granted LPR status in 2011. Other leading states of residence included New York (14 percent), Florida (10 percent), Texas (8.9 percent), and New Jersey (5.2 percent). These states represented 58 percent of the new LPRs in 2011.</p>	<p>6. Why does the author mention The Department of Homeland Security in the first sentence?</p> <p>7. What does LPR mean?</p> <p>8. According to the statistics in this paragraph, where do most immigrants to the United States come from?</p> <p>9. In 2011, what state contained the highest number of immigrants with Legal Permanent Resident status?</p>

10. What inference can be made about the statistics in the previous two paragraphs? What connection can you find between the two sets of statistics? Focus on the information for Mexico and California. Please respond using **complete sentences**.

Just how diverse are we? Here are some statistics that underscore the way America is changing:

- More than 100 languages are spoken in the school systems of New York City, Chicago, Los Angeles, and Fairfax County, Virginia.
- More than 30 million people speak English as a second language, which means that roughly 14 percent of the American population speaks about 140 different languages.
- More than 40 percent of the people living in California are African-American, Latino, or Asian.
- There are over 2,000 Hmong from Laos living in Wisconsin alone.

11. Approximately what number of Americans speaks English as their first language? (You'll need to look back to the first paragraph and do a little math to figure out this number.)

12. Roughly what percentage of people living in California is Caucasian?

On a piece of binder paper, create a Works Cited page for this article using the sources given below. Remember to use MLA formatting. Alphabetize the entries, use correct quotations and underlining of titles, include hanging indents, and skip lines.

Article on a website

Title of web site: *American Fact Finder*  
 Date of publication: 2010  
 Name of site sponsor: U.S. Census Bureau  
 Medium of publication: Web  
 Date accessed: July 25, 2011  
 URL: <http://www.factfinder.census.gov>

Book

Author: John W. Wright  
 Title: *New York Times Almanac*  
 City of publication: New York  
 Name of publisher: Penguin Putnam  
 Year of publication: 2011  
 Medium of publication: Print

Article on a website

Title of article: Census Data for 2010  
 Title of website: *Census Bureau Home Page*  
 Date of publication: 2011  
 Name of site sponsor: U.S. Census Bureau  
 Medium of publication: Web  
 Date accessed: August 5, 2011  
 URL: <http://www.census.gov>

Book

Title: *World Almanac and Book of Facts - 2010*  
 City of publication: Los Angeles  
 Name of publisher: World Almanac Books  
 Year of publication: 2010  
 Medium of publication: Print