

Creating text using infographics

Activities created by **Lorraine Chaffer, Vice President GTANSW & ACT**

Visual representations allow us to understand complex changes more easily. Often, visuals such as diagrams and infographics are used to support text but in doing so it is easy to skim over the details presented in a visual resource. Using visuals to create a text requires skills in interpretation, calculation, and critical thinking.

This activity can be completed by students individually or in groups. Use the PDF of images in Appendix 3 on the GTA NSW & ACT website for easy-to-read infographics.

A student worksheet for this activity is in Appendix 1 on the GTA NSW & ACT website with this edition

THE BIG TASK

You are going to *write an article for a digital magazine*. The article, about *change to the Earth's surface over time*, will include the infographics used in this activity.

ACTIVITY 1: Put it into words

For each image **create a descriptive paragraph** using your own words to highlight the key ideas and facts presented. Use geographical concepts and avoid copying text directly from the infographic.

To help you unpack the infographics try answering the guiding questions below.

- How many years ago was 1800?
- How many years are covered by this series of infographics?
- What is meant by habitable land?
- What are the two main components of habitable land?
- What is an essential requirement for people to use habitable land?
- How much of Earth's surface is uninhabitable – Why?
- How much of Earth's habitable land had been cleared for urban landuse, cropping, and grazing by 1800.

ACTIVITY 2: Make some calculations

Use the statistical information in the infographics to **calculate change**, such as - absolute change, percentage change and rate of change over time.

This information will assist you with Activity 3. Try these calculations:

- What do the letters M and B beside some statistics represent?
- By how much did the area of forests change between 1800 and 2018? (Hectares and as a % of habitable land).
- What happened to Earth's grasslands over time?
- What was the status of Earth's grasslands in 2018?
- Calculate the percentage change in habitable land occupied by forests from 1800 to 2018?
- Calculate the annual rate of change in forest cover over the last 10,000 years.

ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE: USING INFOGRAPHICS

ACTIVITY 3: Organise your ideas

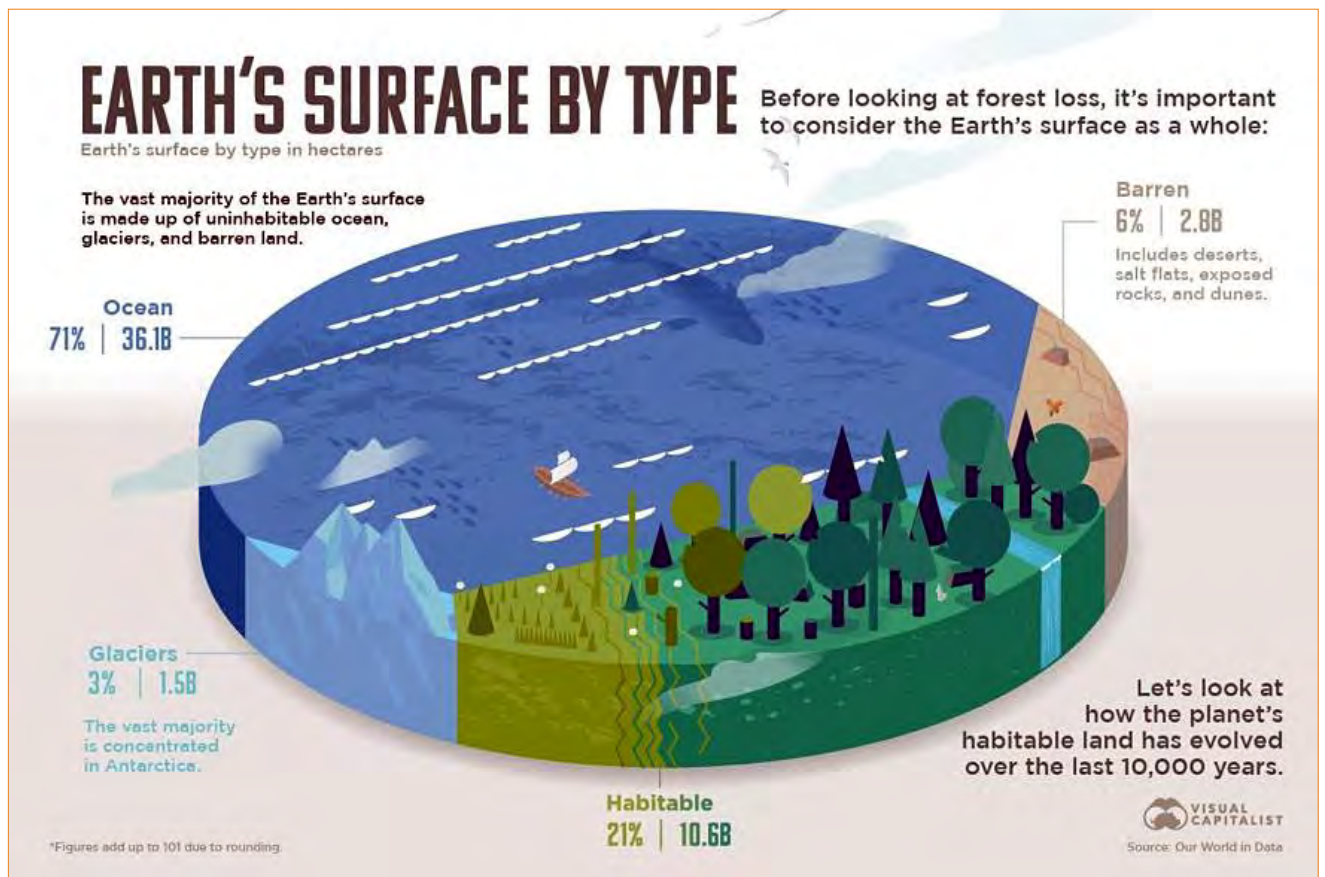
Create a heading, an introduction and conclusion to accompany the paragraphs you have written about each infographic. What is your key message?

