

## Sources for Visualizing Data

To view a large number of ways for visualizing data, visit A Periodic Table of Visualization Methods\* at [www.visual-literacy.org/periodic\\_table/periodic\\_table.html](http://www.visual-literacy.org/periodic_table/periodic_table.html).

**Note:** Categories created by Ralph Lenler & Martin J. Eppler, [www.visual-literacy.org](http://www.visual-literacy.org).

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## Data Visualization

Sites for creating graphs, charts, and tables.

### Google Docs

<http://docs.google.com>

The spreadsheet part of Google docs\* allows the creation of a variety of graphs, charts, tables, and other interesting visualizations of data, including annotated timelines, organizational charts, gauges, and motion charts that help to illustrate data changing over time.

### Google Public Data Explorer

[www.google.com/publicdata/home](http://www.google.com/publicdata/home)

Google public data explorer\* makes datasets from dozens of public organizations available for users to select, sort, and turn into charts or graphs. Tools allow users to change the chart colors and selections. By using the time feature, users can watch how the data displayed in a chart changes over time.

### Many Eyes

<http://www-958.ibm.com/software/data/cognos/manyeyes/page/Tour.html>

Use existing data sets or upload custom data, and then select how to show the data, such as creating a bar chart, block histogram, bubble chart, scatterplot, pie chart, line graph, and so on. Free registration requires a valid e-mail address.

### Tableau Public

[www.tableausoftware.com/public](http://www.tableausoftware.com/public)

Tableau Public\* is a free service that lets anyone publish interactive data to the Web. Once on the Web, anyone can interact with the data, download it, or create visual representations of it. Requires no programming skills. Includes a free desktop download used to publish interactive data visualizations to the Web. Can connect to Microsoft Excel\*, Microsoft Access\*, and multiple text file formats. Saves work to the Tableau Public web servers—nothing is saved on local computers. All saved data is accessible to everyone on the Internet. Tableau Desktop Public Edition\* is a Windows application only.

## Information Visualization

Sites for creating timelines, data maps, data images, and cycle diagrams.

### A.nnotate

<http://a.nnotate.com>

Attach private or shared notes to documents and images using a web browser. Can use it individually to store and index documents, or in a group to create a shared layer of comments on top of documents. Can annotate images, documents, PDFs, and copies of Web pages. The free hosted solution offers single-user accounts for uploading and annotating up to 30 pages per month. Documents can be shared with any number of annotators.

### ClassTools

<http://classtools.net>

Create free educational games, quizzes, activities, and diagrams. Host them on a blog, Web site, or intranet. No signup, no passwords, and no charge. Includes video tutorials on YouTube\*. Offers easy, fill-in templates.

### Dipity

[www.dipity.com](http://www.dipity.com)

A free digital timeline Web site to organize content by date and time. Can create, share, embed, and collaborate on interactive, visually engaging timelines that integrate video, audio, images, text, links, social media, location, and timestamps. Must be 13 years or older to use Dipity.

### Gliffy

[www.gliffy.com](http://www.gliffy.com)

Create professional-quality flowcharts, diagrams, floor plans, technical drawings, and more. Large shape library from which to select elements. No signup required. Can create five charts in the free version. Can share diagrams with others, save diagrams as images, or include the URL of the diagram in a Web page.

### Google Docs

<http://docs.google.com>

The spreadsheet part of Google docs\* allows the creation of a variety of charts, including annotated timelines and organizational charts.

### Google Maps

<http://maps.google.com>

<http://maps.google.com/support/bin/static.py?hl=en&page=guide.cs&guide=21670&topic=21676&from=21676&rd=2>

Information on how to add place marks, lines, shapes, embedded images and video, and descriptive text to Google maps\*. Also provides links for information on how to open maps in Google Earth\* and collaborate with others.

### Many Eyes

<http://www-958.ibm.com/software/data/cognos/manyeyes/page/Tour.html>

Use existing datasets or upload custom data, and then select how to show the data using world, country, and state maps, such as shading the states, regions, or territories of an individual country based on data values. Free registration requires a valid e-mail address.

### **Timeglider**

<http://timeglider.com>

Create timelines with staggered or indented events below each other in a sequence. Can also increase the size of an event to display the relative importance of the event in comparison to other events on the timeline. Allows panning and zooming to view centuries at a time or just hours. Can create event-spans to show durations and how they overlap. Provides ability to share using a Web link or embedding in a Web page, or invite others to contribute as authors. Accepts dates in A.D. and B.C. format, and time settings down to the minute. More complicated to use than other timeline applications. Can try the application without registering at <http://timeglider.com/app/try.php>.

### **TimeRime**

[www.timerime.com](http://www.timerime.com)

Create free timelines that include text, images, audio, and video. Can include more than one type of media for each event on a timeline. Can embed the timeline in a blog or share via e-mail. Educational version available for paid accounts. Must register with an e-mail address.

### **Timetoast**

[www.timetoast.com](http://www.timetoast.com)

Create timelines on the Web with titles, images, and descriptive text. Can view as an interactive timeline or table. Once “published,” others can comment on the timeline. Easy to use. Simple registration necessary with a valid e-mail address.

