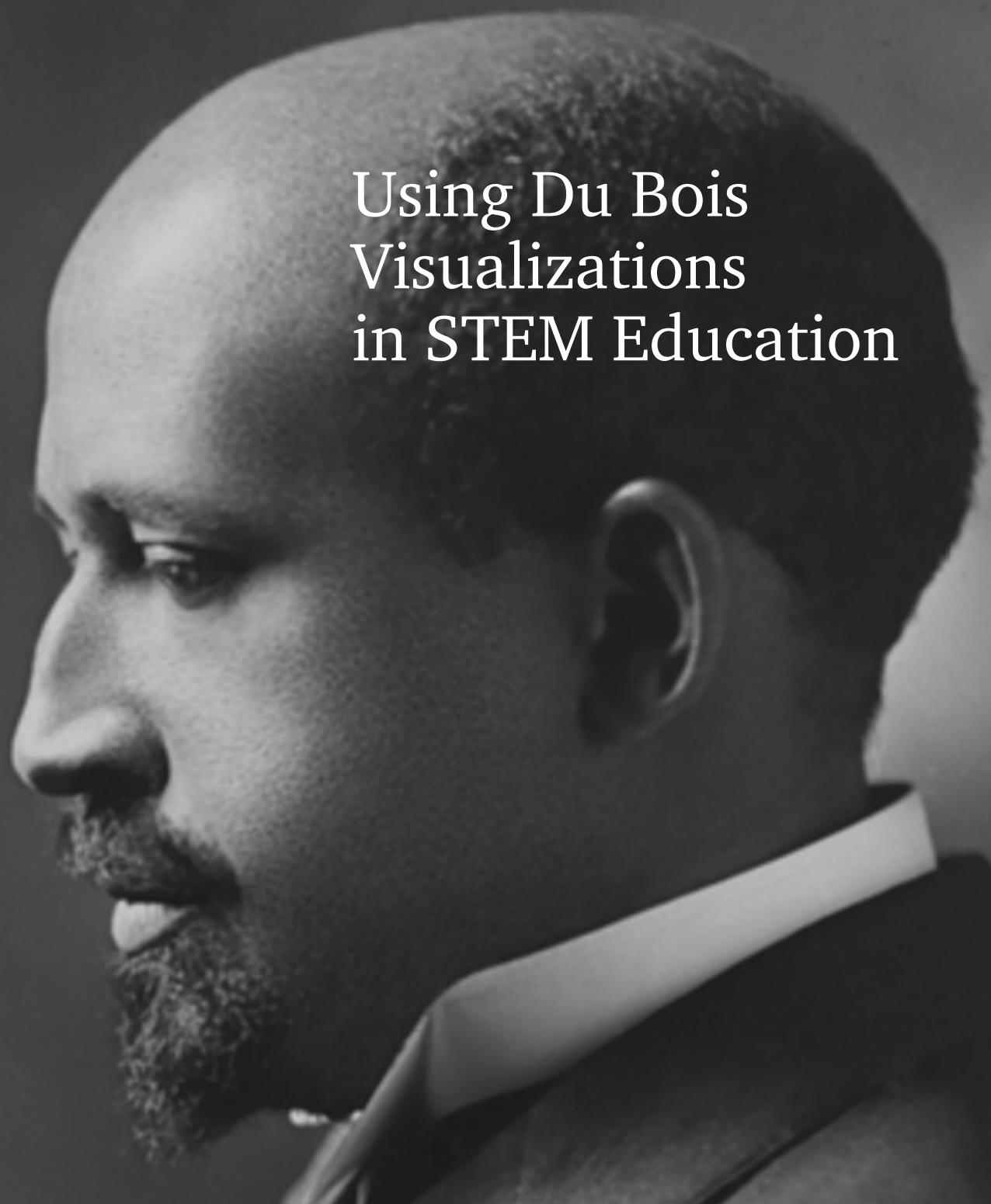




Du Bois SERVE Project

Using Du Bois Visualizations in STEM Education





Introduction

The goal of this module is for students to learn how to understand and create scientific data visualizations.

The module explores visualizations created by W.E.B. Du Bois in 1900 and the research methods they employed.

Through deconstruction and re-creation—we will see how Du Bois used visualization to answer research questions regarding racial equality that disproved biased race theories.

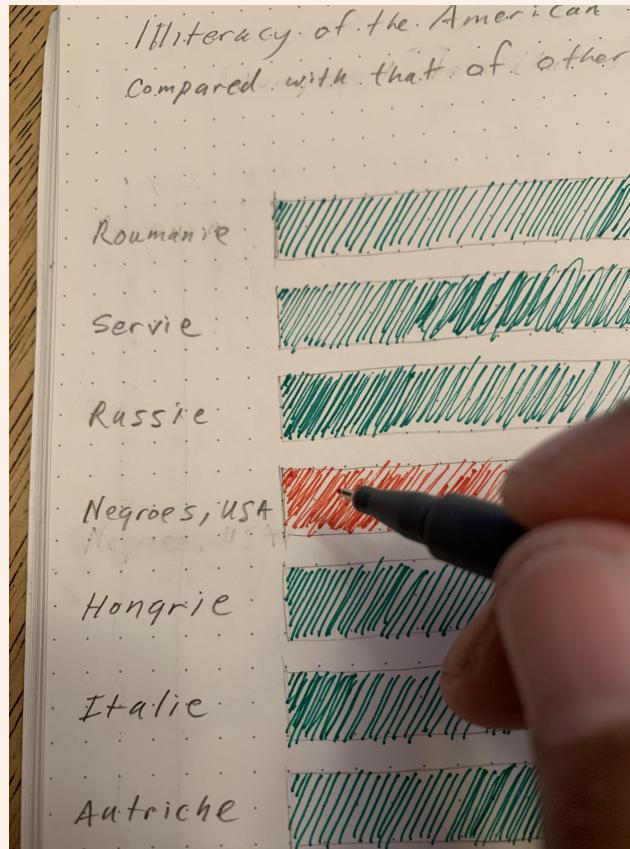


Context



Du Bois Visualizations in
a Historical Context

Explore



an analog exercise to analyze
and re-create Du Bois visuals
using hand-drawn methods.

Implement



Implement the Du Bois
visual style with digital
tools



Context





Context

The Context section provides background on the conception, motivation and messaging of the visuals. Also discussed is the venue where the visuals were first shown, the Exhibition of the American Negro, within the 1900 Paris Exposition.

To better understand the times when the visuals were created, influential events leading to the Exposition are discussed.

Context: Why Visualize Data



A picture is worth a thousand words

It is difficult for people analyze data involving many complex relationships and hundreds (or billions!) of data points.

Visualizing data with graphs can help a scientist answer research questions involving such complex relationships and large amounts of data.

Du Bois had used graphs to answer research questions about the social causes of racial inequality in his groundbreaking book *The Philadelphia Negro*.

Context: Why Visualize Data



Graphs can also help scientists explain their research findings to other scientists and non-scientists.

Studies have found that the human brain processes images 60 times faster than words.

By combining different types of graphs for different types of data, Du Bois could tell a coherent, scientific story about the social factors supporting and constraining Black Americans pursuit of equality.



Context: Background



TJ Calloway

The motivation for creating the visuals designed and created by Du Bois and his collaborators was to tell, on a world stage, the state and progress of Black Americans 35 years after emancipation from slavery.



Du Bois in Paris

Thomas J Calloway, organized the “Exhibition of the American Negro” to be shown during the 1900 Paris Exposition, and commissioned Du Bois, his Fisk University classmate, to create a set charts, graphs, photographs and other artifacts for the world stage.



Atlanta U. Students

Du Bois, along with collaborators at Atlanta University spent four months creating the materials the exhibit.



Context: Background

Du Bois and his collaborators created visualizations, to share on a world stage, findings from their social scientific research regarding the state and progress of Black Americans 35 years after emancipation from slavery. Findings that countered pseudo-scientific research that perpetuated racist views about Black people and other people of color.



TJ Calloway



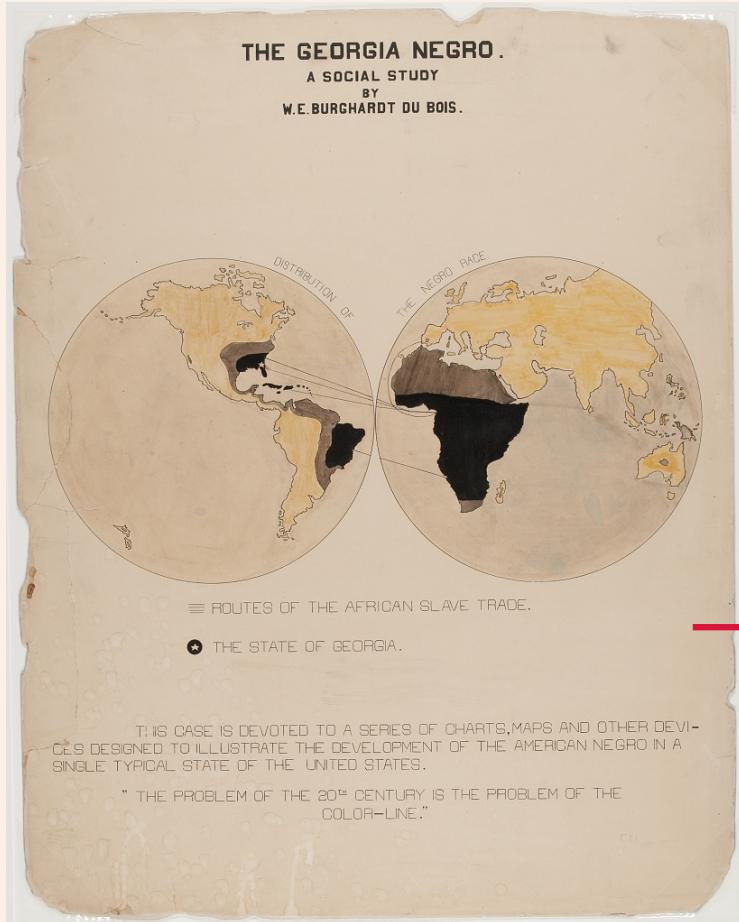
Du Bois in Paris



Atlanta U. Students



Context: The Visuals

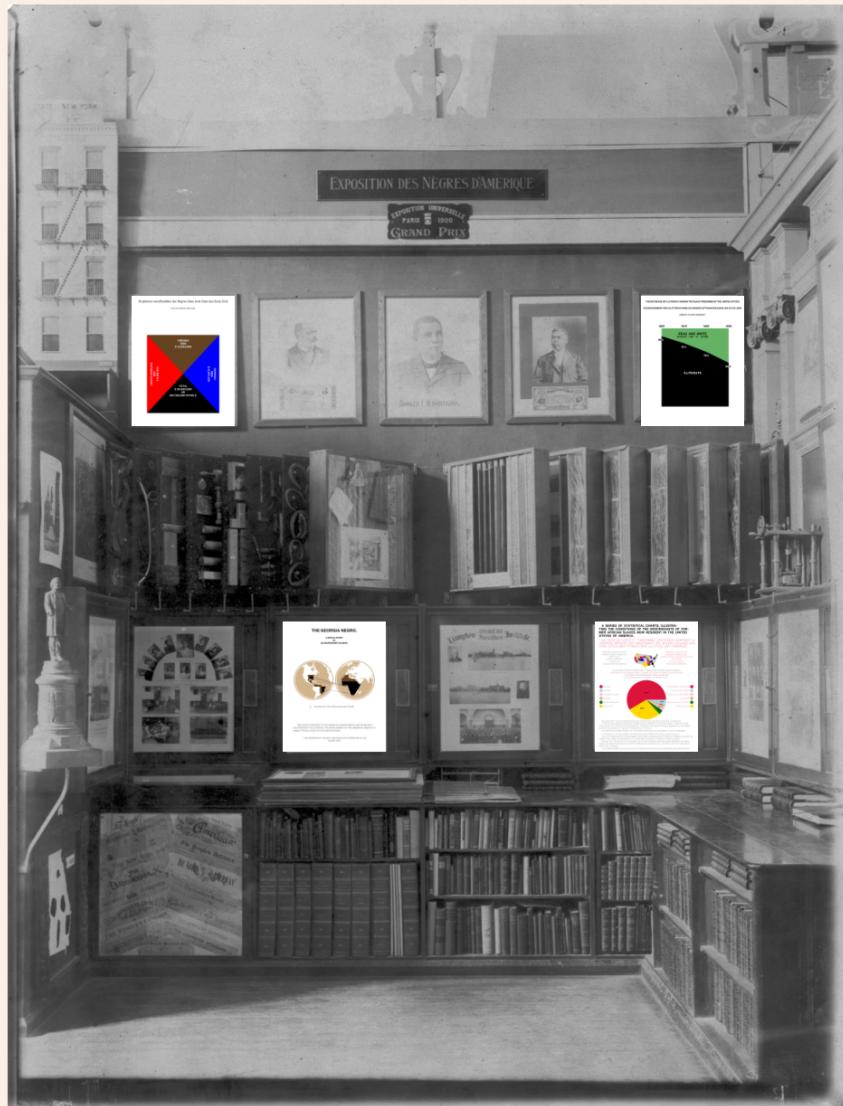


The visuals were hand-drawn using pen, ink and paint on 22x28 in. poster board

The venue shows the visuals as posters to be viewed and other materials may be "flipped through".



Context: The Questions for Discussion



Why do you think Du Bois created a series of graphs and data visualizations of Black life for the exposition?"

Why visualizations instead of a written report?"

What effect did the venue have on the design of the visuals?

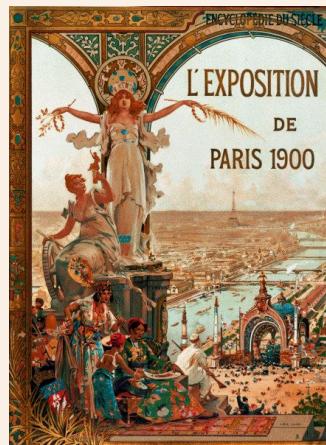
Context: The 1900 Paris Exposition



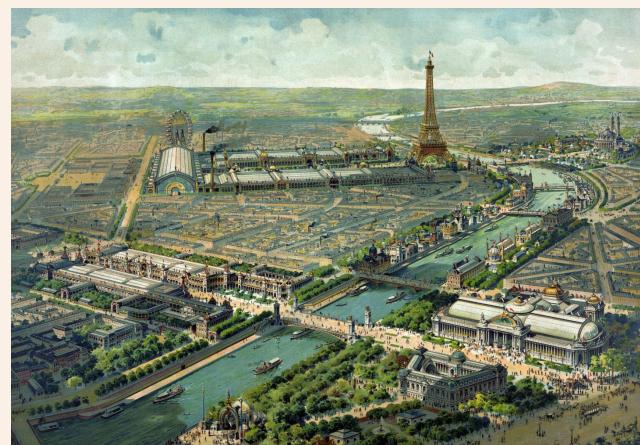
The Exposition Universelle of 1900 was the venue for Du Bois to tell the story of Black Americans on an international stage.

Fifty-six nations participated in the expo, designed to celebrate the achievements of the 19th century, while looking forward to the developments in the 20th.

The Du Bois visuals were part of the “Exhibition of the American Negro”, seen by over 50 million people. The exhibition also included an African-American bibliography containing 1,400 titles along with 500 photographs.



Exhibition Poster



1900 Paris



Exhibition of American Negroes



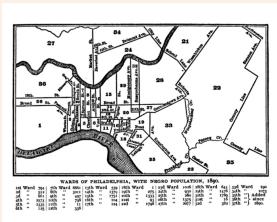
Context: Five years before Paris



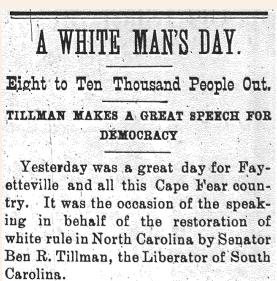
During the summer of 1895, in a Brooklyn park, there was a cotton plantation complete with five hundred Black workers reenacting slavery.



