



250 Years of America Infographic

Infographics are a popular way to share information. These visual representations of knowledge and information are designed to simplify complex ideas and large amounts of data.

Lesson Objectives

- Objective: Students will identify and summarize key events in U.S. history, explaining their historical significance and impact on the nation's development.
- Objective: Students will integrate visual information with other information in print and digital texts to develop a coherent understanding of a topic or issue.
- Objective: Students will design an effective infographic that clearly communicates historical information through the use of visual elements such as timelines, icons, and concise text.
- Objective: Students will apply principles of visual literacy and digital design to organize information in a way that enhances understanding for a target audience.

These objectives are designed to help students develop skills in analyzing historical events, integrating visual and textual information, designing effective infographics, and applying principles of visual literacy, all while aligning with relevant educational standards.

Step 1: Engage

Watch the video [What Is an Infographic?](#) or check out the image: [An Infographic Is.](#)

Note the following points:

- communicates a message
- is very engaging
- is highly visual
- helps to explain a large amount of information quickly and clearly



Share a few sample infographics that are relevant to your classroom content and/or students' interests. Here are a few examples to get you started.

SPORTS UP

Shape it

01 TAKE YOUR FIRST STEP!

BENEFITS OF EXERCISE

- IMPROVES MOOD
- COMBATS HEALTH CONDITIONS AND DISEASES
- CONTROLS WEIGHT AND HELP PREVENT WEIGHT LOSS
- BOOSTS YOUR ENERGY

WHAT SHOULD I EAT?

BALANCED DIET

- EAT MORE VEGETABLE AND FRUITS
- LIMITING HIGHLY AND ULTRA PROCESSED FOODS
- AVOID SUGARY DRINKS AND INSTEAD DRINK WATER
- CHOOSE WHOLE GRAIN FOODS

03 STRESS FREE ZONE

EFFECTIVE STRESS RELIEVERS

- MAKE TIME FOR LEISURE ACTIVITIES
- DEVELOP POSITIVE SELF-TALK
- INCREASE YOUR FITNESS LEVEL WHILE DECREASING YOUR STRESS

REST. REST. REST. 04

IMPORTANCE OF REST

- HELPS RESTORE YOUR BODY'S ENERGY, REPAIR MUSCLE TISSUE AND TRIGGERS THE RELEASE OF HORMONE THAT EFFECTS GROWTH AND APPETITE
- ENOUGH REST WILL HELP YOU DO BETTER AND ENJOY LIFE!

05 COMMIT TO BE FIT

STAY COMMITTED TO YOUR FITNESS

- TRAIN FIRST THING IN THE MORNING
- BREAK OUR EXERCISE GOALS DOWN IN SMALL STEPS
- AND DONT FORGET, SURROUND YOURSELF WITH INSPIRATION!



Ancient Civilizations



01. Classical antiquity

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02. Ancient History

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03. Ancient World

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04. Civilizations

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05. Ancient Rome

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You can also share a snippet from the “Beauty of Data Visualization” TED Talk by David McCandless. Consider assigning this as homework prior to beginning the project. Ask students for their reactions after watching the video and exploring examples. Ask questions that elicit opinions to engage students in the discussion, such as:

- Which infographic was the best? Why?
- What made them interesting, content, or design? Or both?
- How did the use of fonts, color, graphics, and imagery contribute?
- Did the design contribute to how you felt about the information?



Step 2: Research

Students/teams will create infographics to complement their knowledge about some of the most important moments in America’s history. Allow them to choose what they think are FIVE of the most significant events in the history of America. Give them time to research each event and use what they learned to create an infographic.

The process begins not with making the infographic, but with research. Students will need time to research and think about how they will visually convey it. Assess for understanding and comprehension of the content as they collect and clarify information. Infographics, especially those that include lots of data, ALWAYS include citations. Take a moment to remind your students to capture citations for information they are including in their posters.

Step 3: Create

When their notes are complete and they are confident about the information and their knowledge of it, students/ teams should produce a rough visual sketch of how they will share the information. Organization and design of the poster will be critical in informing others. Check in again to evaluate how well they are thinking about representing data and information.

As they plan out the design, students should ask and answer questions like:

1. Which information, facts, and data are essential to include? Which aren’t?
2. What colors and layout work best in sharing the information?
3. What graphs and graphics best convey information and data to the viewer?
4. What is the order, or flow, of information?



You may want to take a moment to look back at your samples and discuss how various infographics are structured. Since the point of an infographic is to transfer knowledge and information quickly, the final poster should be informative, simple, engaging, and design-friendly.

