



National History Day®

Silent Heroes®:

Untold Stories from the Korean War



EXPLORING THE U.S. CENSUS AND ITS HISTORICAL INSIGHTS





About the Program

Since 2011, National History Day® (NHD) has led a variety of programs to engage teachers and students in the study of Silent Heroes®. Silent Heroes are the untold stories of history. While the majority of historical scholarship focuses on the leaders, NHD recognizes the value of studying the history of ordinary people.

In *Untold Stories from the Korean War*, NHD students and teachers study the stories of Korean War Veterans—their lives before the war, their communities, their military service in the Korean War era, and their experience as Veterans in their communities. This process helps students understand the role of the military and the conflict through the eyes of a Veteran. This is a powerful opportunity to personalize history and help students see the past through the eyes of those who lived it.

The program engages students and teachers in historical inquiry, using secondary sources to establish historical context and content. Students and teachers seek primary sources to help document their Silent Hero's life experiences. This can include manuscript census pages, birth certificates, school records, military files, newspapers, photographs, oral histories, materials from local libraries, historical societies, or families, and obituaries. When possible, students and teachers connect with family members, and with their consent, interview them to learn details about their loved ones that are often only recorded in the memories of those who knew them.

Throughout the process students and teachers learn how to identify sources, determine the validity of sources, supply evidence to support their claims, and properly track and cite their sources. Their research is synthesized and the students and teachers visit the cemeteries where their Silent Heroes are interred to offer eulogies to honor their lives. Sometimes family members will accompany the students. Their work is synthesized and cross-listed on NHD's Silent Heroes website (NHDSilentHeroes.org) and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Veterans Legacy Memorial (vlm.cem.va.gov).

This program is a powerful tool to help connect students with their home communities. As citizens of that community, they learn the importance of recognizing and honoring those from that community who served and sacrificed for the good of others.

Lesson Plan: Exploring the U.S. Census and Its Historical Insights

Objectives

At the conclusion of this lesson, students will:

Understand the purpose of the U.S. Census and demonstrate competency in using it to construct information about the past.

Documents Used

Primary Source

Bailey Family, 1950 U.S. Federal Census

Secondary Source

Video, The 1950 U.S. Census: Get the Story of Your Family's Lives [2:51] Ancestry youtube.com/watch?v=GzlMuLpUNaw

Teacher-Created Materials

- U.S. Census Timeline
- **Bailey Family Census Analysis**
- Bailey Family Census Answer Key

Lesson Preparation

- Project the U.S. Census Timeline and Census page for students to examine.
- Consider giving students electronic access to the census file so they can zoom in and view the information.
- Make copies of the Bailey Family Census Analysis page for students (or distribute electronically).
- Print one copy of the Bailey Family Census Answer Key for teacher use.

Procedure

Introduction and History of the U.S. Census (15 minutes)

- ▶ Start by asking students, "What is a census?" and "What is the purpose of the census?" Have students discuss their ideas with another student and call on a few pairs to share their answers.
- Explain that a census is a count of the population conducted every ten years. Its purpose is to gather data about people to help with decisions on government representation and resource allocation.
- Describe how the first U.S. Census in 1790 was simple, focusing on basic information such as names and ages.
- Project the U.S. Census Timeline and highlight key census years. Review significant changes in the census questions or methods at each point.
 - Highlight how census questions have evolved to include details about housing, occupations, and education.
 - Explain that this information helps us build a more complete picture of individuals and their communities during that time period, which is why it will be a useful tool for us as we seek to learn about our Korean War Silent Heroes.
- ▶ Show the short video, *The 1950 U.S. Census: Get the Story of Your Family's Lives* [2:51].

Guided Practice: Census Analysis (20 minutes)

- Inform students that they will use census data about their Silent Heroes to learn about and describe their time before the war. This activity will acclimate students to the census and the information it provides to help them tell the story of their Silent Hero before the war.
- Students may work in small groups or as a full class.
- Distribute copies of the U.S. Census record and the Bailey Family Census Analysis sheet.
- Explain that this is a census record about Korean War Veteran Raymond Bailey and his family before the Korean War.
- ▶ Help students to work through the questions.
- Review the answers with the whole class.

Learning from and Accessing Historic Census Records (15 minutes)

- Introduce students to Ancestry Classroom (or Ancestry.com) and demonstrate how to search for census records. Consider researching someone they might know, one of your family members, or a member of the community (who would have been alive in 1950).
- ▶ Have students begin to research their Silent Heroes in the census.

Assessment: Drawing Conclusions and Synthesizing Census Data (5 minutes)

Ask each student to complete an individual exit ticket: In two to four sentences, write a description of Raymond Bailey's life before the war.

TEACHER TIP: The 1950 uses the abbreviation "Neg" for "Negro" to refer to this African American family. Remind students that this is an example of out-of-date terminology. While the census used the term "Negro," we should refer to the family as African American or Black when we describe them today.