### **XTimeline**

<http://xtimeline.com>

Create timelines that can include text, images, and video in A.D. or B.C. format. Interactive timeline is compact and shows a title for each event. Must register with an e-mail address. Can embed in Web pages, such as blogs, or send as e-mail. Terms of use requires users to be 13 or above.

## **Concept Visualization**

Sites for creating concept, cause-and-effect, and mind maps as well as word visuals.

### **bubbl.us**

[www.bubbl.us](http://www.bubbl.us)

Create and share colorful mind maps that allow entering of points and subpoints around a core idea. Registration is optional.

### **Cacoo**

<http://cacoo.com>

Create concept maps, layouts, diagrams, and flowcharts. Can upload images, and “chat” and edit concurrently with collaborators. E-mail confirmation not necessary to use the tool.

### **Exploratree**

[www.exploratree.org.uk](http://www.exploratree.org.uk)

Create concept maps from “scratch” or use preformatted maps to support the desired type of brainstorming. Many shapes to choose from. Can submit maps for comments. Free registration requires a valid e-mail address.

### **Many Eyes**

<http://www-958.ibm.com/software/data/cognos/manyeyes/page/Tour.html>

Use existing datasets or upload custom data, and then select how to display the data to create networks of related words and ideas, such as a word tree, tag cloud, or word cloud. Free registration requires a valid e-mail address.

### **Mindmeister**

[www.mindmeister.com](http://www.mindmeister.com)

Create concept maps with collaborators concurrently. Free version limited to three maps. All collaborators must have e-mail addresses.

### **Mindomo**

[www.mindomo.com](http://www.mindomo.com)

Create brainstorming and causal maps using a variety of shapes, images, and formatting. Attach comments and notes to maps. Free version limited to three maps. Requires e-mail address.

### **Seeing Reason**

<http://educate.intel.com/en/thinkingtools/seeingreason>

Create causal maps on the Intel® Education Web site to investigate a system or problem involving cause and effect. Requires teachers to set up projects and create student accounts.

### **Showing Evidence**

<http://educate.intel.com/en/ThinkingTools/ShowingEvidence>

Create a visualization of an argumentation case on the Intel® Education Web site with evidence that supports and weakens a claim. Requires teachers to set up projects and create student accounts.

### **Wordle**

[www.wordle.net](http://www.wordle.net)

Generate “word clouds” from text that you provide. Greater prominence (size) is given to words that appear more frequently in the source text. Can design word clouds by applying different fonts, layouts, and color schemes. Can be printed, saved to the Wordle gallery to share with others, or saved as a screenshot to use in other applications.

## Strategy Visualization

Sites for creating organization charts, decision making charts, and cycle diagrams.

### Gliffy

[www.gliffy.com](http://www.gliffy.com)

Create professional-quality flowcharts, diagrams, floor plans, technical drawings, and more. Large shape library from which to select elements. No signup required. Can create five charts in the free version. Can share diagrams with others, save diagrams as images, or include the URL of the diagram in a Web page.

### Google Docs

<http://docs.google.com>

The spreadsheet part of Google docs\* allows the creation of a variety of charts, including organizational charts.

## Metaphor Visualization

Sites for creating architectural representations, story templates, trees, icebergs, and similar elements.

### ClassTools

<http://classtools.net>

Create free educational games, quizzes, activities, and diagrams. Host them on a blog, Web site, or intranet. No signup, no passwords, and no charge. Includes video tutorials on YouTube\*. Offers easy, fill-in templates.

## Compound Visualization

Sites for creating cartoons, knowledge maps, infographics, and infomurals.

### ClassTools

<http://classtools.net>

Create free educational games, quizzes, activities, and diagrams. Host them on a blog, Web site, or intranet. No signup, no passwords, and no charge. Includes video tutorials on YouTube\*. Offers easy, fill-in templates.

### FluxTime Studio

[www.fluxtime.com](http://www.fluxtime.com)

With the free version, can create, edit, and play custom animation clips, and send them as e-cards to anyone without any registration. Create simple animations using background templates and objects from the library or custom drawings. Use a simple step-by-step Quickstart Guide. Must complete the animation in one sitting for the free version. Requires a paid membership to save, build on, and share animations in other ways.

### GoAnimate

<http://goanimate.com>

Make animations without drawing. Can make animated characters, direct cartoons, and watch others' creations. Customize animations with a large number of tools and features. Can upload and use recorded sounds and voices. Can view and share animations directly on GoAnimate or save animations as high-definition videos to post elsewhere. GoAnimate automatically "scans" for inappropriate content and hides animations that have inappropriate content and scrambles inappropriate words.

### ToonDoo

[www.toondoo.com](http://www.toondoo.com)

Create and edit 1-, 2-, or 3-panel comic strips. Choose from a vast variety of characters, props, and backgrounds categorized into galleries. Create characters and use uploaded images. Embed toons in blogs, Web sites, or forums—or save as images to insert into other files. Write in any language. Turn on "Safe Search" to block any created cartoons identified as "inappropriate for children." Educational version available with many enhancements, such as multiuser registration without e-mail addresses, but is not free.