ACTIVITY 4: Create your article

Present your article as a complete product that incorporates the infographics, your details as the author and the source of your information.

The article can have a traditional magazine format or be presented as a StoryMap.

Figure 1



Images licensed for use from Visual Capitalist by GTANSW & ACT. The full PPT of 9 images appears as Appendix 3 with Edition 2 on the GTA NSW & ACT website.

The images form the basis of the article "Visualising the Worlds Forest Loss since the ice age" <https://www.visualcapitalist.com/visualizing-the-worlds-loss-of-forests-since-the-ice-age/>

ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE: USING INFOGRAPHICS

Figure 2

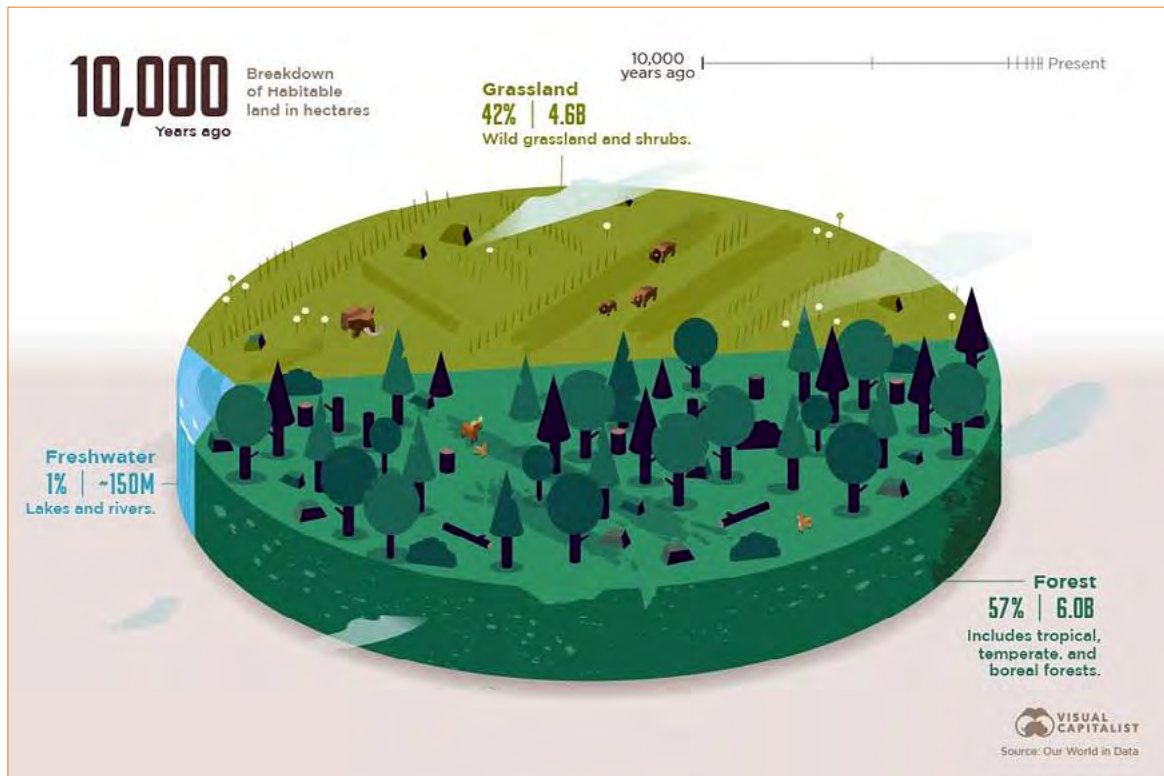
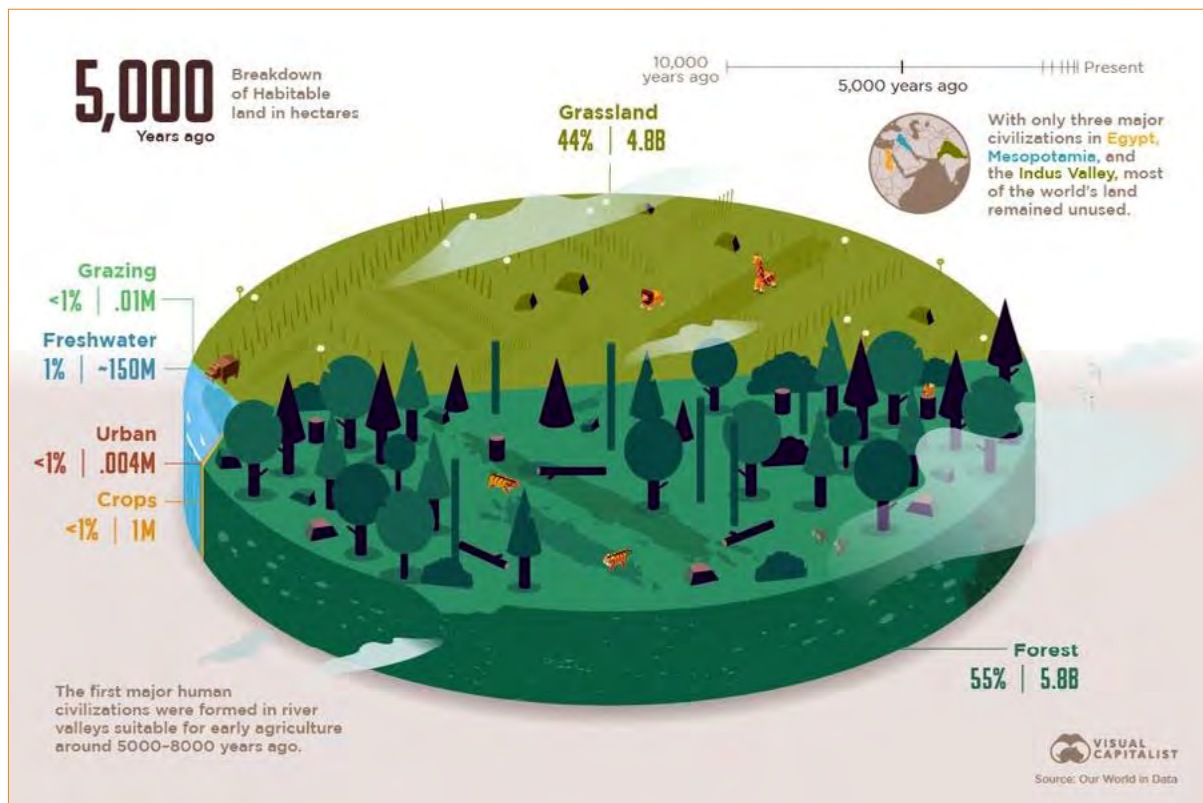


