COGA: Census Lesson

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Objectives:
-Identify in written format, major and emerging population concentrations within the United States and describe demographic characteristics of each.
-Use maps as a tool for geographic inquiry.
-Use state level population pyramids to make predictions
-Students will practice their Free Response Writing skills in order for the A.P. exam in May
-Students will practice group norms while working in groups

Standards:
1.1 Students know how to use maps, globes, and other geographic tools to acquire, process, and report information from a spatial perspective.

6.2 Students apply knowledge of people, places, and environments to understand the past and present and to plan for the future. Evaluating a contemporary issue using geography knowledge, skills, and perspectives.

Materials and equipment needed to teach the lesson
-4 level analysis sheet
-large maps with census data
-Formal FRQ paper
-Paper copies of state level population pyramids

Key concepts included in the lesson:
-Census
-Maps and geographic tools
-Free Response Question Prompt

Steps to complete the lesson:
1. Students will work in groups of 3-4 students. They will use the census maps as well as state level population pyramids in order to complete a 4-level analysis.
   Level 1:   What? Where? When?
   Level 2:   Pattern Identification
   Level 3:   Why there?
                 How did it get there?
   Level 4:   So what?
                 What if?

2. Students will then use their 4-level analysis to make predictions and recommendations to the local governments regarding the future needs of their populations.

3. Students will compile their findings in a written format.

Assessment plan:

Students will be given a choropleth map, which shows current population clusters according to the census data. Students will then write a response to a free response question that asks them to make recommendations to state and local governments based on looking at a map of the United States Demographic data.