In 1896 the landmark Plessy v. Ferguson Supreme Court decision was handed down, legitimizing racial segregation, leading to generations of Jim Crow laws.



Du Bois created the Philadelphia Negro in 1897 which sought to ascertain something of the geographical distribution of his race, their organizations, and their relation to their million white fellow-citizens.



In 1898 the duly elected people in Wilmington, NC was violently overthrown. The coup occurred after the state's Southern Democrats conspired and led a mob of 2,000 white men to overthrow the legitimately elected local Fusionist government.



During the 1880s and 1890s, instances of lethal mob violence increased steadily, peaking in 1899 when twenty-seven Georgians fell victim to lynch mobs. Included in this number was the horrific lynching of Sam Hose.



Context: References

Paris Exposition of 1900 (Exposition Universelle)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Exposition_Universelle_\(1900\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Exposition_Universelle_(1900))

Black America, 1895

<https://publicdomainreview.org/essay/black-america-1895>

Plessy v. Ferguson

<https://www.britannica.com/event/Plessy-v-Ferguson-1896>

The Philadelphia Negro

https://www.google.com/books/edition/_/sqwJAAAAIAAJ

Wilmington Insurrection of 1898

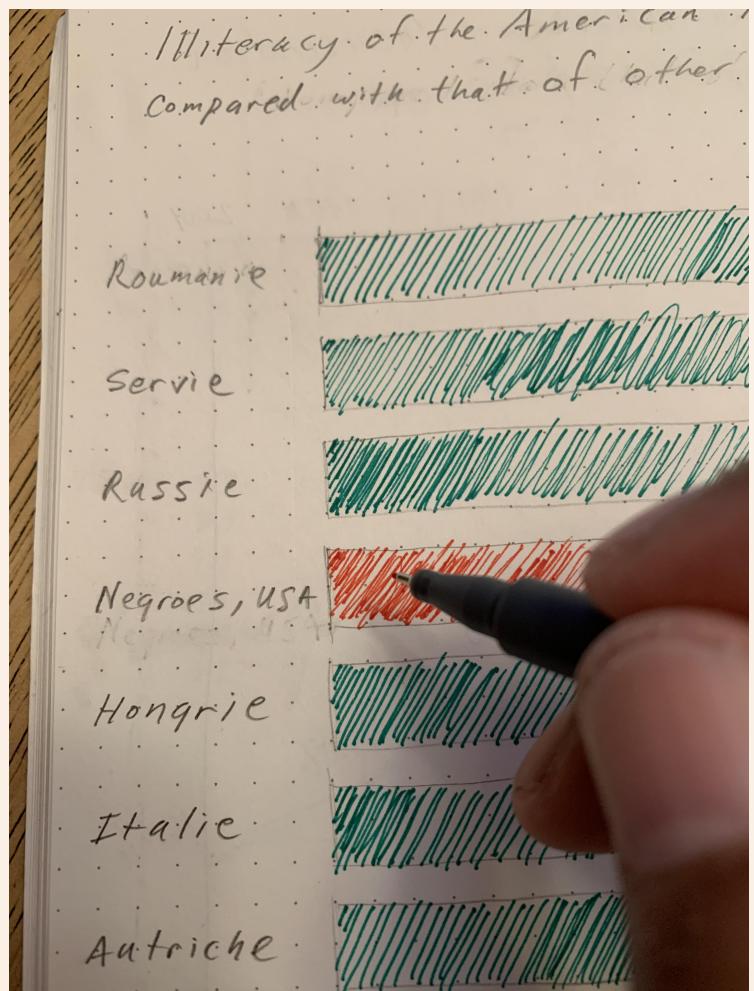
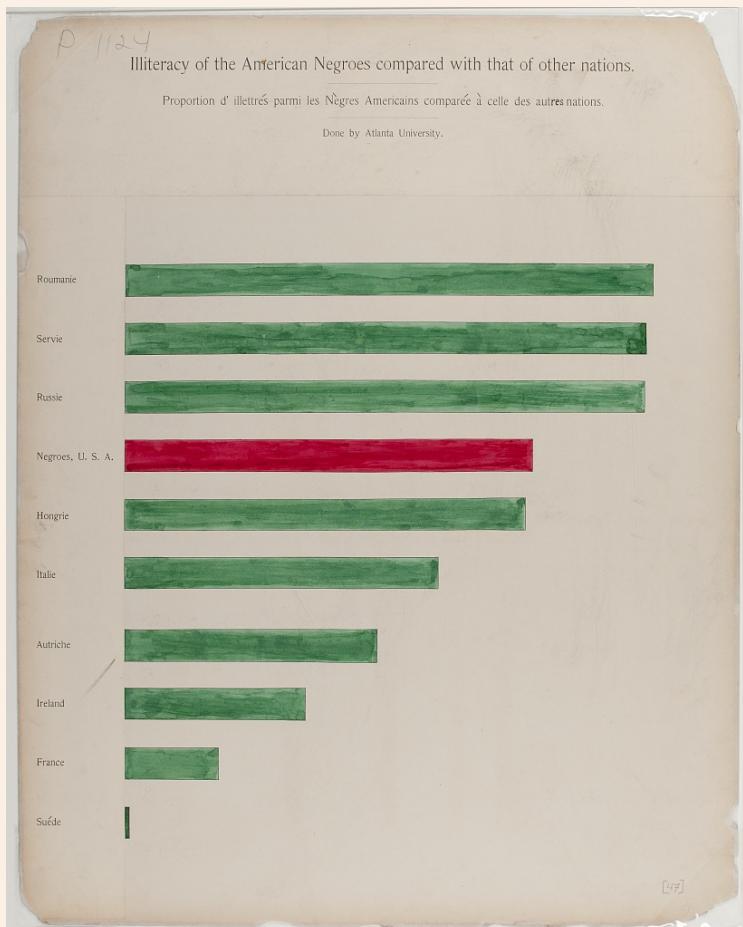
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wilmington_insurrection_of_1898

The Lynching of Sam Hose

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lynching_of_Sam_Hose



Explore





Explore

This section is a hands-on session that will take a sample Du Bois visualization, (Plate 27 in this example) and reconstructs and analyzes various aspects of the visual.

The exercise aims to recreate the sample visual using hand-drawn methods (pens, paper, markers, etc.), to immerse the students in the act of creation, while thinking about the context and messaging. Rapid iteration and peer review may be used to gauge effectiveness of the visual.

Next, drawing with modern data may be introduced.



Explore

This section is a hands-on session that takes sample Du Bois visualizations, and reconstructs and analyzes various aspects of the visual.

In this exercise you will recreate sample visuals using hand-drawn methods similar to those used by Du Bois and his collaborators (pens, paper, markers, etc.), to immerse yourself in the act of creation, while thinking about the the research question and audiences Du Bois engaged.

Rapid iteration and peer review may be used to gauge the effectiveness of the visual. In the final part of the exercise, you will draw your own visualization with modern data.

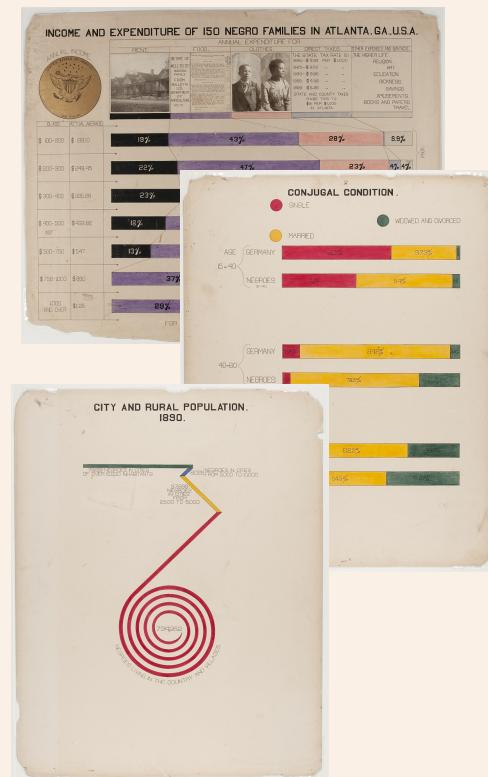


Explore: Outline

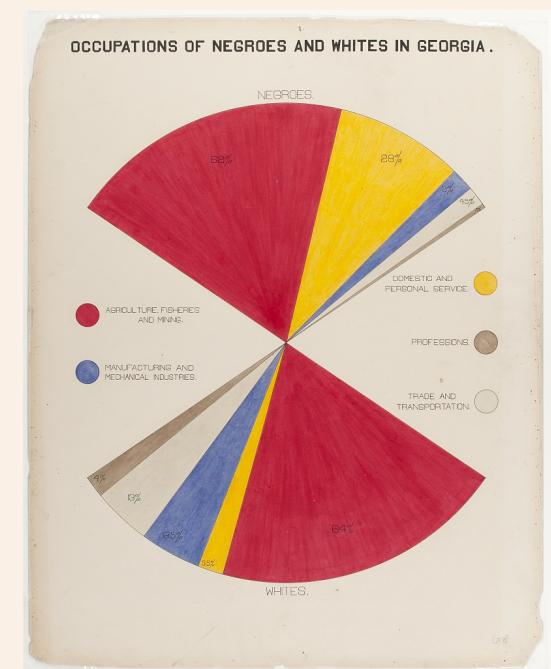
Research Questions
and Audience



Analytic methods:
Type of graphs
and data



Aesthetics, Design
and Re-creation



Explore: Research Question and Audience



Data visualization begins with you defining your research question and the audience for your research.

Visualization can help you answer research questions for yourself, but scientific research is social.

We can often gain a better understanding of our findings for ourselves by using visualization to explain our findings to other scientists or non-scientists.

Explore: Research Question and Audience



Research Question

What is the relationship between Black education levels and emancipation from slavery

Audience

International attendees of the Paris Expo, social scientists, and others influenced by Social Darwinism.

Du Bois chose data and visualizations that could answer these questions in a way that these audiences could understand.

Explore: Analytic Methods

We choose data based on our research question: The type of data we choose can vary by:

(1) Unit of observation (for example)

- People in social science
- Biological organisms in natural science
- Materials in engineering

(2) Level of observation (may be)

- Categorical/nominal
- Ordinal
- Continuous interval/ratio

A Note on Accessibility (a11y)



Accessibility involves implementing various design principles and technologies when creating information, to accommodate people with visual, cognitive, auditory, or motor impairments.

Considerations include:

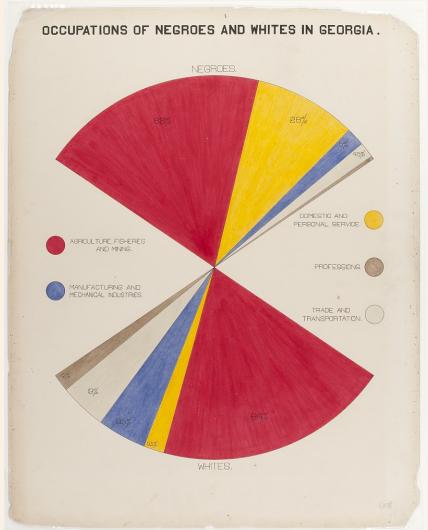
- Proper use of Color/Contrast
- Use of Alternative Text
- Using Keyboard Navigation
- Descriptive Titles and Labels
- Avoiding over-reliance on Color
- Offering both visual and non-visual formats
- Including Executive Summaries



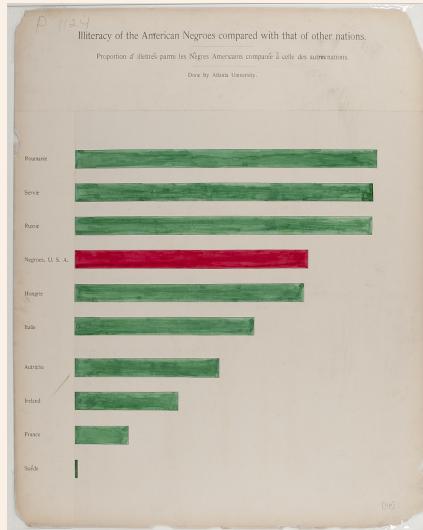
Explore: Chart Types

We use different types of graphs based on the types of data and relationships we are analyzing. Du Bois used variants of most of the major graph types that are still used today:

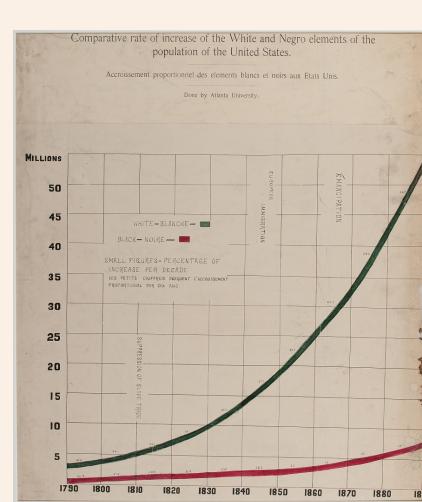
Pie Charts



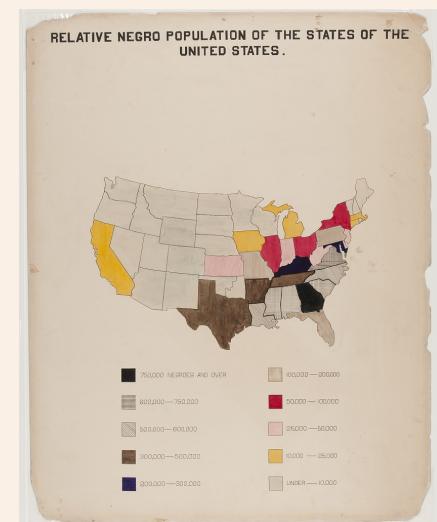
Bar Charts



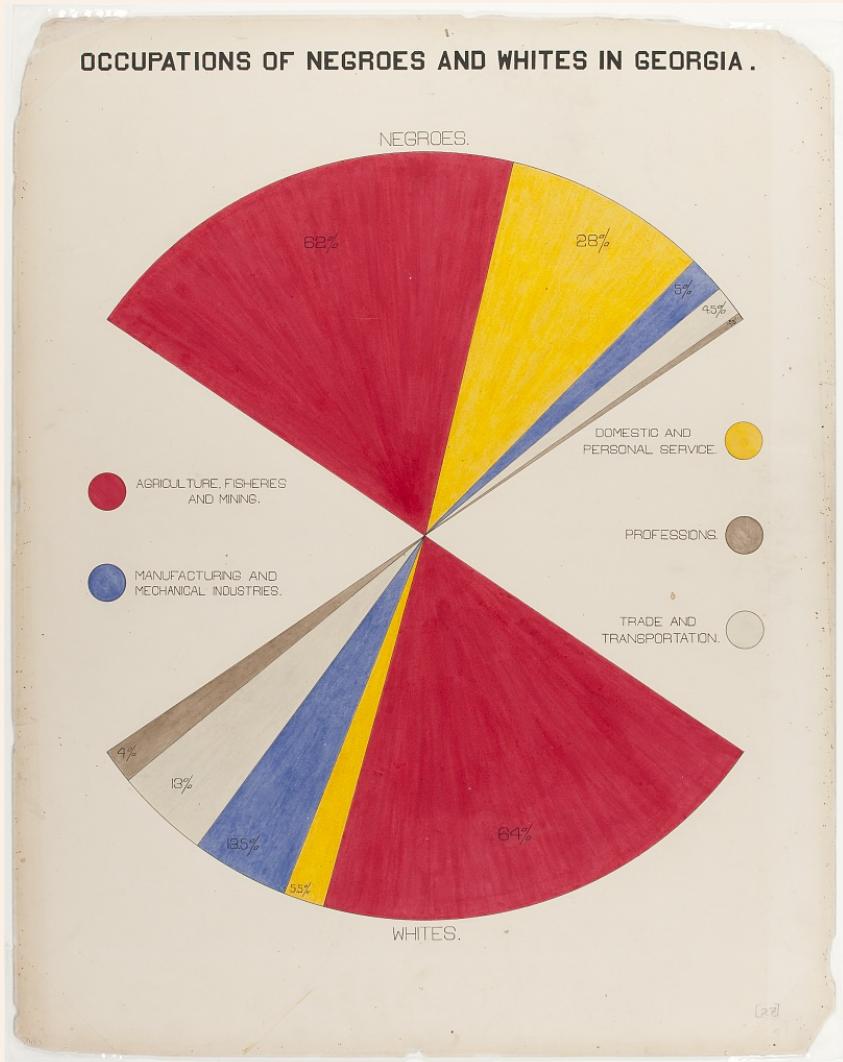
Line Charts



Statistical Maps



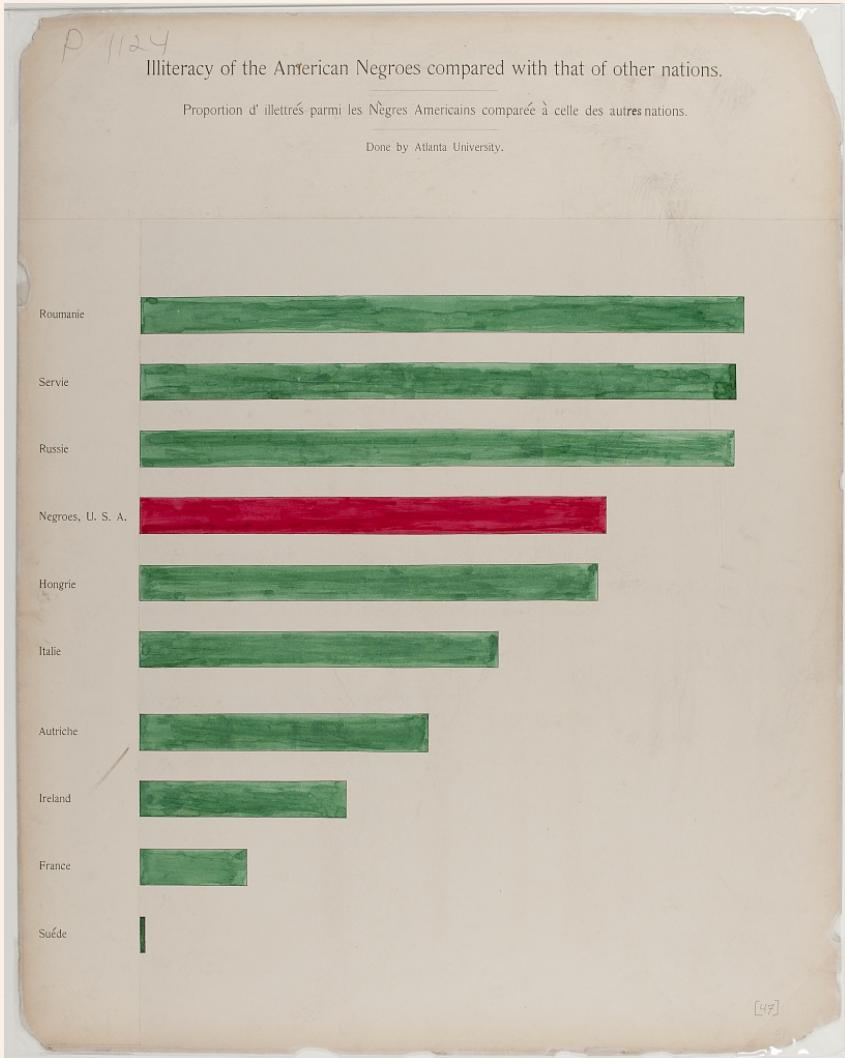
Explore: Chart Types



Pie graphs illustrate the percentages of categories (like occupations) within a larger unit (like a population) where all the percentages add up to 100%.

This analyzes a one-dimensional distribution across one categorical variable.

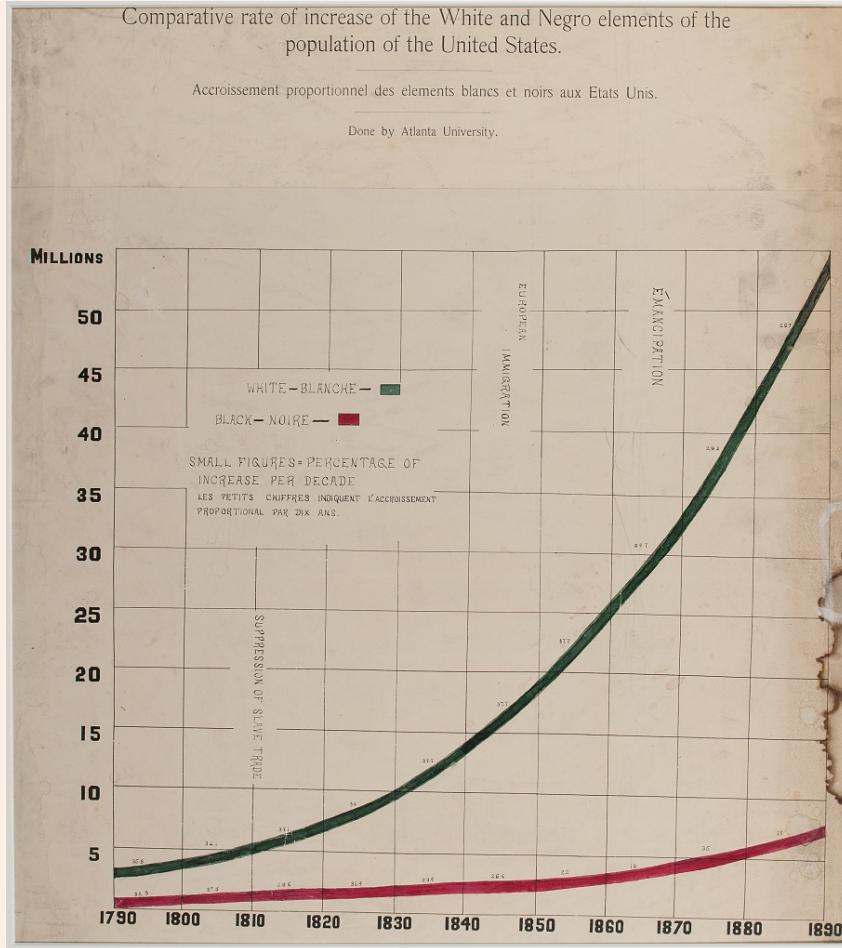
Explore: Chart Types



Bar graphs compare frequencies or percentages of one category (like literacy) among other categories (like race or nation).

This helps us analyze two-dimensional relationships, typically between two categorical variables.

Explore: Chart Types

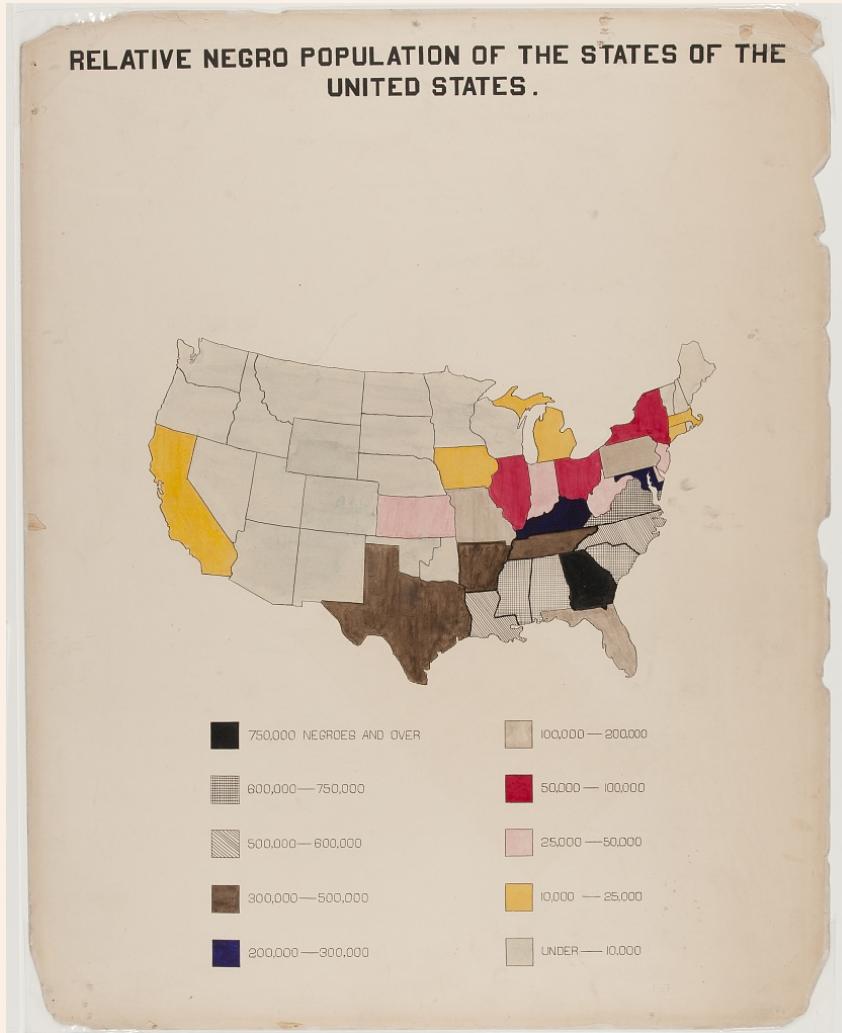


Line graphs plot frequencies or percentages of a continuous interval-ratio variable (like total population) on a y-axis among categories represented by different lines (like racial groups) over a third category of another ordinal or interval ratio variable on an x-axis (like year).

This analyzes three dimensional relationships between three different variables, including interval ratio variables.

Time series line graphs, with time on the x-axis, are the most common type of line graph

Explore: Chart Types



Statistical maps graph geo-spatial distributions of continuous interval-ratio variables (like the Black population of the U.S.).

This allows us to graph a multi-dimensional relationship including two-dimensional spatial locations.

Explore: Chart Types

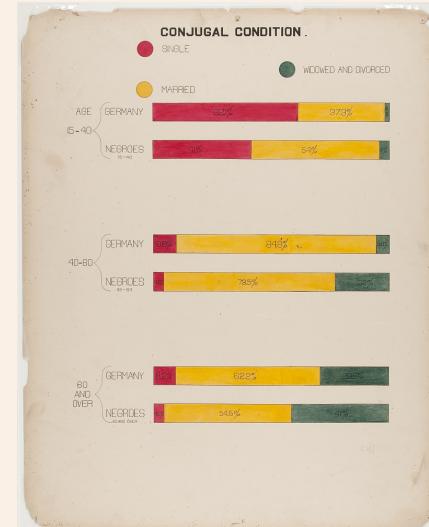
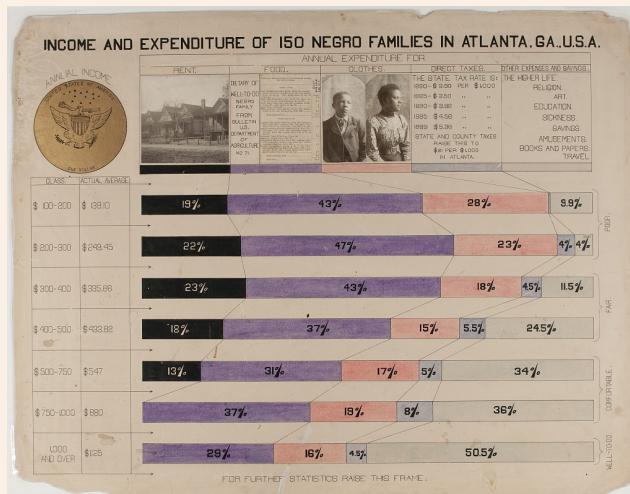
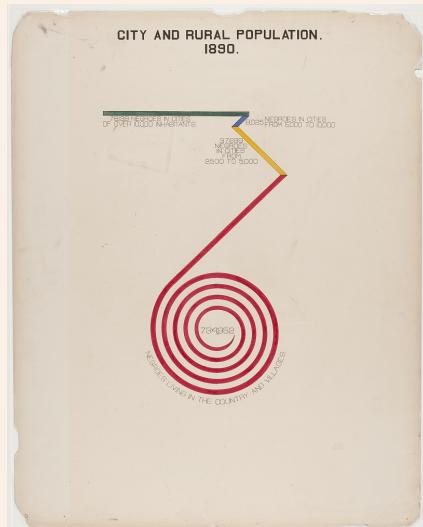


In this lesson, you will learn about the four core types of charts employed by Du Bois and by scientists today.

You can also explore more complex adaptations of these charts using the Du Bois Resources repository for this lesson:

<https://github.com/HigherEdData/Du-Bois-STEM>

The types include the fanciful Du Bois spiral, stacked bar graphs, and integrated photographs.



Explore: Analytical Methods



Each of these core types of graphs can be adapted or combined to analyze additional dimensions, scales, or components of data and research questions.

Du Bois' use of multiple charts together is sometimes referred to as progressive disclosure.

Progressive disclosure reveals additional, but related information as an audience moves between graphs. This is analogous to zooming in with a telescope to see the qualities of leaves on a tree; and then zooming out to see a whole forest comprised of many trees.

Explore: Analytical Methods (2)



Data stories provide a narrative that help us think about the complex relationships that we visualize with multiple graphs.

While the human brain can process images faster than words, we often comprehend and remember more complex ideas through narrative and stories.

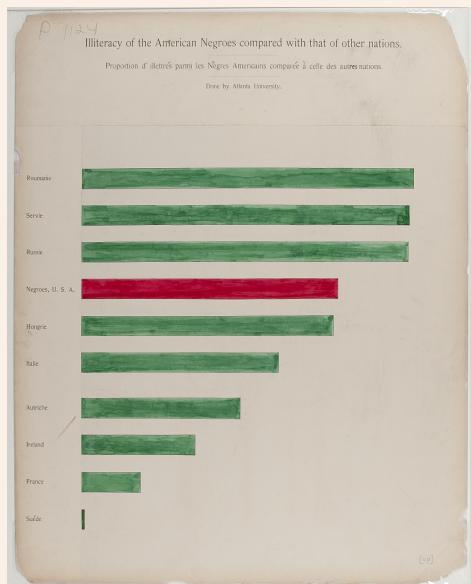
Du Bois's Paris exhibition connected multiple graphs with a scientifically rigorous data story of Black achievement after emancipation, contradicting social darwinism.



Explore: Examples

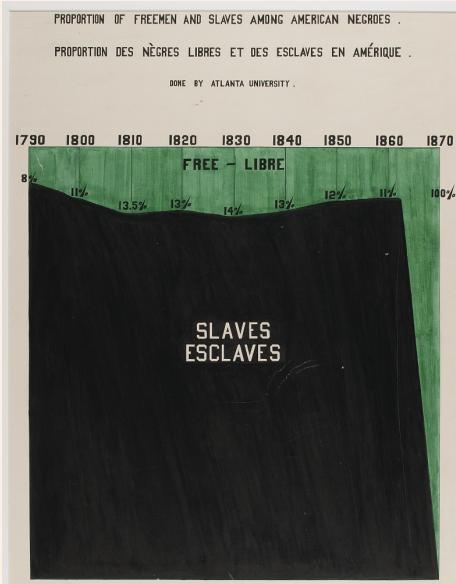
Below are four examples of Du Bois visuals for you to explore. The examples are shown in terms of increasing complexity, and show a variety of chart types that are good exemplars of the Du Bois style.

