Do the Work: Create the visualization

If you want a fun break before you begin coding the visualization using HTML, CSS, and JavaScript, you can create the visualization by hand by doing this exericse.

All you need is a set of coloring pencils in a range of colors that match (or, close enough) the color legend on the chart.

Use your reds and oranges for the hottest months (indicated with 1, 2, 3 and so on), your blues for the coolest months (indicated with 8, 9, 10) and your yellows and greens for the months in between (4-7).

This visualization was inspired by Ed Hawkins, Zachary Labe, and Brian Foo.

Ed Hawkins (@edhawkins) is professor of climate science at the University of Reading, and principal research science at NCAS, and regularly creates compelling visualizations of climate data.

Zachary Labe (@ZLabe) is climate scientist studying the Arctic who regularly creates visualizations for the data he's studying.

Brian Foo (@beefoo) is an artist and computer scientist, and is the author of The Climate Change Coloring Book.

Create the visualization by hand

Color the months, where 1 is hottest (the largest positive temperature anomaly) and 10 is coolest (the smallest positive temperature anomaly). Use the colors in the color legend, so use purple for cooler values (months with a 10) and red for hotter values (months with a 1). See if you notice any trends.

