During this activity, girls will make a pop-up version of their block (the section of the street where they live) to see if they can estimate their block’s population.

- Hand out paper, scissors, markers/crayons and rulers. Make sure every girl has a piece of cardstock paper as the “base” of her project. (NOTE: One mentor should keep tape handy for the final assembly of the project.)
- Show the girls a sample of the pop-up block they will create (see examples at the end of this lesson). They will create buildings on paper that will ultimately be attached to their cardstock as 3D versions of their neighborhoods!
- Ask the girls to draw some of the buildings on their block on plain paper (not the cardstock). This might be their house, their neighbors’ houses, stores, schools, etc.
- Remind the girls that all of their buildings have to fit on their “base” sheet of cardstock, so don’t draw too big so that multiple buildings can fit!
- When girls are done drawing and coloring, help them cut out their buildings, leaving a 1-inch space at the bottom to fold and tape to the a sheet of cardstock (creating the “pop up” look).
- Tape the folded section of each building down to the base sheet of cardstock.
- Invite girls to share their pop-up blocks, talking about what buildings they see every day and who works, lives, or goes to school in them. How many people do they think live in their neighborhood?

Discussion Questions

If time permits, spend a few minutes discussing these questions or any others the girls might have.

- How many people do you estimate live in the buildings you just drew?
- Why do you think some people might not want to be counted in the census?
Pop-Up Block Samples
1. Make guide lines. Draw two U’s.

2. Add the rooftops.

3. Finish the rooftops.

4. Draw two doors on steps.

5. Draw rows of arched windows.

6. Add rows of square windows.

7. Draw the side wall and water.

8. Add horizon lines and details.