



# Critical Thinking

## United States Census Data

In 1990, the United States Census populations for all 50 states plus the District of Columbia was 248,709,873. Use the information in the table to answer the questions below. Round your answers to the nearest whole number, if necessary. Your calculator may be a helpful tool!

| 1990 Population |            |
|-----------------|------------|
| California      | 29,760,021 |
| Florida         | 12,937,926 |
| Indiana         | 5,544,159  |
| Maine           | 1,227,928  |
| Mississippi     | 5,117,073  |
| New Hampshire   | 1,109,252  |
| North Dakota    | 628,800    |
| Rhode Island    | 1,003,464  |
| Utah            | 1,722,850  |
| Wisconsin       | 4,891,769  |

Source: US Bureau of Census

- Find the mean (average) population for the 50 states plus the District of Columbia. \_\_\_\_\_
- Which of the states listed has a population closest to the mean population? \_\_\_\_\_
- What is the mean population for the 10 states in the chart? \_\_\_\_\_
- How does the mean population of the 10 states compare to the mean population of all 50 states plus the District of Columbia?

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- Between 1980 and 1990, the population of one state increased by about 6,000,000. Which state do you think had the population increase? Why?

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- A company sells its product in each of the 10 states listed in the chart. The company sales manager wants to divide up the states into two groups having approximately the same total populations. Which states could the sales manager group together?

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Extend Your  
Thinking  
2-3**

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Source: US Bureau of Census

1. Find the mean (average) population for the 50 states plus the District of Columbia. **4,876,664**
2. Which of the states listed has a population closest to the mean population? **Wisconsin.**
3. What is the mean population for the 10 states in the chart? **6,394,324**
4. How does the mean population of the 10 states compare to the mean population of all 50 states plus the District of Columbia?

**Possible answer: It is greater for the ten states.**

5. Between 1980 and 1990, the population of one state increased by about 6,000,000. Which state do you think had the population increase? Why?

**Possible answer: California; Since only CA and FL have a population greater than 6,000,000, it is more likely CA increased by  $\frac{1}{4}$  than FL doubled.**

6. A company sells its product in each of the 10 states listed in the chart. The company sales manager wants to divide up the states into two groups having approximately the same total populations. Which states could the sales manager group together?

**Possible answer: Eastern states—FL, IN, MI, WI, ME, NH, RI (31,831,571 people); Western states—CA, ND, UT (32,111,671 people).**

**12** Use with pages 74–77.