Example 1



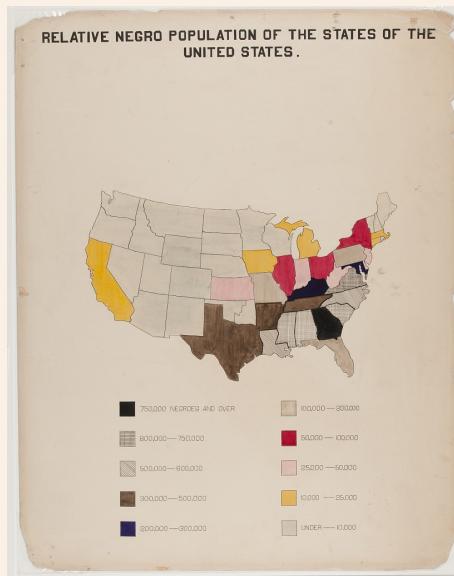
Illiteracy of American Negroes compared with that of other nations

Example 2



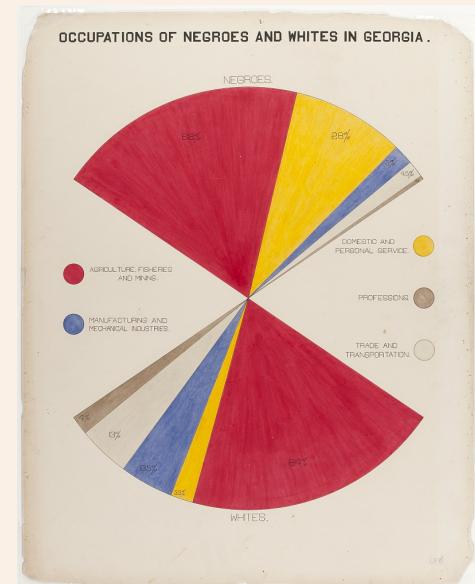
Proportion of Freemen and Slaves Among American Negroes

Example 3



Relative Negro Population of the United States

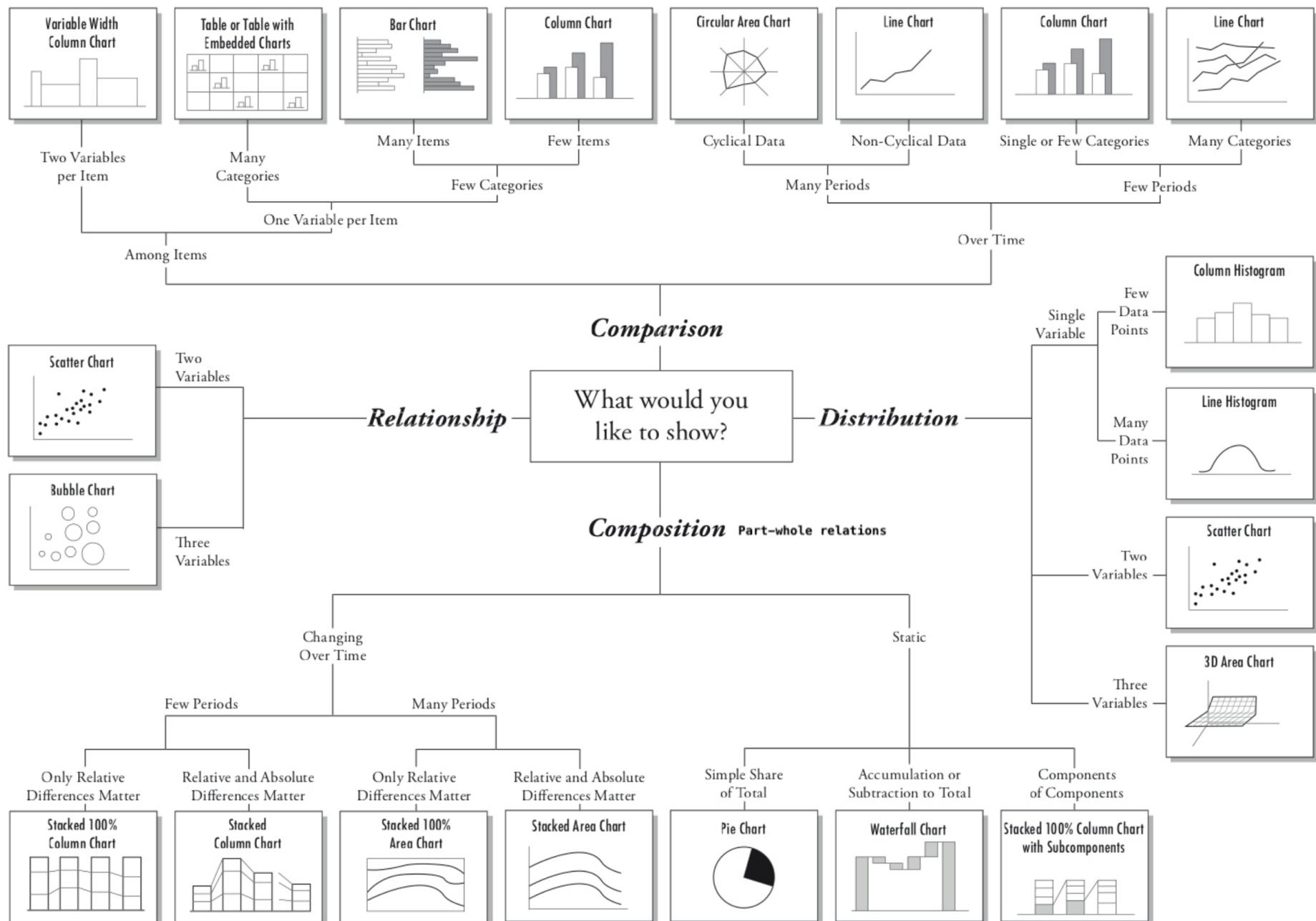
Example 4



Occupations of Negroes and Whites in Georgia

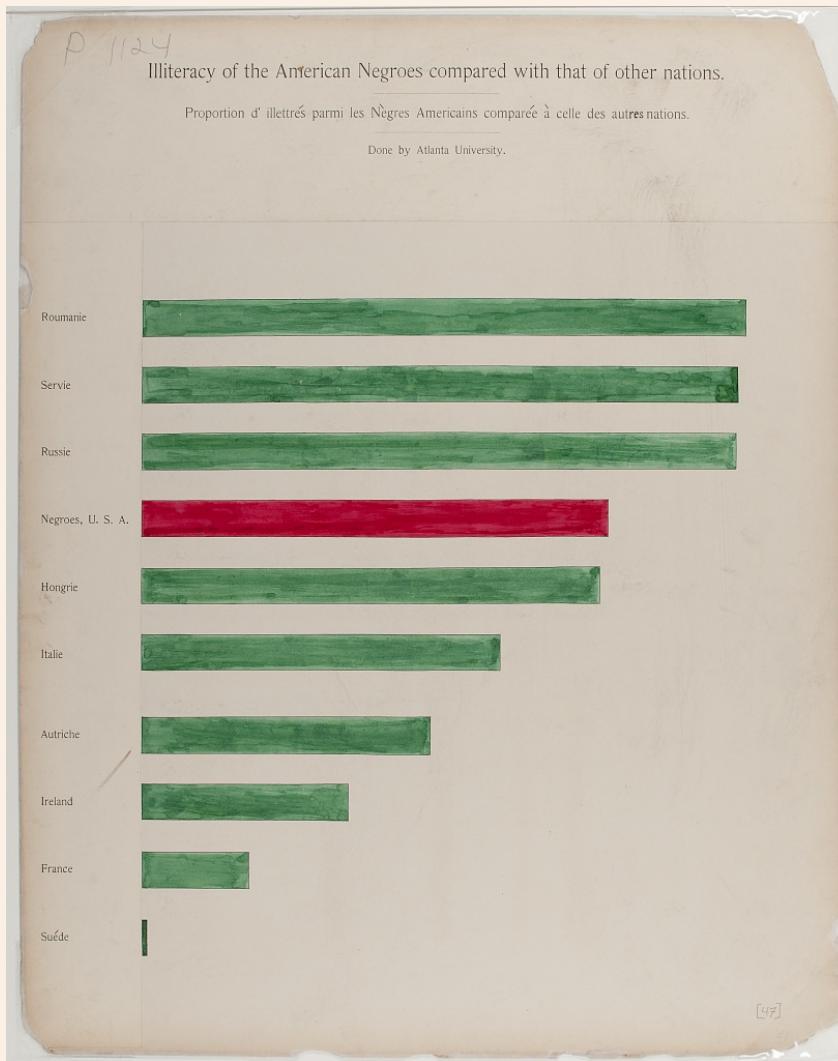


Chart Suggestions—A Thought-Starter





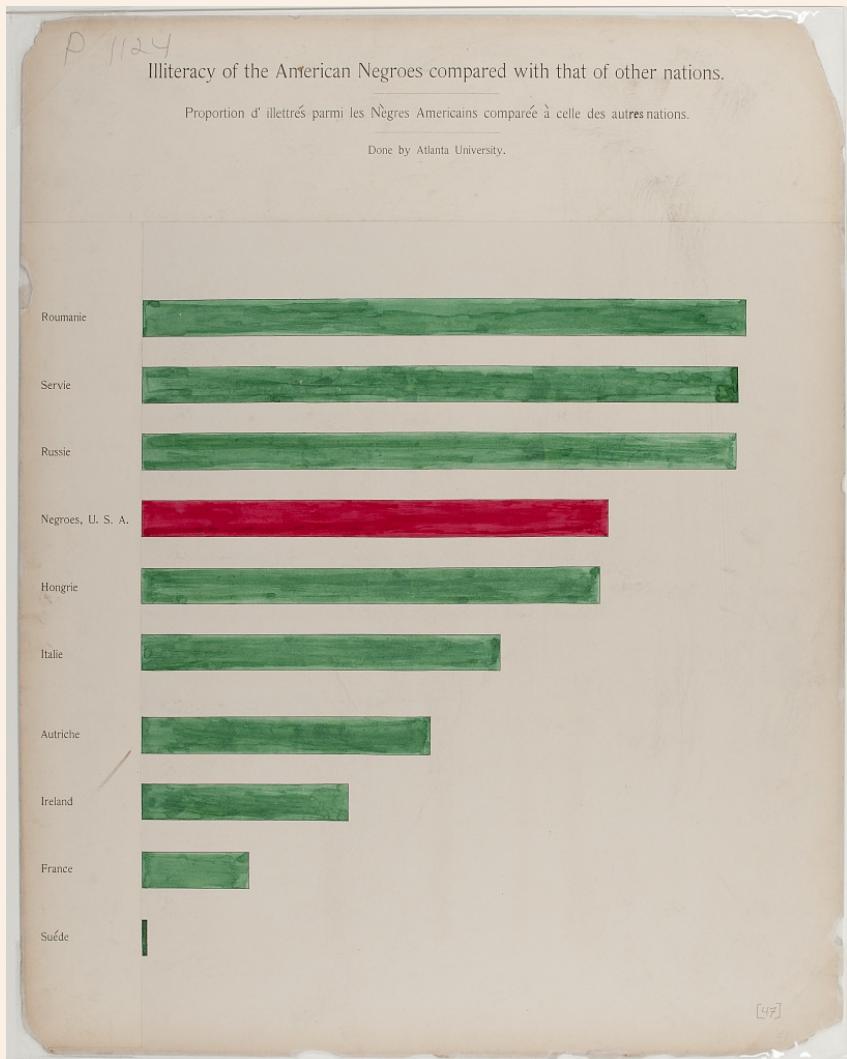
Explore Example 1



Illiteracy of American Negroes compared with that of other nations



Explore: Message



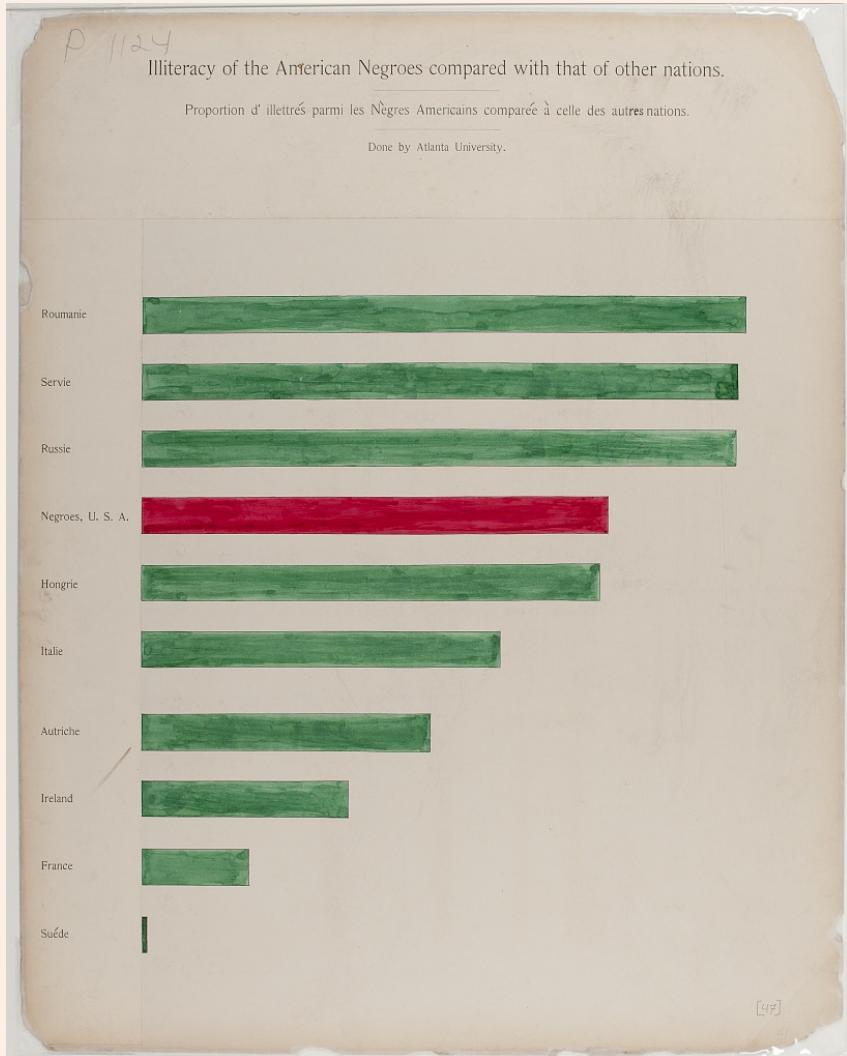
The message of the visual is tied to the overall message from Du Bois at the Paris Exposition:

Describe the status and progress of Black Americans since emancipation, and provide an alternative narrative to racist views of the time.

Comparing the state of Black Americans with the larger world, the visual shows Black Americans illiteracy in red, in the middle of a sea of green, higher than countries like France, but better than others like Russia.



