

One of the questions on the 2001 Census asked people about their religion. Preceding Census day, an email was sent to a large number of the population, saying that if 10,000 people put their religion as 'Jedi' in the 'Other' section then the Government would have to make Jedi an official religion. For those of you who don't know, Jedi Knights appear in the series of Star Wars films and have a system of beliefs, based on using 'the force'. Although the email was a hoax, however, the Office for National Statistics have released some data about people who did put Jedi as a response on their Census form. Download the spreadsheet file ([Link](#)) and investigate the data.

Look at the datasheet. Here are some questions you might like to answer:

- How many people in England and Wales answered the religion question?
- Look at the different 'areas'; use the 'find' function to see how many people in your area stated 'Jedi'. Use the spreadsheet software to calculate what percentage of the respondents replied 'Jedi'. Sort the list into alphabetical order; which areas are at the top and bottom of the list? Which area had the most people answer 'Jedi'? Does this mean that in this area 'Jedi' is the most popular religion? Justify your answer.
- Think about how you could show which area had the highest proportion of people who said their religion was 'Jedi'.
- List the top ten places where the highest proportion of people wrote 'Jedi'. Can you think of some reasons why these places appear at the top of the list?
- You might like to consider the fact that the Census took place on 29th April 2001, the type of person who would have read the email, or would be attracted to the idea of replying 'Jedi', or the types of institutions in the top ten areas.

Use the following links to help you write a report on your findings:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/technology/1271380.stm>

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/cci/nugget.asp?id=297>

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/census2001/profiles/rank/jedi.asp>



"But it doesn't matter whether you put Jedi, Manchester United, Chelsea, or whatever. It's completely erroneous, it's going to have no impact whatsoever."

The e-mail ended: "If this has been your dream since you were six years old... do it because you love Star Wars. If not... then just do it to annoy people."

Jedi is the religion that the heroes of the Star Wars films follow, and is supposedly a force created by all living things - hence the phrase "may the force be with you".

"It surrounds us and penetrates us. It binds the galaxy together," Sir Alec Guinness said in 1977's Star Wars.