

Primary Sources: Joe DiMaggio

A primary source document gives historical information about a person, event or time. If you look carefully, a primary source may also reveal some interesting facts that you might not expect to find.

Below is the 1940 U.S. census for the famous baseball player, Joe DiMaggio, listed as Joseph P. DiMaggio. In 1940, "Joltin' Joe" played for the New York Yankees. In the census he is listed with his wife, Dorothy. Look at the census and answer the questions below. See if you can discover something interesting about Joe's neighborhood in 1940.

1940 U.S. Census,
New York, New York

Name	Relationship	Sex/Race/Age Marital Status	Birthplace	Occupation	Industry
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FRANKLIN, LEWIS M.	HEAD	M W 48 M No Y	NEW YORK	PRESIDENT	CHEMICALS
—, ANNE R.	WIFE	F W 48 M No Y	NEW YORK	MANAGER	REAL ESTATE
MANTELL, SEYMOUR L.	HEAD	M W 30 M No C	NEW YORK	LAWYER	PRIV. PRAC.
—, ELIZABETH	WIFE	F W 23 M No C	MINN.		
GROSS, EDWARD J.	HEAD	M W 59 M No F	HUNGARY	TREASURER	MANF. - IMPORTS
—, JEANNETTE	WIFE	F W 48 M No F	POLAND		
ADLER, LOUIS	HEAD	M W 58 M No F	AUSTRIA	SECT. VICE-PRES.	FINANCING - COM.
—, ANNA	WIFE	F W 56 M No F	AUSTRIA		
LEVIN, IRVING	SON-IN-LAW	M W 31 M No C	NEW YORK	LAWYER	PRIV. PRAC.
—, BELLE	DAUGHTER	F W 27 M No C	NEW YORK	SECRETARY	REAL ESTATE
MAX, MABEL	HEAD	F W 37 D No H	NEW YORK	RES. BUYER	LAUNDRY
—, PETER T.	SON	M W 10 S No Y	NEW YORK		
GOULDE, BELLE J.	MOTHER	F W 56 WD. No F	NEW YORK		
ISAACSON, ISIDOR	HEAD	M W 49 M No C	NEW YORK	SALES-ADVERT.	PUBLICATION
—, MIRYVA	WIFE	F W 40 M No Y	NEW YORK		
DI MAGGIO, JOSEPH P.	HEAD	M W 25 M No H	CALIFORNIA	BALL PLAYER	BASEBALL TEAM
—, DOROTHY	WIFE	F W 22 M No Y	MINNESOTA		
HAGOPIAN, TAKOUNE	HEAD	F W 84 WD. No F	TURKEY		
HIRSCH, JACOB	HEAD	M W 47 M No C	RUSSIA	DENTIST	PRIV. PRAC.
—, JEANNETTE	WIFE	F W 38 M No C	NEW YORK	CLINICAL PHYS.	CHILD GUIDANCE
VRAMA, ANNA	MAID	F W 23 S No H	CZECHOSLOV.	MAID	PRIVATE HOME
HAYNES, GLEN R.	SON	M W 21 S No C	O.H.I.O.	NEW WORKER	

What does this primary source tell you?

List three states where the people on the census were born.

Possible answers: New York, Minnesota, California, Ohio

List three countries where the people on the census were born.

Possible answers: Hungary, Poland, Austria, Turkey, Russia, Czechoslovakia

Based on the birthplaces of the people in this census, what does it tell you about Joe's neighborhood?

Actual answers will vary:

The people in Joe's neighborhood came from around the U.S. and around the world.