Explore: Aesthetics and Design



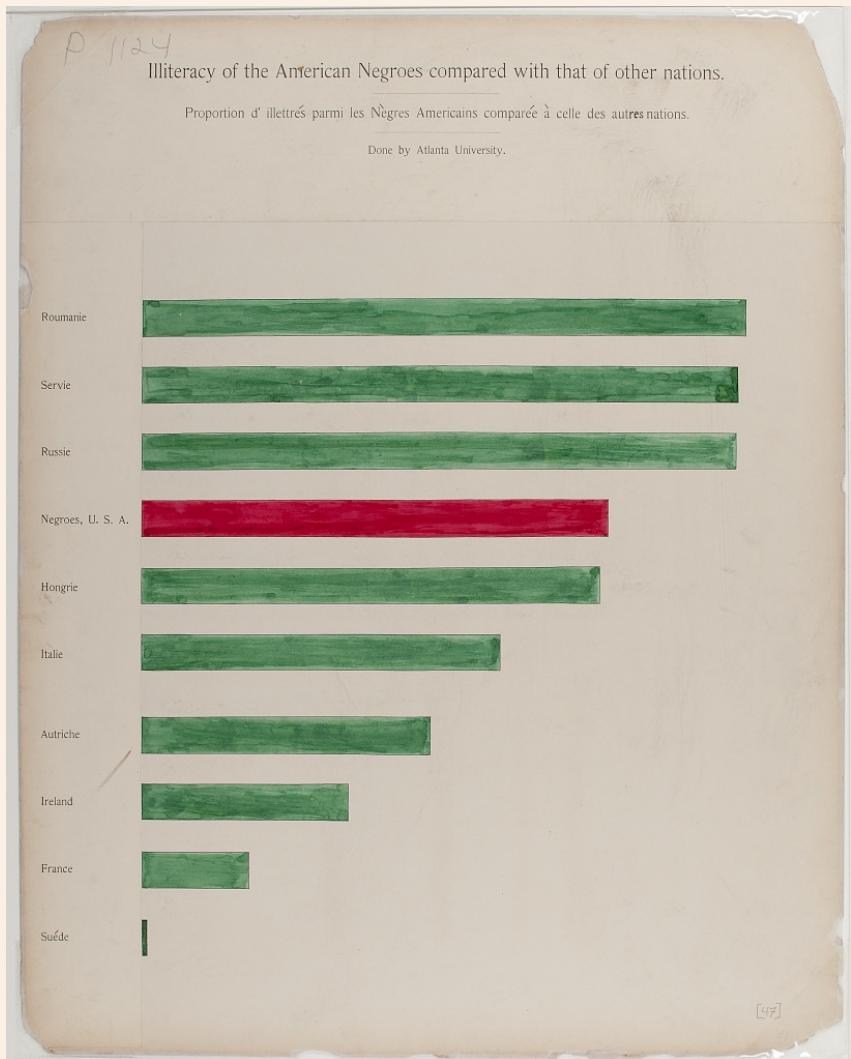
This visual, a conventional bar graph, uses spot color to highlight the data for Black Americans compared to other countries, showing the illiteracy rate to be at the midpoint compared to other nations.

The chart portion is a large percentage of the canvas, simply showing the message.

Note the bilingual labels and titles (a nod to the venue)



Explore: Considerations



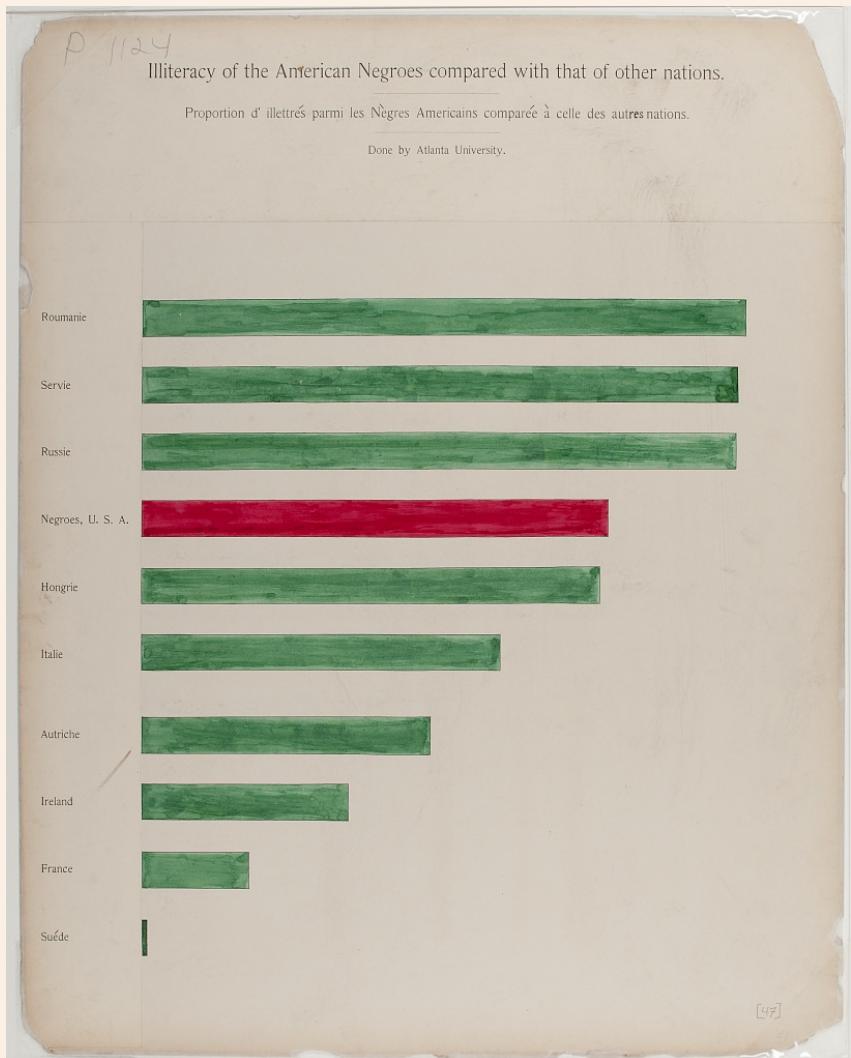
What analytic methods would you use to make this chart?

What chart type is best? Aesthetics: consider dimensions, color selection, titles, data labels, legend, notes etc.

What tools do you think are needed to make this chart?



Explore: Aesthetics and Design



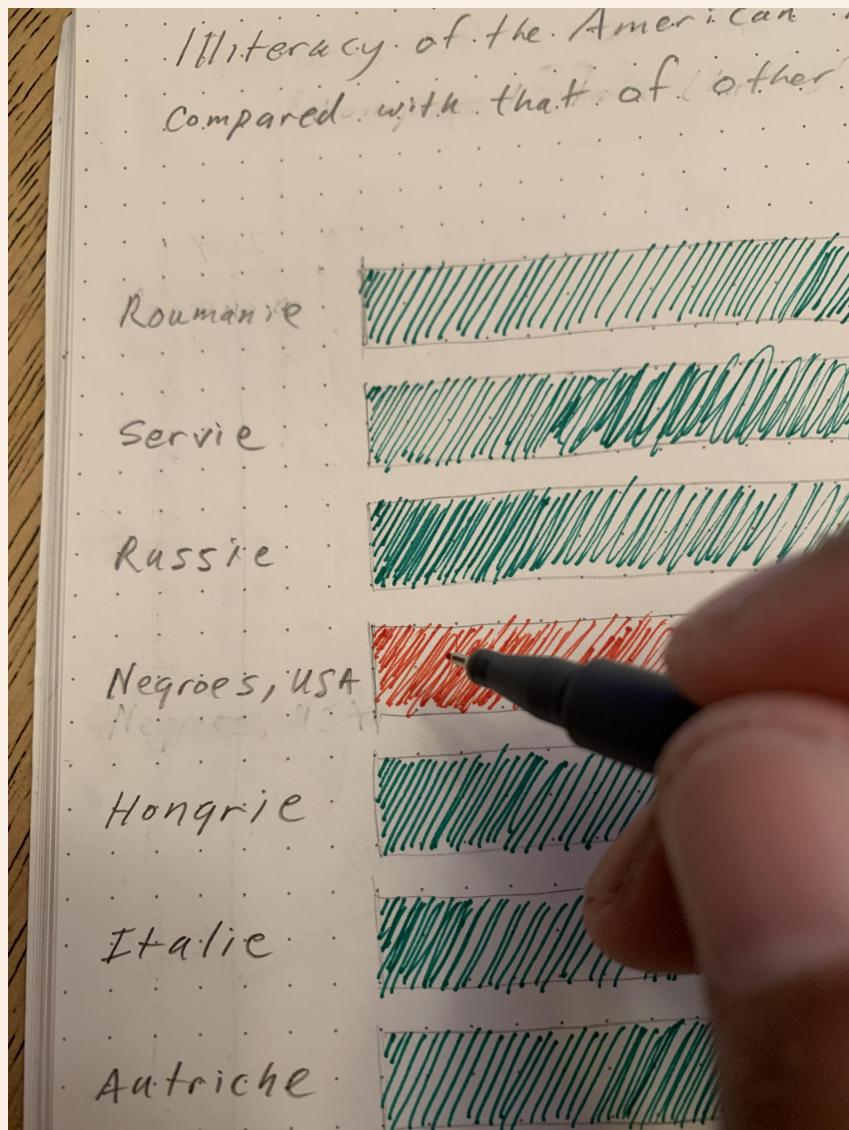
What analytic methods would you use to make this chart?

What chart type is best? Aesthetics: consider dimensions, color selection, titles, data labels, legend, notes etc.

What tools do you think are needed to make this chart?



Explore: Re-Create



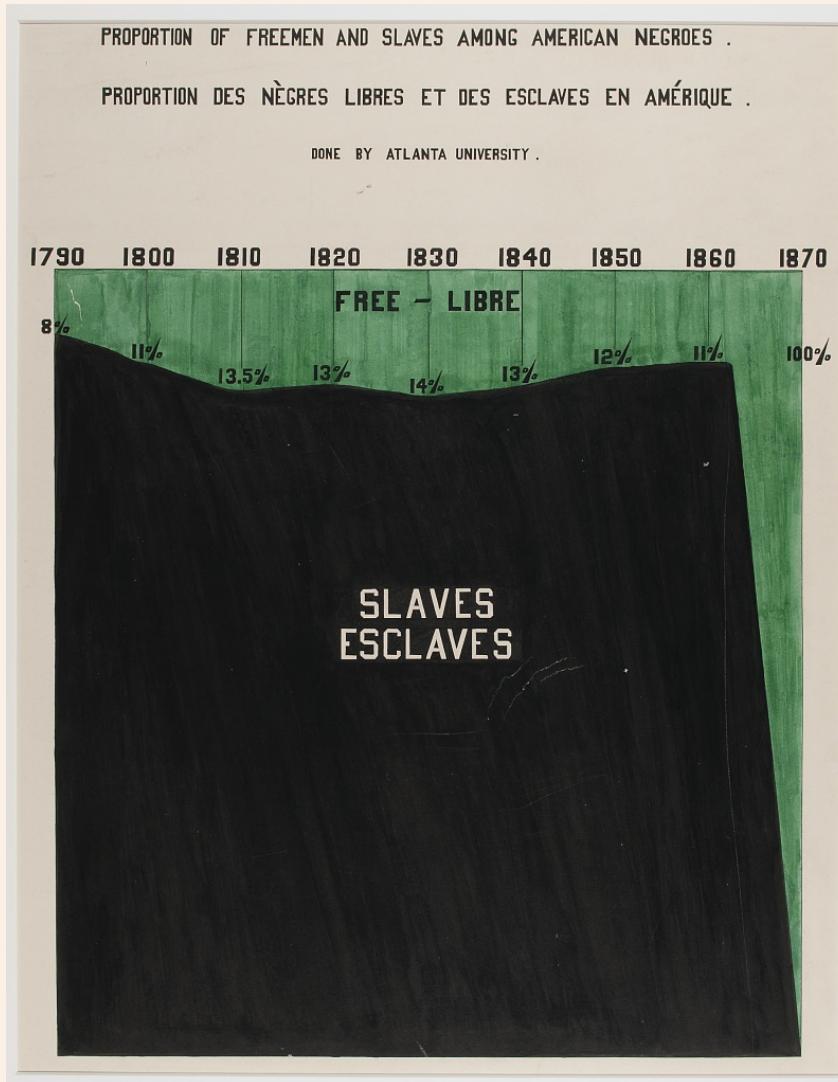
Re-create the visual using pens, paper and other analog materials like markers, colored pencils, rulers, and protractors.

Strive for rapid iteration, and do not focus on precision, but rather exploring the various components of the chart, and how they are conveying the message and information. Students may work together or individually.

At the end of the session, the re-creations may be shared and critiqued as a group.