Figure 3



ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE: USING INFOGRAPHICS

Figure 4

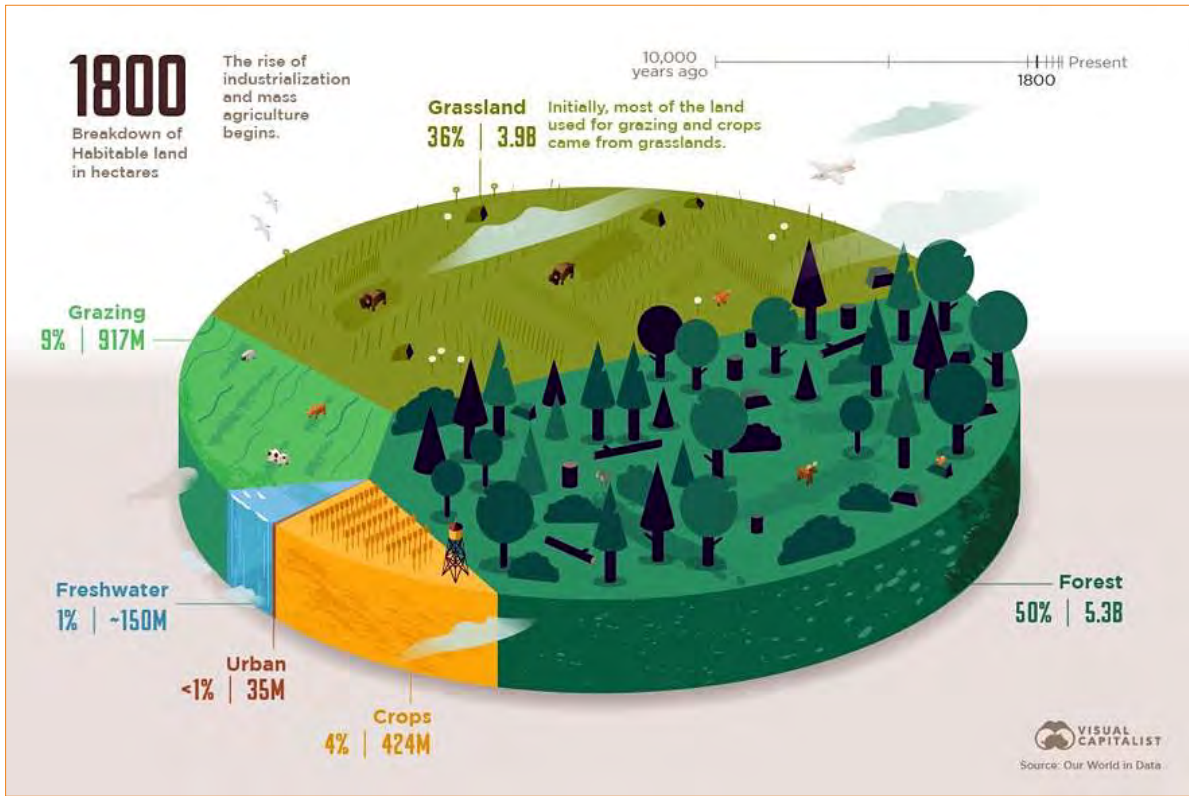


Figure 5

