

Nebraska Population Density

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Overview: How is the population of Nebraska distributed? Let's look at political geography.

Grade Level:
Middle Grades and higher

Materials:
Giant Nebraska map, with laminated 1st, 2nd, and 3rd political district signs (six of each):

I am
100,000 people
in the 1st District

I am
100,000 people
in the 2nd District

I am
100,000 people
in the 3rd District

Time Frame:
15-30 minutes (this depends on the amount of discussion the teacher and students engage in.)

Objectives: The students will become more aware of their representation in the United States Congress. They will take a body on the map look at population density in Nebraska.

Procedure:

Ask students the following questions and discuss

1. How many U.S. Senators does Nebraska get? (2)
2. How many seats do we get in the U.S. House of Representatives? (3 – Remember this is dependent on population)
3. Now, what is the population of Nebraska? (1.8 million)
4. How many constituents are represented by each of our three Congressmen? (600,000)
5. So, let's have six of you holding laminated 3rd District cards (see above for labeling) go and stand in your district. Spread out.
6. Now, six of you holding laminated 1st District cards go and stand in your district. Explain what is happening.
7. Finally, the six of you holding laminated 2nd District cards go and stand in your district. Try to at least place a foot in the 2nd District. What does this exercise demonstrate?

Mega Bloks Population Distribution

City	Population	Number of Bloks
Omaha	390,007	39
Lincoln	258,379	26
Bellevue	50,137	5
Grand Island	48,520	5
Kearney	30,787	3
Fremont	26,397	3
Hastings	24,907	2
North Platte	24,733	2
Norfolk	24,210	2
Columbus	22,111	2
Papillion	18,894	2
LaVista	15,758	2
Scottsbluff	15,039	2
South Sioux City	13,353	1
Beatrice	12,459	1
Chalco CP	10,994	1
Lexington	10,230	1
Gering	8,500	1
Alliance	8,491	1
Blair	7,990	1
Chadron	7,990	1
York	7,766	1
McCook	7,698	1
Nebraska City	7,289	1
Seward	6,964	1
Crete	6,960	1
Sidney	6,757	1
Plattsmouth	6,502	1
Schuyler	6,211	1
Ralston	5,943	1
Wayne	5,660	1
Holdrege	5,495	1

Populations taken from the U.S. Census Bureau at www.quickfacts.census.gov

I am

100,000 people

In the 1st District

I am

100,000 people

In the 2nd District

I am

100,000 people

In the 3rd District