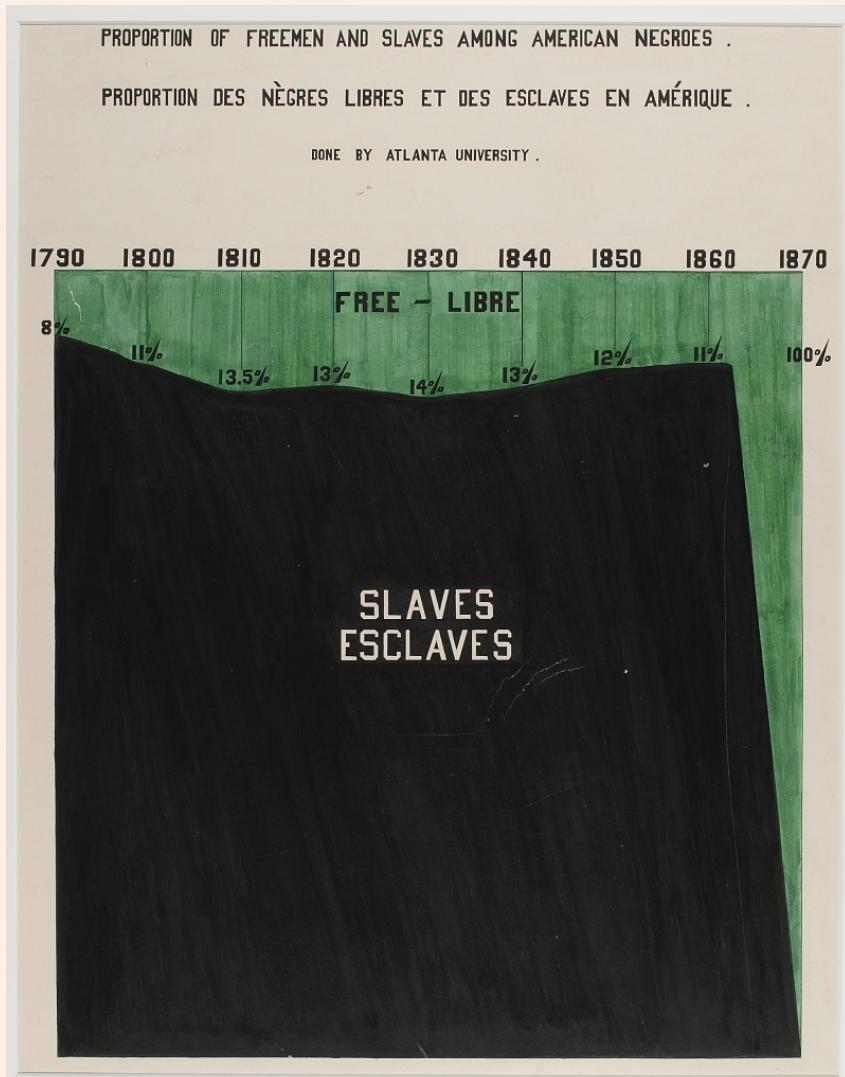
Explore Example 2



Proportion of Freemen and Slaves Among American Negroes



Explore: Message



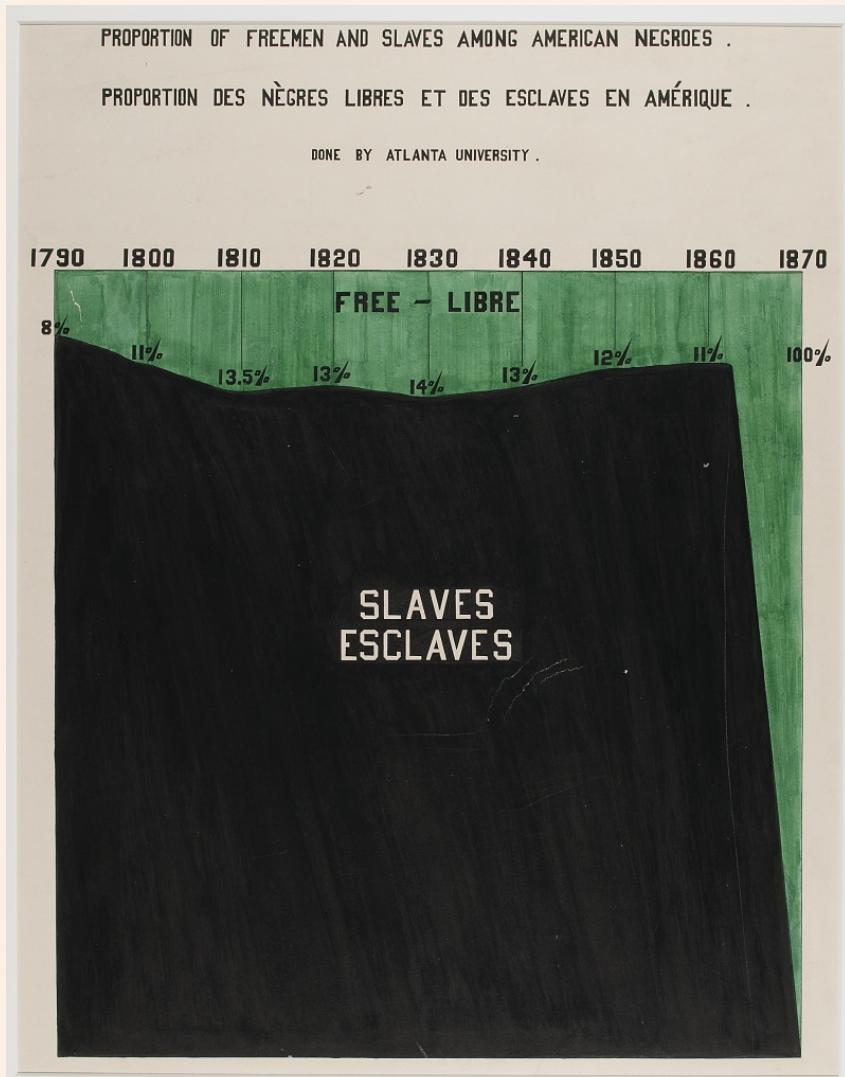
The message of the visual is tied to the overall message from Du Bois at the Paris Exposition:

Describe the status and progress of Black Americans since emancipation, and provide an alternative narrative to racist views of the time.

The visual compares free and slave populations from 1790 to 1870, using an area chart with two primary colors representing freedom and slavery.



Explore: Considerations



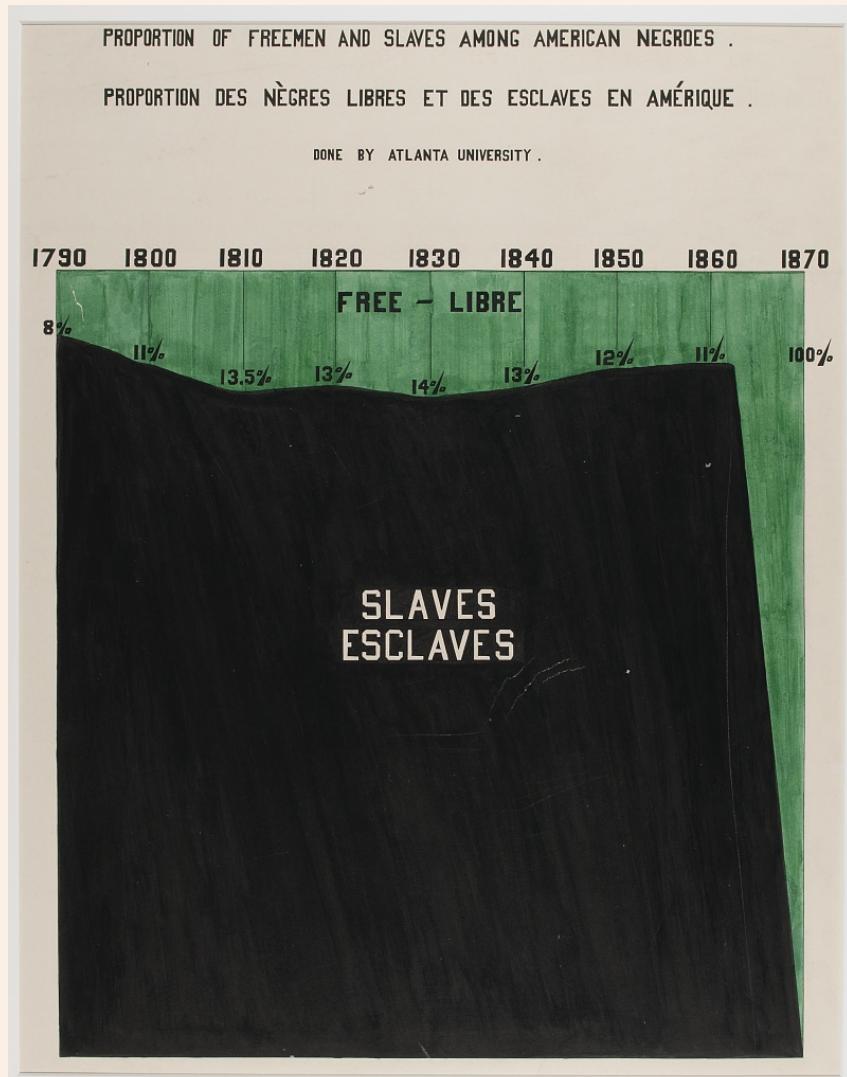
What analytic methods would you use to make this chart?

What chart type is best? Aesthetics: consider dimensions, color selection, titles, data labels, legend, notes etc.

What tools do think are needed to make this chart?



Explore: Aesthetics and Design



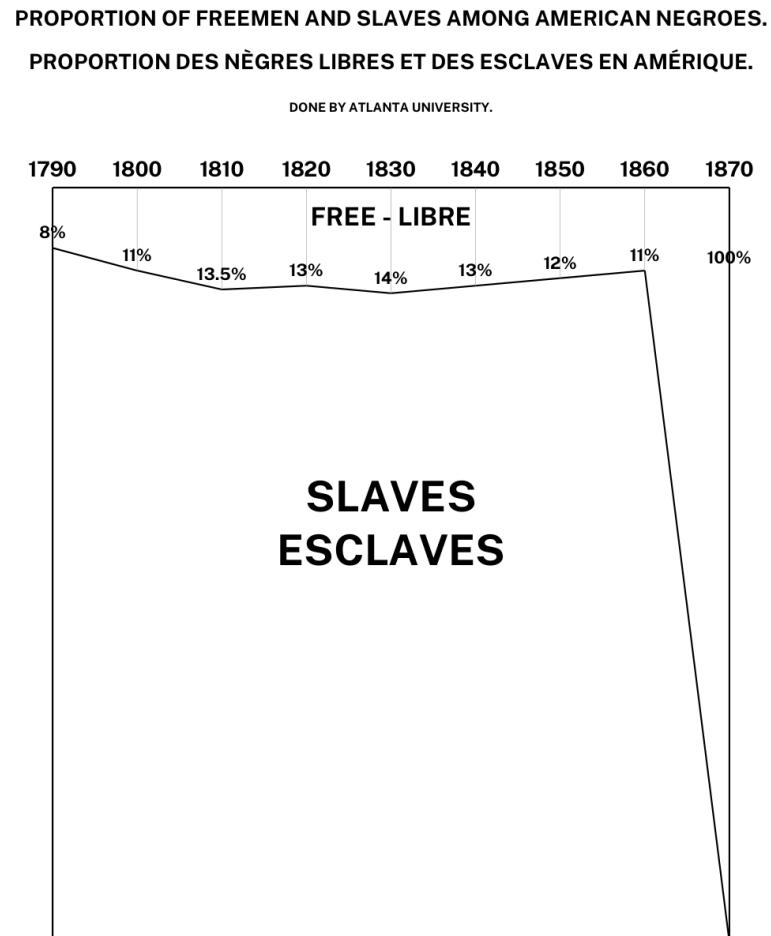
This visual makes uses a bold color contrast (black for slavery, green for freedom) to show the proportion of enslaved and free people.

The area is dominated by black, with contrasting large text, yet the eye is drawn to the sudden jolt of green freedom in 1865. Note that increasing data goes down instead of up.

The titles are bilingual (a nod to the venue), and the X-axis is labeled at the top, contrary to today's convention. Instead of a labeled Y-axis, each individual data point is labeled.



Explore: Re-create



Re-create the visual using pens, paper and other analog materials like markers, colored pencils, rulers, and protractors.

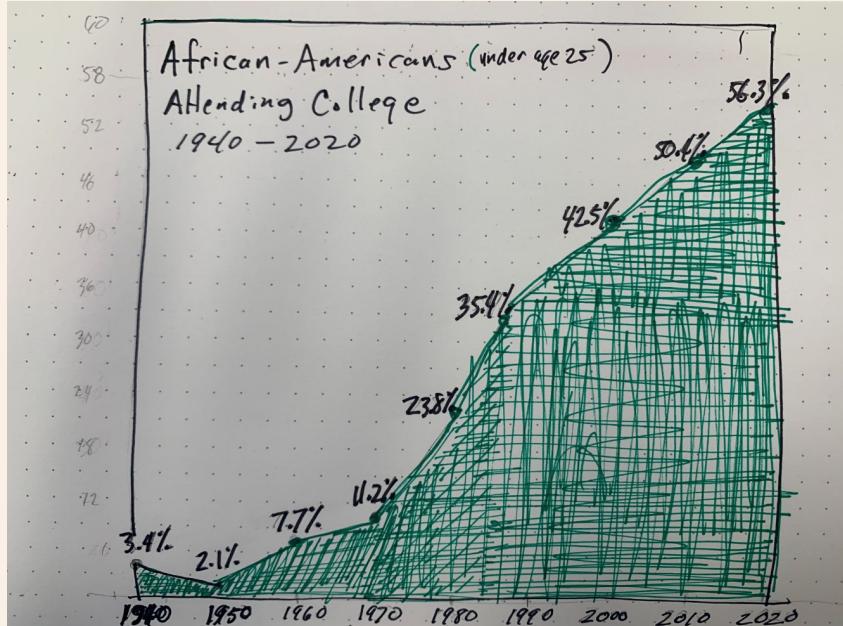
Strive for rapid iteration, and do not focus on precision, but rather exploring the various components of the chart, and how they are conveying the message and information. Students may work together or individually.

At the end of the session, the re-creations may be shared and critiqued as a group.



Explore: Modernize

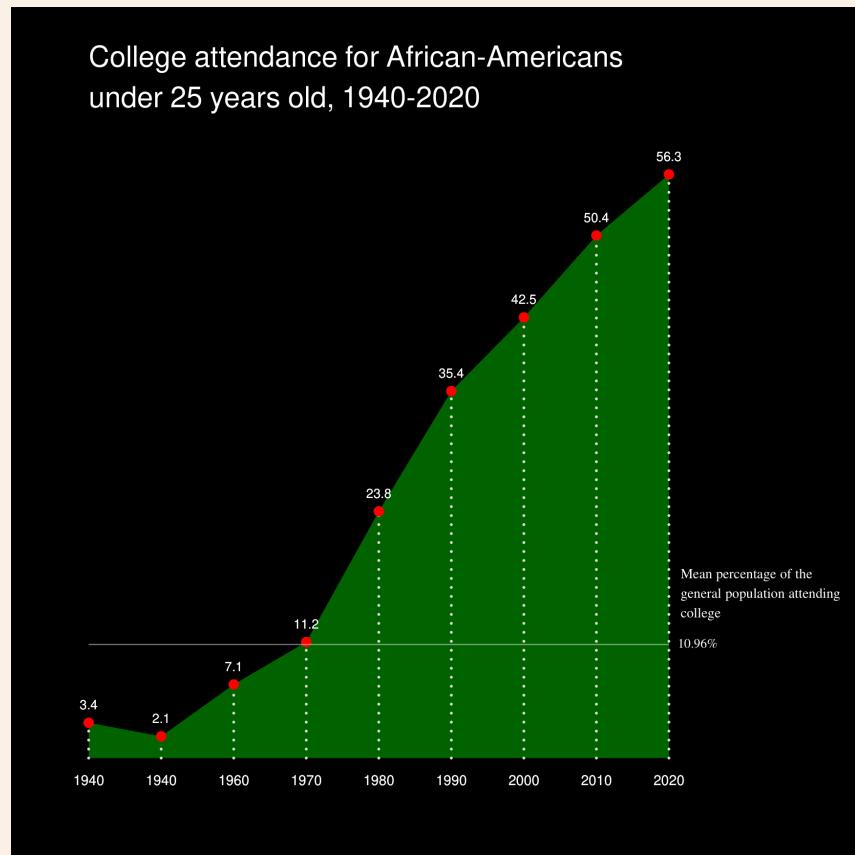
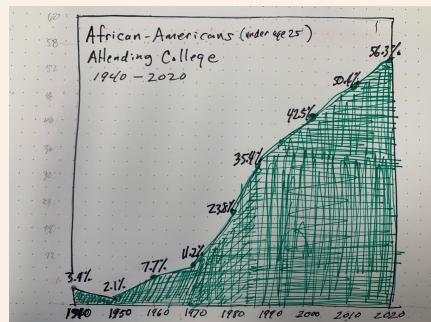
African-American College Attendance			
Year	< 25 Years	22-34 Years	%Change
1940	3.4	4.2	23.53%
1940	2.1	2.9	38.10%
1960	7.1	11.5	61.97%
1970	11.2	17.1	52.68%
1980	23.8	37.6	57.98%
1990	35.4	44.2	24.86%
2000	42.5	48.4	13.88%
2010	50.4	56.4	11.90%
2020	56.3	59.7	6.04%



In this section, apply modern data to the Du Bois Style. This involves data gathering, selection of appropriate chart type, and defining the elements to apply the Du Bois style (for example color palette, labeling methods) This example shows African American college attendance rates between 1940 and 2020.