U.S. Census Timeline

1790

First U.S. Census.

Details: Basic count, including names, ages, and sex of household members. No detailed questions.

1850

Key Change: First detailed individual data collected.

Details: Included names, ages, sex, race, occupation, and place of birth. Each person in the household was recorded individually.

1900

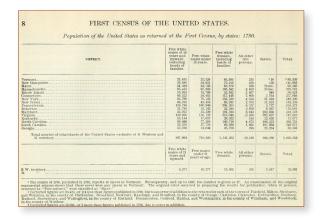
Key Change: Introduction of questions about education and employment.

Details: Added questions on school attendance and literacy, occupation, and whether individuals were employed or unemployed.

1950

Key Change: Modernization of census methods.

Details: Expansion of data to include detailed questions about housing, migration, and Veteran status. Introduction of more complex data processing and analysis methods.

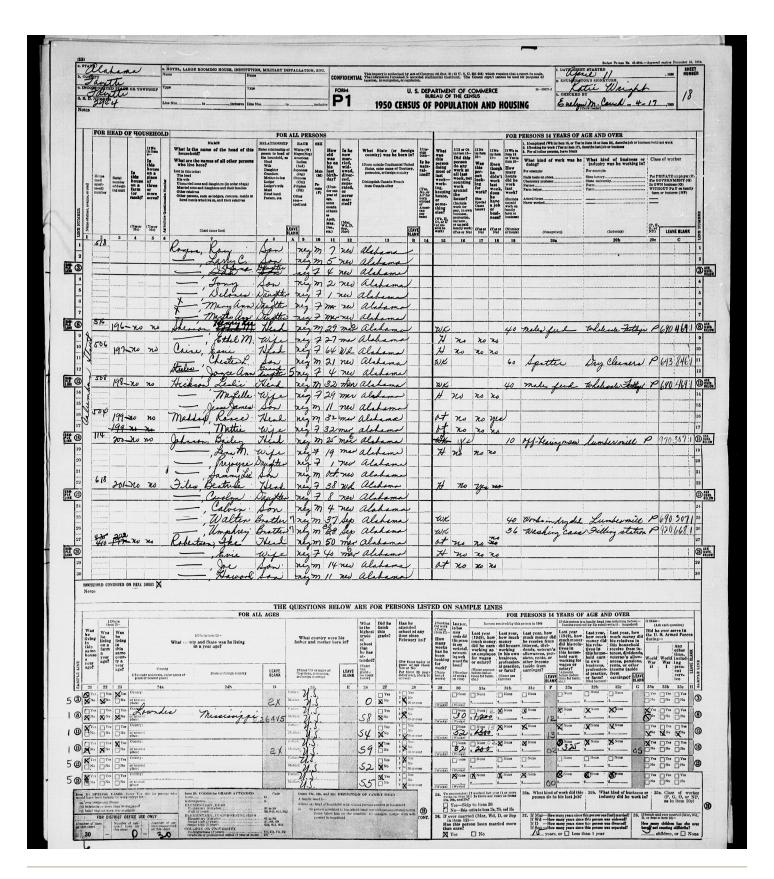


xii								C)	E I	NS	$\mathbf{U}\mathbf{S}$	OF	185	0.						
										CEN	sus o	1850.								
		SCHEL	OULE	No. 1.	-FREE	IN	HABI	TA	TS					SCI	EDUL	E No. 1	2.—SLAV	/ES.		,
Dwelling-houses numbered in the order of visitation.	Fumilies numbered in the order of visitation.	Name of every person whose aront place of abode on the 1st day of June, 1839, was in this family.	DESCR	Color-white, Mack, or or melatto.	Profession, occupation, or trade of each male person over 15 years of age.	Value of real estate owned.	Place of birth, naming the State, Territory, or county.	Married within the year.	Attended selvool within the year.	Persons over 20 years of age who cannot read and write.	Whether deaf and dumb, ldind, hears, idlotle, papper, or con- viet.	Name of slave owners.	Number of slaves.	1 -	SCRIPTE		Fugitives from the State.	Number massaciated.	Jeef and dundy 16104, heavy, er tootte,	Promote

