

1990 Census Data—Montgomery County, Virginia

Age	Number of Persons
Under 1 year	811
1 and 2 years	1,608
3 and 4 years	1,523
5 years	927
6 years	677
7 to 9 years	2,400
10 and 11 years	1,215
12 and 13 years	1,293
14 years	574
15 years	607
16 years	719
17 years	832
18 years	3,055
19 years	4,579
20 years	4,417
21 years	4,057
22 to 24 years	6,679
25 to 29 years	6,593
30 to 34 years	5,585
35 to 39 years	5,014
40 to 44 years	4,598
50 to 54 years	2,650
55 to 59 years	2,275
60 and 61 years	741
62 to 64	1,395
65 to 69 years	1,950
70 to 74 years	1,507
75 to 79 years	1,132
80 to 84 years	748
85 years and over	640

Activity: "Suggesting Reasons that Might Explain Data"

Create an overhead transparency of the table and project it where all can see. Use the information to generate a class discussion and a problem-solving session. Use the questions that follow.

1. What information does the graph contain? How is it organized?
2. In Montgomery County, Virginia in 1992, there were 832 people who were 17 years old, yet there were 3,055 people who were 18 years old. What could cause this great difference? (Students may suggest many possible reasons. Be sure they do not overlook the freshman class at Virginia Tech.)
3. The table shows that 748 people were 80, 81, 82, 83, or 84 years old and that 1,215 people were 10 and 11 years old. What factors could cause such a wide variance?
4. How would the large number of people ages 18-29 affect the kinds of businesses in Montgomery County?
5. Would Montgomery County probably need more nursing home facilities or more day care centers? Why?
6. Which age group has the greatest number of people? The smallest number of people? What factors might cause this?

Activity: "Creating a Class Line Graph"

Make a transparency from a sheet of graph paper or use 1" graph paper that comes in large rolls. Create a class graph of the information shown in the table. Explain that the same information will be shown in a new way. Use the terms, "x

axis" and "y axis" as you construct the graph, being sure to label each appropriately. Give the graph a title. When finished, use the following questions to generate a class discussion.

1. Is the information easier to understand when organized in the table or the graph? Why? (Answers may vary from student to student.)
2. Is it easier to see peaks and valleys in the table or the graph?
3. Which three age groups have the most people represented?

Which three age groups have the least people represented? What are possible reasons why?

4. Which group is likely to grow larger as better medical care becomes available?