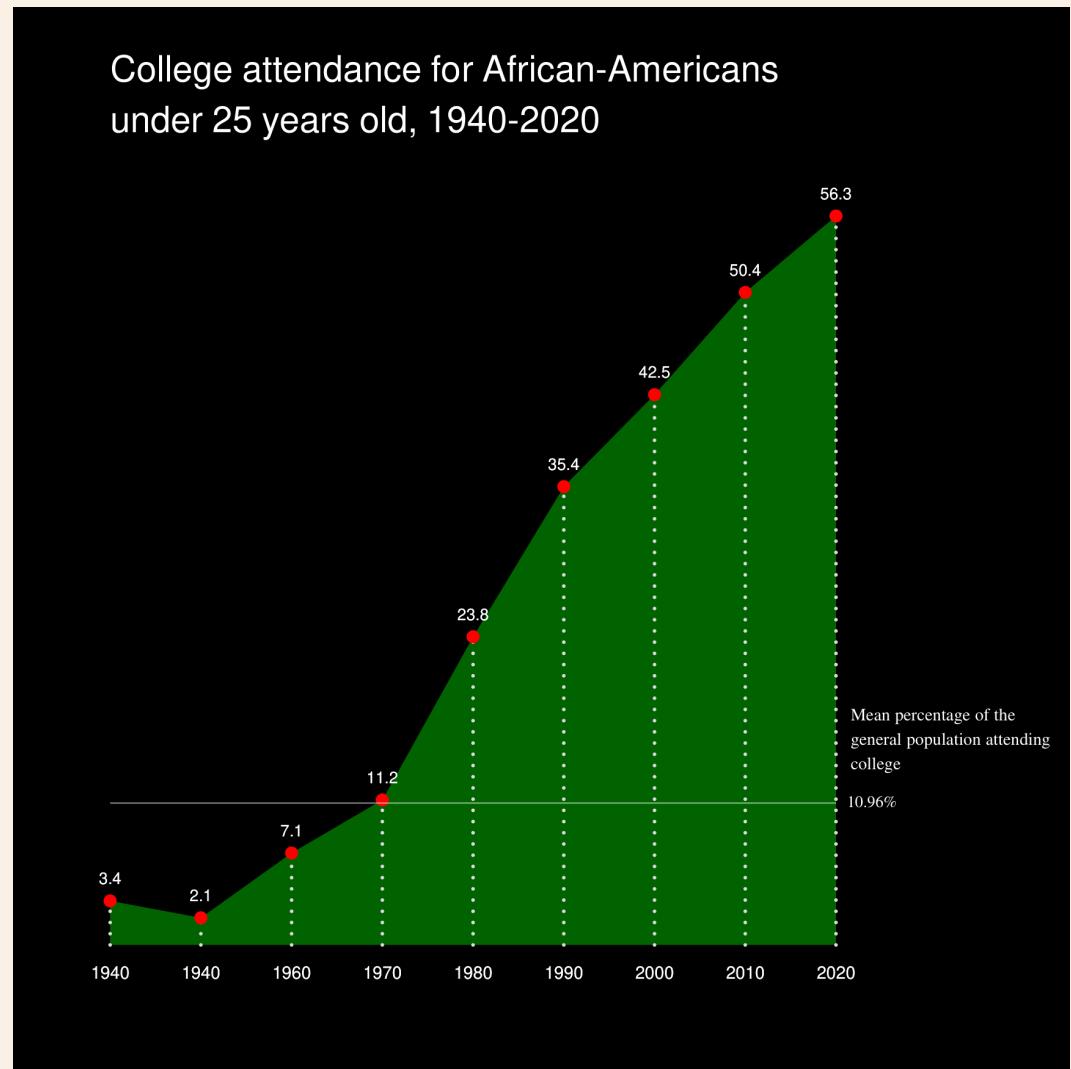
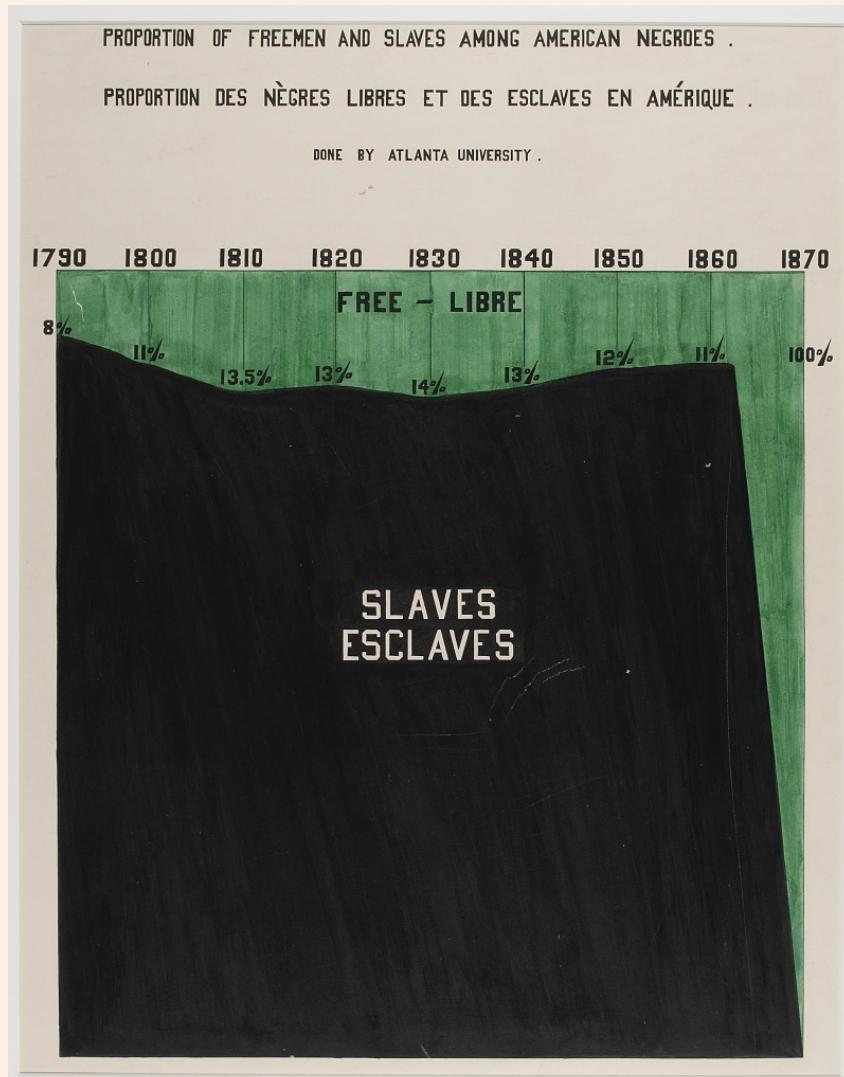
Explore: Modernize



This example updates the hand-drawn version to a digital format, using a color scheme similar to the original, and adding red as a highlight color (note the Pan-African black-red-green theme)



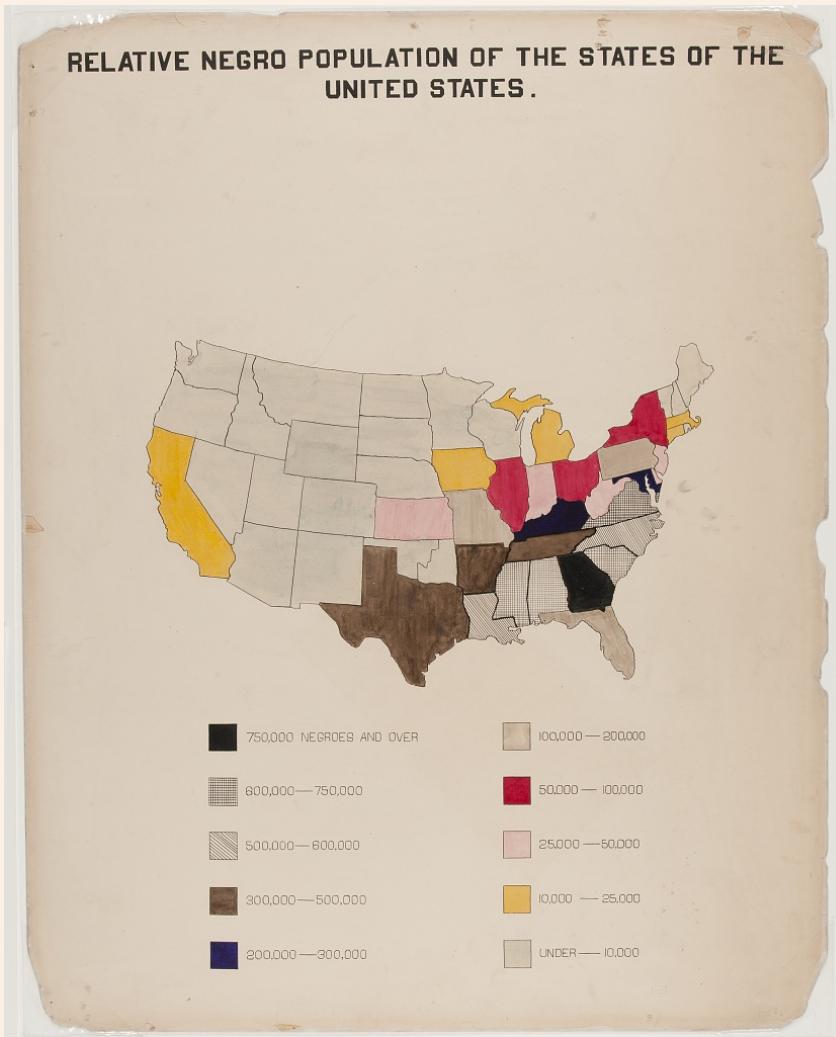
Explore: Modernize



Original and Modern versions compared



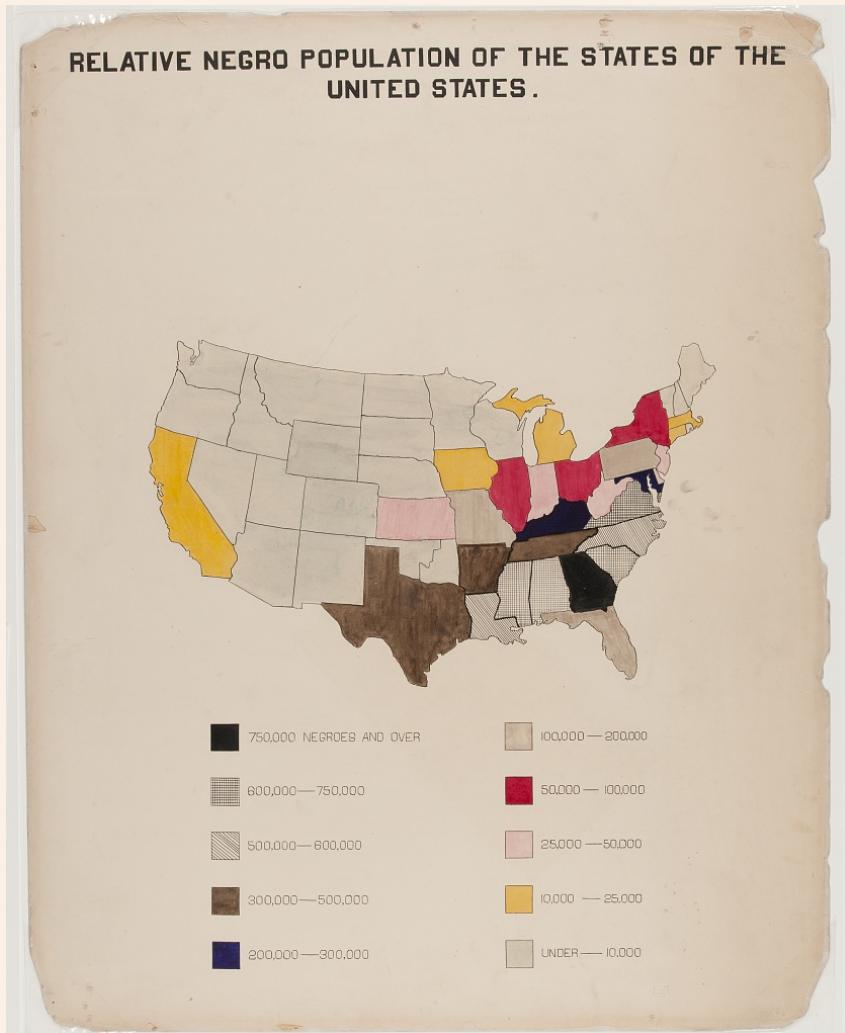
Explore Example 3



Relative Negro Population of the States of the United States



Explore: Message



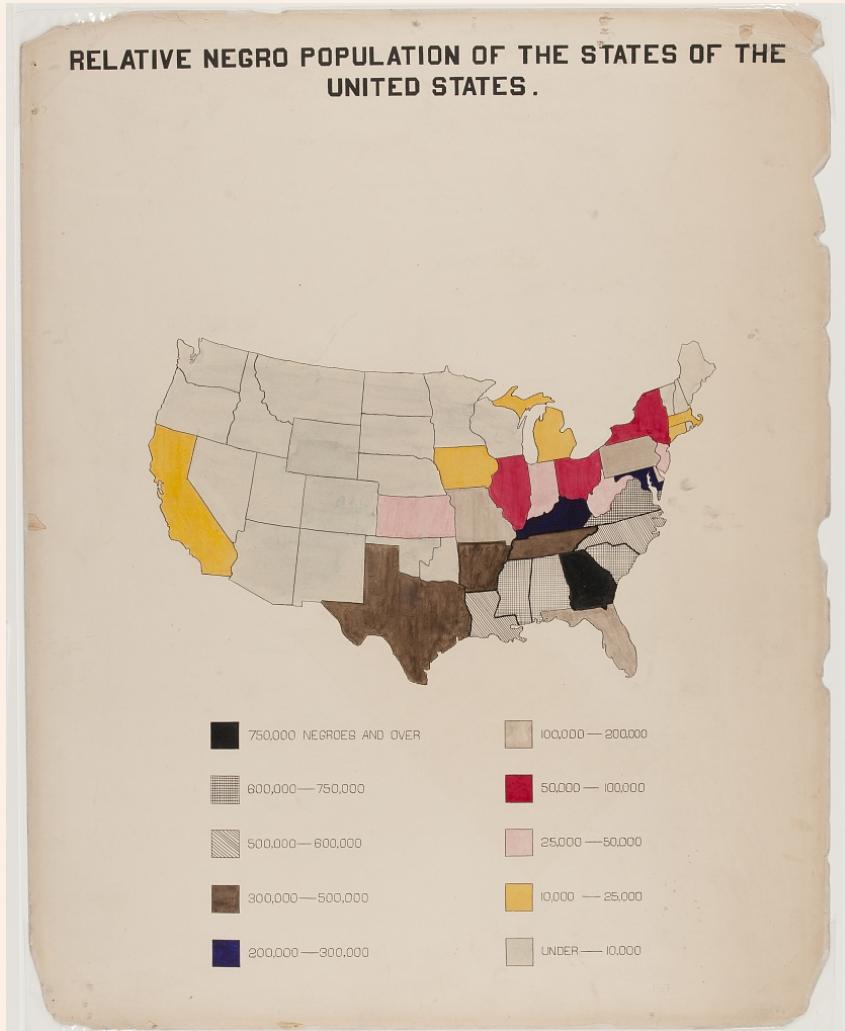
The message of the visual is tied to the overall message from Du Bois at the Paris Exposition:

Describe the status and progress of Black Americans since emancipation, showing the world their place in the US.

