







Looking at a census

Every ten years a census is taken to record details of the people living in homes throughout the land. Here is a record for a lodging house in Victorian times. The information can be used to try and find out about the people who lived there.

<i>30 Bailey Row, Lomton, Yorkshire</i>						
<i>Name</i>	<i>Relation</i>	<i>Condition</i>	<i>Age</i>		<i>Occupation</i>	<i>Where born</i>
			<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>		
<i>James Atkinson</i>	<i>head</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>40</i>		<i>lodginghouse keeper</i>	<i>Lomton, Yorkshire</i>
<i>Betty Atkinson</i>	<i>wife</i>	<i>M</i>		<i>39</i>		<i>Lomton, Yorkshire</i>
<i>Henry Atkinson</i>	<i>son</i>	<i>U</i>	<i>15</i>		<i>scholar</i>	<i>Milltown, Lancashire</i>
<i>Ellen Atkinson</i>	<i>daughter</i>	<i>U</i>		<i>11</i>	<i>scholar</i>	<i>Lomton, Yorkshire</i>
<i>Sam Pickles</i>	<i>lodger</i>	<i>U</i>	<i>17</i>		<i>labourer</i>	<i>Greenton, Lincolnshire</i>
<i>William Simpson</i>	<i>head</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>29</i>		<i>boiler maker</i>	<i>Hopton, Kent</i>
<i>Mary Simpson</i>	<i>wife</i>	<i>M</i>		<i>23</i>		<i>Lomton, Yorkshire</i>
<i>Alice Simpson</i>	<i>daughter</i>	<i>U</i>		<i>2</i>		<i>Lomton, Yorkshire</i>
<i>John Robinson</i>	<i>lodger</i>	<i>U</i>	<i>31</i>		<i>bricklayer</i>	<i>Peaktown, Derbyshire</i>
<i>David Binns</i>	<i>lodger</i>	<i>U</i>	<i>27</i>		<i>tailor</i>	<i>Milltown, Lancashire</i>
<i>George Shaw</i>	<i>lodger</i>	<i>U</i>	<i>54</i>		<i>labourer</i>	<i>Shamrock, Ireland</i>

1. Was it likely that James and Betty Atkinson were running the lodging house 15 years before this census was made? Explain your answer on the back of this sheet.
2. Could they have been running the lodging house 11 years ago? Explain your answer on the back of this sheet.
3. How many lodgers were staying at this house? 
4. Which English lodger had travelled the furthest? 
(You may need to look at the counties on a map of England to help you answer).
5. Where and when do you think William Simpson met Mary Simpson?

6. Could David Binns have known James and Betty Atkinson before he moved to the lodging house. 
7. When may George Shaw have left Ireland? 
8. In what other way is George Shaw different from the other male lodgers?


Looking at a census

Age range

- Years 3/4 (SP4/5).
- Years 5/6 (SP6/7).

Resources

Copies of the worksheet. Atlas showing the counties of England.

Using the worksheet

This is a fictitious census but it is based on a census return for an actual lodging house. The aim is to help students realise that they can interpret the information to try and find out about the lives of the people who lived in Victorian times. A feature that you may wish to point out is that none of the people are old by our standards today. Most of the lodgers were young men who had moved to find work and a family rented a room in the lodging house. The ages of the people and the places they came from can be used to understand something of their lives.

Answers

1. No. The son was born in Milltown.
2. Yes. The daughter was born in Lomton at this time.
3. Four.
4. William Simpson.
5. He met her in Lomton as he was working as a boiler maker. Perhaps he saw her on his way to and from work.
6. Yes. He comes from Milltown where the Atkinsons lived for a time. He would have been 12 at the time of Henry Atkinson's birth. Perhaps his parents knew the Atkinsons and when David wanted to work in Lomton they offered to find him a room.
7. He may have left Ireland during the famine.
8. He is much older than the other men.

Younger students

Some of the students may need help in finding answers to the questions as they look at the data on the census form.

Outcomes

The students can:

- Extract information from a table.
- Interpret the data to make suggestions about the ways of life of people in the past.

Older students

A few of the students may need help in finding answers to the questions as they look at the data on the census form.

Outcomes

The students can:

- Extract information from a table.
- Interpret the data to make suggestions about the ways of life of people in the past.