

census	An official survey recording information about a population.
decade	Ten years.
enumerator	A person employed to collect census forms and enter the data into an enumeration book.
head of household	The main person responsible for earning money and making important decisions for the household.
inference	Using the clues in sources to form an idea.
occupation	A person's job or profession.
local history	The study of the history of an area, looking at its past events, people and changes over time.
historical enquiry	The process of investigating the past by asking questions, examining sources and piecing together how things happened.

What sources can provide information about the local area?



Area	1871	1881	1891
St Pancras	27,116	38,000	48,000
St Mary, Islington	13,127	18,000	23,000
St Paul, Islington	3,929	5,000	6,000
St Andrew, Islington	4,810	6,000	7,000
St Martin in the Fields	3,105	4,000	5,000
St George, Hanover Square	4,161	5,000	6,000
St James, Westminster	11,111	15,000	20,000
St Margaret & St John	911	1,000	1,100
St Mary, Paddington	12,111	16,000	20,000
St Mary, Lambeth	4,115	5,000	6,000

The census is a survey collecting information from every household in the country. It can be used to focus on specific people and places or to identify changes in a particular household over a period of time. It contains information such as the names of people living in a household, their ages, occupations, places of birth, their relationship to the head of household and the number of rooms in a dwelling.



Birth, marriage and death records not only identify and confirm births, marriages and deaths but also give extra information such as who witnessed marriages and people's occupations.



Old maps or plans of the local area show what it was like in the past and allow people to identify how the local area has changed.



Local newspapers are a valuable source of information on the local area. They reflect the period in which they were written and provide details about local people and significant events.

The history of the census timeline

