

Design your own infographic

Have you heard of an infographic? It's a way of presenting information in an easy to understand and visually interesting way. In this activity, we want you to get creative and design an infographic explaining climate change – it's a chance for budding graphic designers to shine!

Infographics (Information Graphics) are often used by newspapers and current affairs programmes to present facts and figures in new and interesting ways. Start this activity by having a look at infographics online – visit Google and search under Images for 'infographic' or try one of the links below for inspiration.

Next, have a discussion with the class about how infographics work. Which do you find most appealing? What do you like about them? How do infographics make it easier to understand information? Do you find it easier to remember facts and figures this way?

Create your own infographic

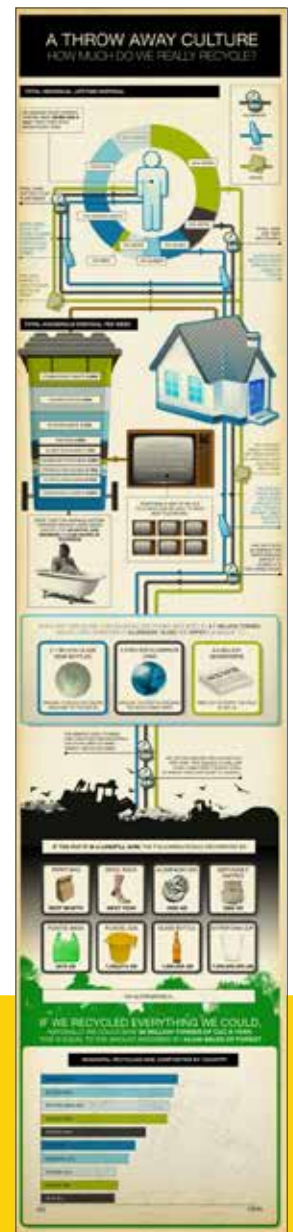
Infographics are often used to explain a complicated subject. They need to be concise and present the main facts quickly – somebody reading a newspaper story, may not have time to study a table or read a story to its end. An infographic provides a neat way of concisely illustrating important facts and figures.

Climate change is a big topic – and one that's often misunderstood, which makes it a perfect subject for an infographic! Start by having a class discussion about climate change – what do you think it is? What do you think of when somebody mentions the phrase? What images come to mind?

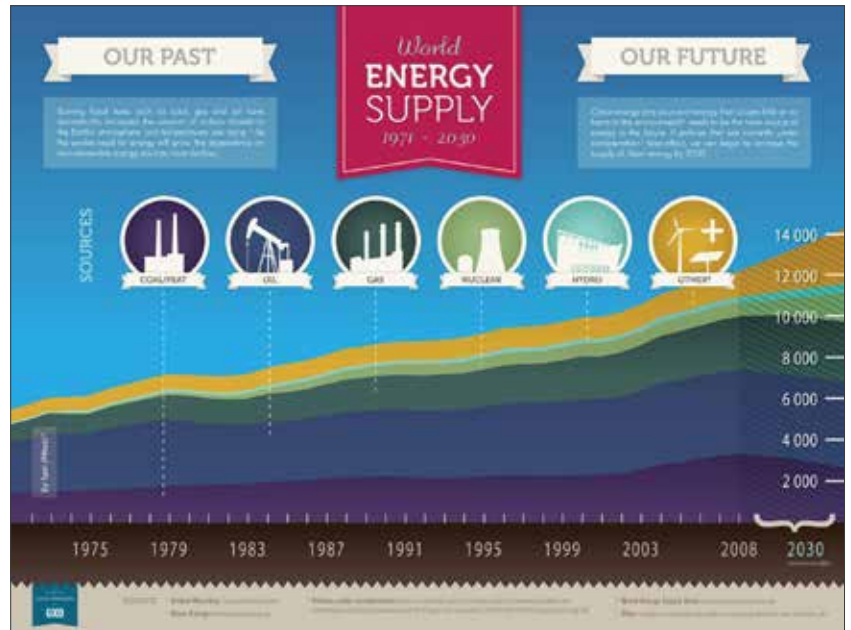
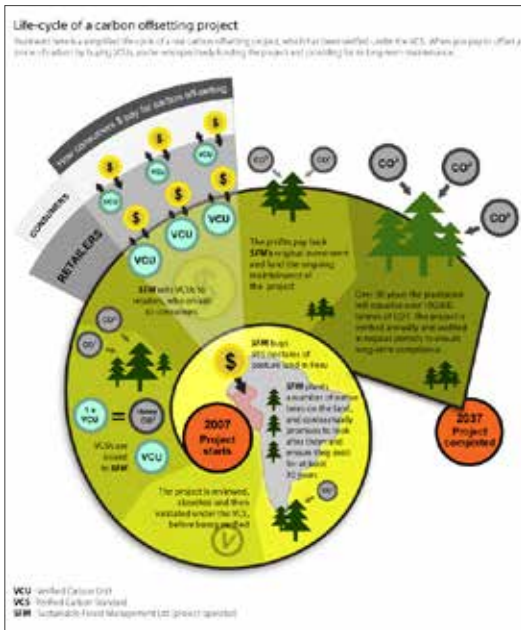


Useful links:

- <http://visual.ly/environment-infographics>
- www.coolinfographics.com
- www.informationisbeautiful.net
- www.good.is/infographics
- <http://mashable.com/2012/07/09/how-to-create-an-infographic/>



<http://www.epicor.com/Solutions/Pages/Carbon-Accounting.aspx> / Recycle.co.uk



Here are some facts* about climate change that you might want to feature or display in your infographic:

- Arctic sea-ice has been declining since the late 1970s, reducing by an area the size of Madagascar every decade.
- The main greenhouse gases are water vapour (H₂O), carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), nitrous oxide (N₂) and ozone (O₃).
- Temperatures are expected to rise across the UK with more warming in summer than in winter. Climate change could also increase the number of intense downpours of summer rainfall, which could lead to flash flooding. Expect more rain in winter months too.
- Sea levels around the world have risen about 17cm on average since 1900.
- The ten warmest years on record have occurred since 1998.
- Even if we stopped emitting greenhouse gases today, we would continue to experience climate change for at least the next 30-40 years.

Now have a look for some of your own statistics – think carefully about what climate change means to you, as this will distinguish your infographic from your classmates'. What are the main points you want to convey in your infographic?

Which facts do you find the most compelling?

Don't forget to give your infographic a headline and credit your sources at the bottom of the design.

When everyone's finished, display the infographics on the wall and have a class discussion about the different designs. Which work best and why? What have you learnt about climate change through these infographics that you didn't know before? What other subjects do you think infographics could be used to illustrate? If the class is feeling inspired, why not create a few more for different topics (e.g. electric cars) or run a school-wide competition for the best design?

Find more fascinating facts in the Climate Science information pack

*All stats from the Met Office, as of July 2011

http://www.choice.com.au / Good, Nakanishi