enty	Fr.	redered or division of county or citiage or constant of the country or constant of the constant of the citiage of the constant of the citiage of the constant of the citiage of the citiag	Part.	about named division	Sistrics	Name	of Institution,	•	Supervisor's District No. Enumeration District No.	and of elly,	Sheet Na.
LOCATION.		XAME	RELATION.	PERSONAL DESCRIPTION	W	NATIVITY.	rilles.	enussus.	Occupation That is	EECCATION.	PERSONAL PRINCE
- I	27.4	of each person whose place of about on June 1, 1995, was in this family. But screen for, but to this seas not	77777	WHE	Place of most of most process flowing give the flow	ricas de la caracter	colod. If home in the Tested jies the County set).	- Table	of each person was values of age and over.	1 1	, 1 , 1
1 11	12.72	Section over press being to June 1, 1991. See delikes have need from (1991.		1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	Per gang at the	Place of Street of Farmers of this press.	Part of Side of Moreon	1 1 1	II	1 1 1	free(a)
3 1		2. / All	247	2 0 1 0 0 0 0	71	1. /		36 37 18	Theel Lingling	11 11 11 14	15 54 17 54
		Michael Smith	Hile Brushi	2 2 10 10 10 10 10 1 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2	maryland	Maryland Maryland Manufand	Maryland		at blevel	190 900 190 190 190 190 2 190 190 190	0 116
2	2.	White Williams 7	Monghlin		Midryland	Medryland	Delyland	-	of directors 2	Ho was yes	8 16
	_	- Emily he	24/10	31- 7 June 762 38 40 5 11 4	Holy Pord	Maryland	Mayland	-	-	20 20 20	
		Distre Mary 1-	LizeBuch	2 2 24 100 /4 8	Mayland	Mayland	Mikry and Maryland		Frank Labor 4	900 000 000	
3	3	Peters Ofinator	Head	16 7 Selly 2017 Md 84	many land	Heavy Coul	Hay land		ng. 010	See maile	0716
				11-11 7it-1111112 3					Tarmer 0		



Bailey Family, U.S. Federal Census, 1950



Bailey Family Census Analysis

Where did the Bailey family live?
How many members were in the Bailey family?
Where does Raymond fall in the birth order? Is he the oldest, youngest, etc.?
How old was Raymond when the census was conducted?
Does the census provide Raymond's birth date? What type of primary source document would you want to find to either learn that date or confirm that date?
What race is Raymond Bailey?
Examine Raymond Bailey's father, Lester Bailey. What do we know about him?
What socioeconomic class do you think Raymond Bailey's family is in? Do you think they are poor, working class, middle class, or upper class? What evidence within the census provided the clues that led you to this conclusion?
What questions does this source generate? Where might you look to find more information about the Bailey family?

Bailey Family Census Analysis Answer Key

Where did the Bailey family live? Fayette, Alabama (in Fayette County)

How many members were in the Bailey family? Eight members - two parents (Lester and Annie), four sons (Raymond, Lester, Jr., Henry Lee and Daniel, and two daughters (Hattie and Jean)

Where does Raymond fall in the birth order? Is he the oldest, youngest, etc.? Oldest.

How old was Raymond when the census was conducted? 16 years old

Does the census provide Raymond's birth date? What type of primary source document would you want to find to either learn that date or confirm that date? No. We know he was 16 in 1950, which means he was likely born in 1946.

What race is Raymond Bailey? African American. ** Please remind students that we do not use the term "Negro" that was used in the 1950s when speaking about the family.

Examine Raymond Bailey's father, Lester Bailey. What do we know about him?

Answers will vary, but can include:

- Lester is 35 years old, and married to Annie, also age 35.
- Lester was born in Alabama.
- ▶ Their child is 16, which means they would have been ~19 years old when Raymond was born.
- ► They have 8 children, ranging in age from 16 to 2.
- Lester had a job working at a lumber mill, where he stacked lumber. The lumber mill was a private company.
- ► The family lives on two plots of land (plots 8 and 9), but it is not a farm, and it less than three acres.

What socioeconomic class do you think Raymond Bailey's family is in? Do you think they are poor, working class, middle class, or upper class? What evidence within the census provided the clues that led you to this conclusion?

Answers will vary. Encourage students to examine not just the Bailey Family but the other families around them (who would have lived on the same road.) Consider the "vacant" properties, the jobs held by other community members (or lack thereof). Help students put the families into context - what was life like for African American families in northwestern Alabama in the late 1940s and early 1950s.

What questions does this source generate? Where might you look to find more information about the Bailey family?

Answers will vary.

This lesson plan was funded by a grant from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. The opinions, findings and conclusions stated herein are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect those of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.



National History Day® (NHD) is honored to help students and teachers across the nation to honor and tell the stories of American men and women who served their nation and lost their lives either in service to the United States of America or after living as Veterans. We seek to teach the historical research process through these biographical profiles. The stories contained on NHDSilentheroes.org are gathered from NHD programs from 2012 to the present. To learn more about the program and discuss bringing it to your classroom, contact programs@nhd.org.











FOLLOW NHD ON SOCIAL MEDIA



facebook.com/nationalhistoryday



linkedin.com/company/nationalhistoryday/



@nhdcontest



@NationalHistoryDay



@NationalHistory



Subscribe to our newsletter: nhd.org/subscribe

National History Day 4511 Knox Road, Suite 205 College Park, MD 20740 301-314-9739