

## **Census Returns: Diversity in Hawaii and Britain**

### **Teachers' Notes**

#### **Introduction**

We have provided you with a document that shows the ethnic breakdown of people on the Polynesian islands of Hawaii (a part of the United States since 1959) and in Britain. The information comes from census returns from the years 2000 and 2001.

The tables can be used with your pupils as a launch pad for a discussion about diversity in both places and how they are recorded in the two censuses.

#### **Suggestions for classroom discussions**

Split your class into smaller groups and give each group the document with the census returns. Explain that you need them to study the census returns so that they can familiarise themselves with what the terminology used in the censuses actually mean.

You could write up on the board the following so that each group agrees on their own definitions of these words or phrases:

'Number'

'%'

'Total population'

'Minority ethnic population'

Once each group is clear in their own minds about the definitions of these words or phrases then they can begin to discuss the data contained within the tables.

We have provided you with some suggestions for discussion points. You can decide how long the groups in your class should spend talking about these points. At the end each group should report back to the whole class on their discussions.

### **Discussion Point 1**

All of the main ethnic groups are highlighted in bold and then sub-groups are placed underneath them (e.g. **Asian or Asian British** and then *Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi and Other Asian*). However, the British Census does not always give the total number of the main ethnic groups but the Hawaiian Census does.

*Why do you think that is? Would you include the total population for all the main ethnic groups in the British Census or would you leave them out of the Hawaiian Census?*

### **Discussion Point 2**

The Hawaiian Census has a category for 'Native Hawaiian'.

*What do you think that this might mean? Do you think it means somebody who can trace his or her family back to the first inhabitants of Hawaii or is it anybody born in Hawaii?*

*Do you think that anybody born in Hawaii should be counted as a 'Native Hawaiian'?*

### **Discussion Point 3**

The Hawaiian Census results does not have a column that shows the percentages of minority ethnic populations but the British Census does.

*Do you think that this a useful column to have? Would you put that column into the Hawaiian Census table or take it out of the British Census table?*