Remember these things about the infographic's design:

- uses readable fonts
- uses colors that contrast well with each other (such as dark font on a light background and light font on a dark background)
- layer images so that they are still easily discernible
- uses images that fit the topic

With a partner, examine each other's finished products. Make any revisions, then turn in your infographic

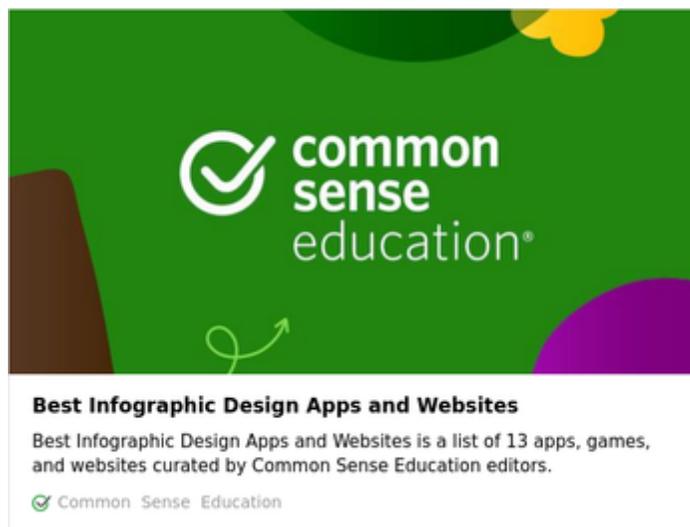
Step 4: Share

Print student posters and display them in your room or around school. Then, share them via the school website, social media, or another venue.

Step 5: Assessment

The completed infographic poster is a great artifact for summative assessment of content knowledge and ability to communicate information. Conduct formative assessments as students are collecting information and data during the research process and designing a rough sketch plan for their poster. You may also want to evaluate planning and teamwork skills demonstrated during the process.

Not sure what to use to complete this task? Check out this list from common sense education!



Based on a lesson from the [Creator Educator](#) website



Topics List

Founding and Early History

- 1492 – Columbus's Arrival in the Americas
- 1607 – Founding of Jamestown (First permanent English settlement)
- 1620 – Pilgrims Land at Plymouth and Sign the Mayflower Compact
- 1770 – Boston Massacre
- 1773 – Boston Tea Party
- 1775–1783 – American Revolutionary War
- 1776 – Declaration of Independence
- 1781 – British Surrender at Yorktown
- 1787 – U.S. Constitution Drafted
- 1789 – George Washington Becomes First President
- 1791 – Bill of Rights Ratified

Expansion and Division

- 1803 – Louisiana Purchase
- 1812–1815 – War of 1812
- 1820 – Missouri Compromise
- 1830 – Indian Removal Act
- 1831 – Nat Turner's Rebellion
- 1846–1848 – Mexican-American War
- 1848 – Seneca Falls Convention (First Women's Rights Convention)
- 1849 – California Gold Rush
- 1850 – Compromise of 1850 & Fugitive Slave Act
- 1857 – Dred Scott Decision
- 1860 – Abraham Lincoln Elected President

Civil War and Reconstruction

- 1861–1865 – American Civil War
- 1863 – Emancipation Proclamation
- 1865 – Assassination of Abraham Lincoln
- 1865 – 13th Amendment Abolishes Slavery
- 1868 – 14th Amendment Guarantees Citizenship
- 1870 – 15th Amendment Grants Voting Rights to Black Men

Industrialization and Progressivism

- 1890 – Wounded Knee Massacre (End of Indian Wars)
- 1896 – Plessy v. Ferguson Legalizes Segregation
- 1898 – Spanish-American War
- 1901 – Theodore Roosevelt Becomes President
- 1917–1918 – U.S. Enters World War I
- 1920 – 19th Amendment Grants Women the Right to Vote

Depression and World Wars

- 1929 – Stock Market Crash and Start of the Great Depression
- 1933 – New Deal Begins
- 1941 – Attack on Pearl Harbor and U.S. Enters World War II
- 1945 – U.S. Drops Atomic Bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki
- 1947–1991 – Cold War Begins (Truman Doctrine, Marshall Plan, etc.)

Civil Rights and Modern America

- 1954 – Brown v. Board of Education Ends School Segregation
- 1963 – March on Washington / “I Have a Dream” Speech
- 1964 – Civil Rights Act Passed
- 1965 – Voting Rights Act Passed
- 1969 – Apollo 11 Moon Landing
- 1974 – Watergate Scandal and Nixon’s Resignation
- 1991 – End of the Cold War / Soviet Union Collapse
- 2001 – September 11 Terrorist Attacks
- 2008 – Barack Obama Elected as the First Black President
- 2020 – COVID-19 Pandemic and George Floyd Protests
- 2021 – Capitol Insurrection on January 6