



You've got this.

Creative kickstarters for any class

EXPLAINING COMPLEX CONCEPTS WITH

Ai Adobe Illustrator

In this project, students use visual design to break down complex ideas, understand them better, and explain them more effectively.

1 GATHER INFORMATION

Ask your students to collect information about their project topic. Once they have gathered enough details and context, have them start sketching out some ideas for how they might represent these facts visually.

2 START CREATING

Once their initial ideas are sketched out, get your students to open Adobe Illustrator and create a new project by hitting **Create New**. For sizing, we recommend clicking on the **Web** tab on the window that appears and selecting **Web-Large**.

3 BUILDING SHAPES

As an example, use the **Ellipse** tool to create some circles to represent scientific concepts or events on a timeline. To combine simple shapes into new ones, go to the **Window** menu at top of the screen and select **Pathfinder**. Select two or more overlapping shapes and hit one of the buttons on the Pathfinder tab to experiment. Don't forget you can reverse any decision by hitting **Ctrl+Z (Cmd+Z on Mac)**.

4 ADD YOUR INFORMATION

Try to find engaging ways to present your facts. Perhaps the simplest way to include written information is to add captions to your images using the **Type** tool. Maybe even experiment with the **Type on a Path** tool to get your text running around the outside of your shapes.

5 EXPORT AND SHARE

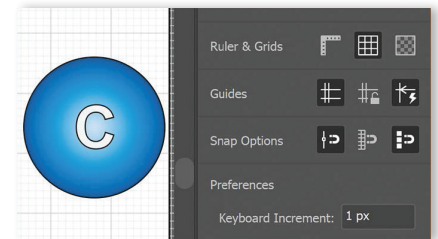
When you're happy with your design or infographic, hit **File > Export > Export for Screens**, then choose a location to save your work to and hit **Export Artboard**. By default, this will create a PNG file of your project that you can share and add to presentations, web pages, and more.

Project Ideas

- Simple graphics and text that map out a timeline, like key events in a war, for history classes
- Illustrations of processes like cell division or terminal velocity for science classes
- Infographics showing the elements of plot and story for language arts classes

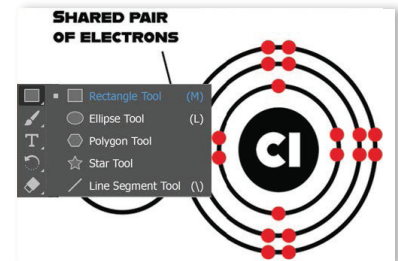


Grids and rulers



Designing in Illustrator is much easier with guides, grids, and rulers. They are invaluable in keeping your graphics aligned and logically placed, perfect for creating and linking shapes together in this exercise!

Shape tools



Shape tools are located in the Tools panel. To show other shape tools, click and hold the Rectangle tool in the Tools panel. When you draw shapes, Smart Guides (View > Smart Guides) help by showing the shape size and snapping to other objects.

Now that you've experimented with these examples, find projects that inspire you and create amazing work for any subject.

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