The visual shows the population of Black Americans across the United States, with larger populations concentrated in the South, while still showing the distribution throughout the states



Explore: Aesthetics and Design



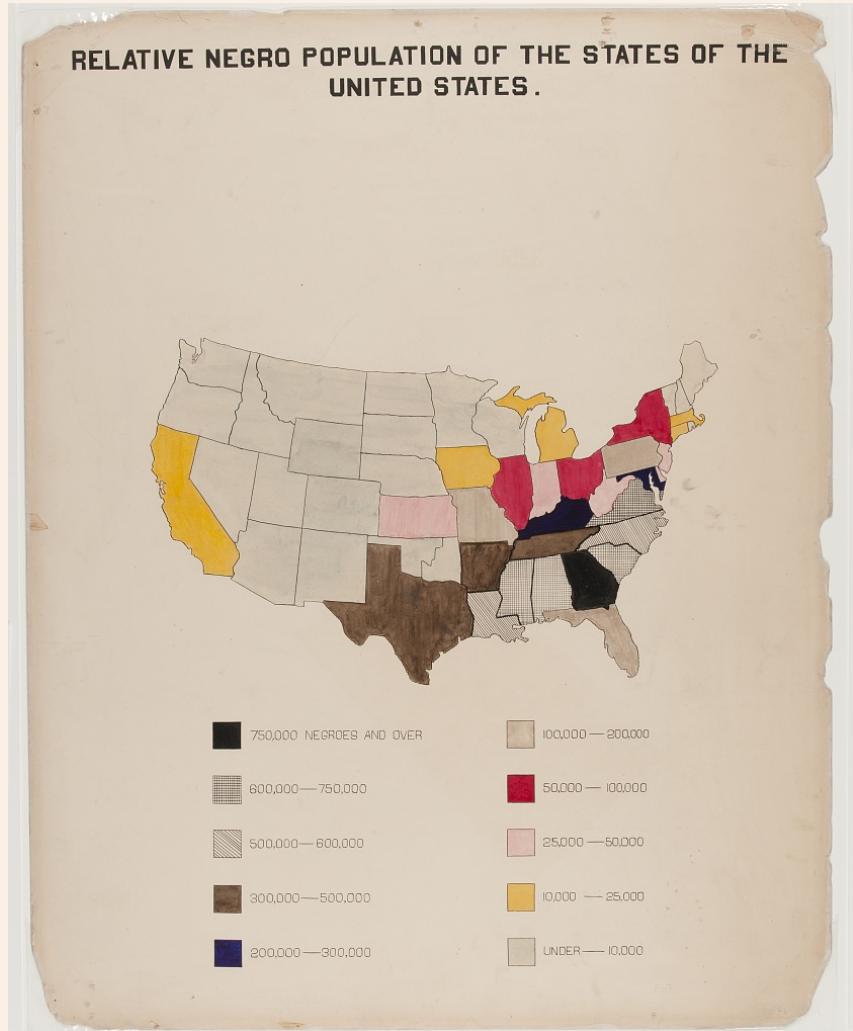
This visual has three sections: title, choropleth map, and legend, uses a combination of color (black, brown, tan, red, pink, gold) and cross-hatching to encode ten categories of population data.

The solid and cross-hatched black is used to represent the higher populations based in the South, red and pink encode the mid-level populations, gold used for lower populations. A neutral color is used to states with a very small Black population.

Note the use of ample white space to allow the eye to focus on the map.



Explore: Aesthetics and Design



Title

Choropleth Map

Legend



Explore: Re-Create

RELATIVE NEGRO POPULATION OF THE STATES OF THE UNITED STATES.



- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 750,000 NEGROES AND OVER | <input type="checkbox"/> 100,000 - 200,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 600,000 - 750,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> 50,000 - 100,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 500,000 - 600,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> 25,000 - 50,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 300,000 - 500,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> 10,000 - 25,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 200,000 - 300,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> UNDER - 10,000 |

Re-create the visual using pens, paper and other analog materials like markers, colored pencils, rulers, and protractors.

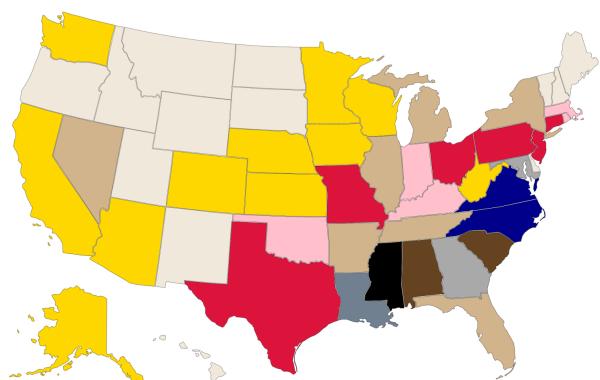
Strive for rapid iteration, and do not focus on precision, but rather exploring the various components of the chart, and how they are conveying the message and information. Students may work together or individually.

At the end of the session, the re-creations may be shared and critiqued as a group.



Explore: Modernize

PERCENT BLACK POPULATION OF THE UNITED STATES. (2021)



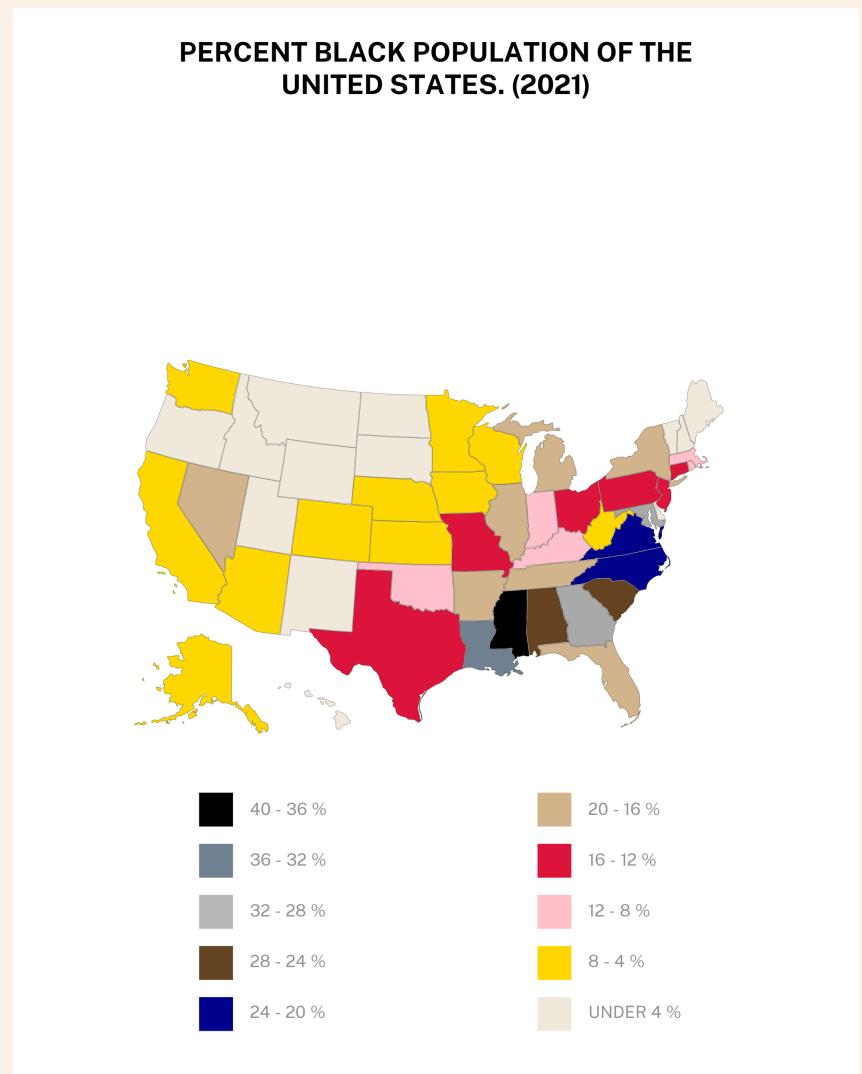
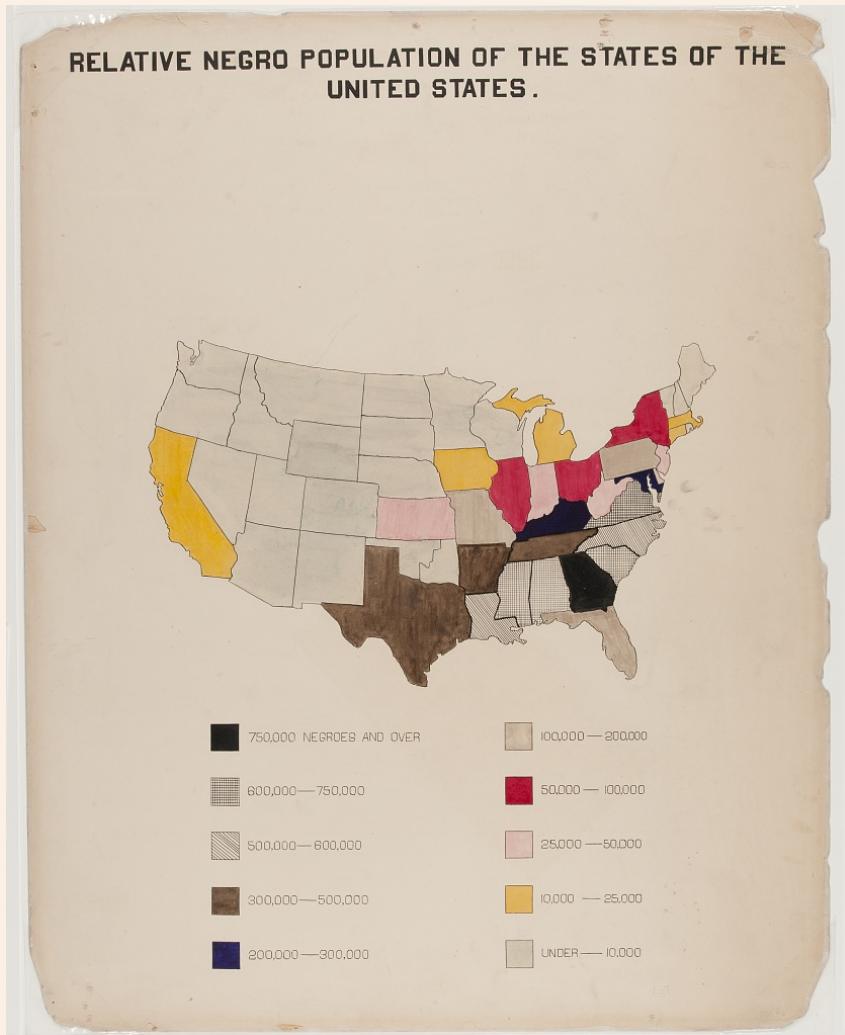
■ 40 - 36 %	■ 20 - 16 %
■ 36 - 32 %	■ 16 - 12 %
■ 32 - 28 %	■ 12 - 8 %
■ 28 - 24 %	■ 8 - 4 %
■ 24 - 20 %	■ UNDER 4 %

This example uses modern data to update the population of Black Americans to 2021.

It mimics the layout and color scheme of the original, but uses uses percentages instead of numbers, retaining the ten categories.



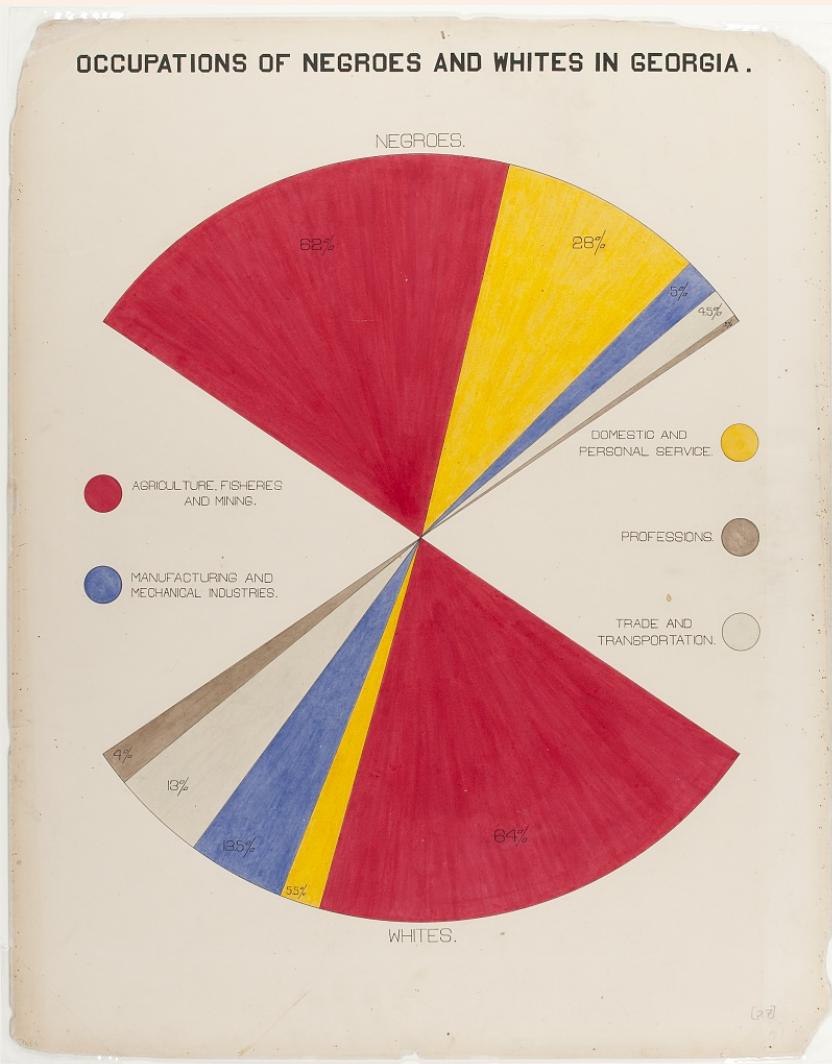
Explore: Modernize



Original and Modern Data Versions Compared



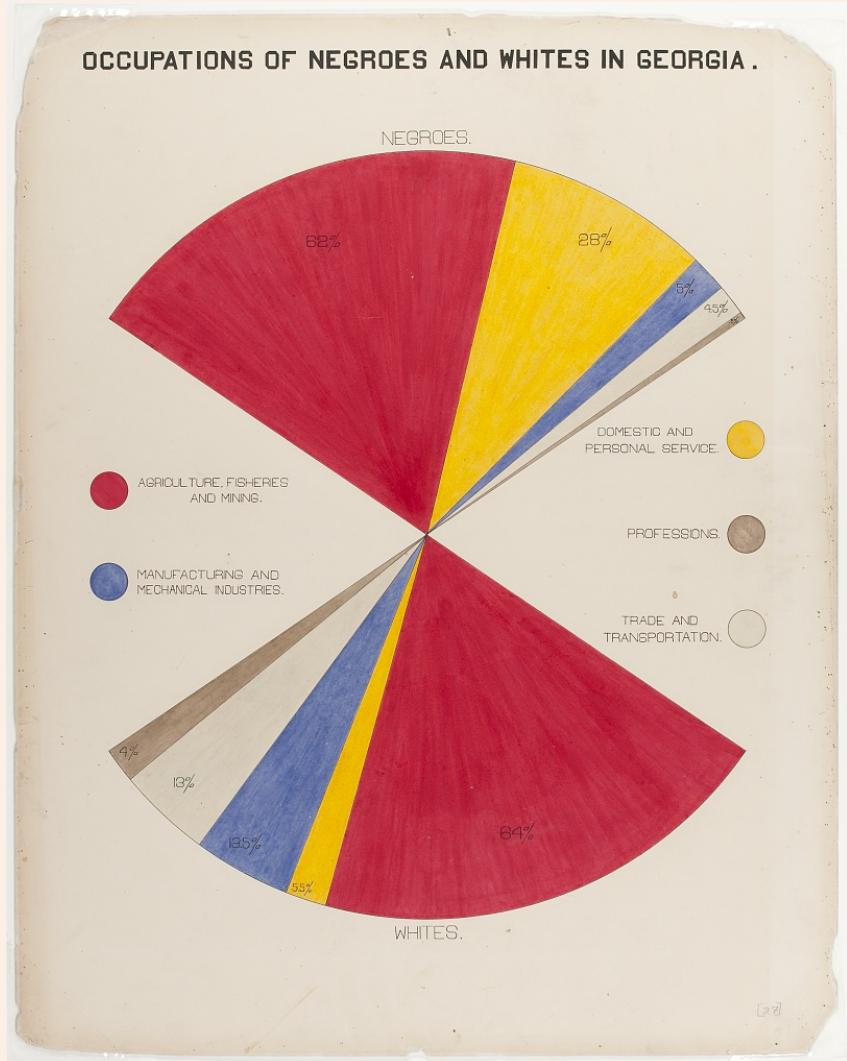
Explore Example 4



Occupations of Negroes and Whites in Georgia



Explore: Message



The message of the visual is tied to the overall message from Du Bois at the Paris Exposition:

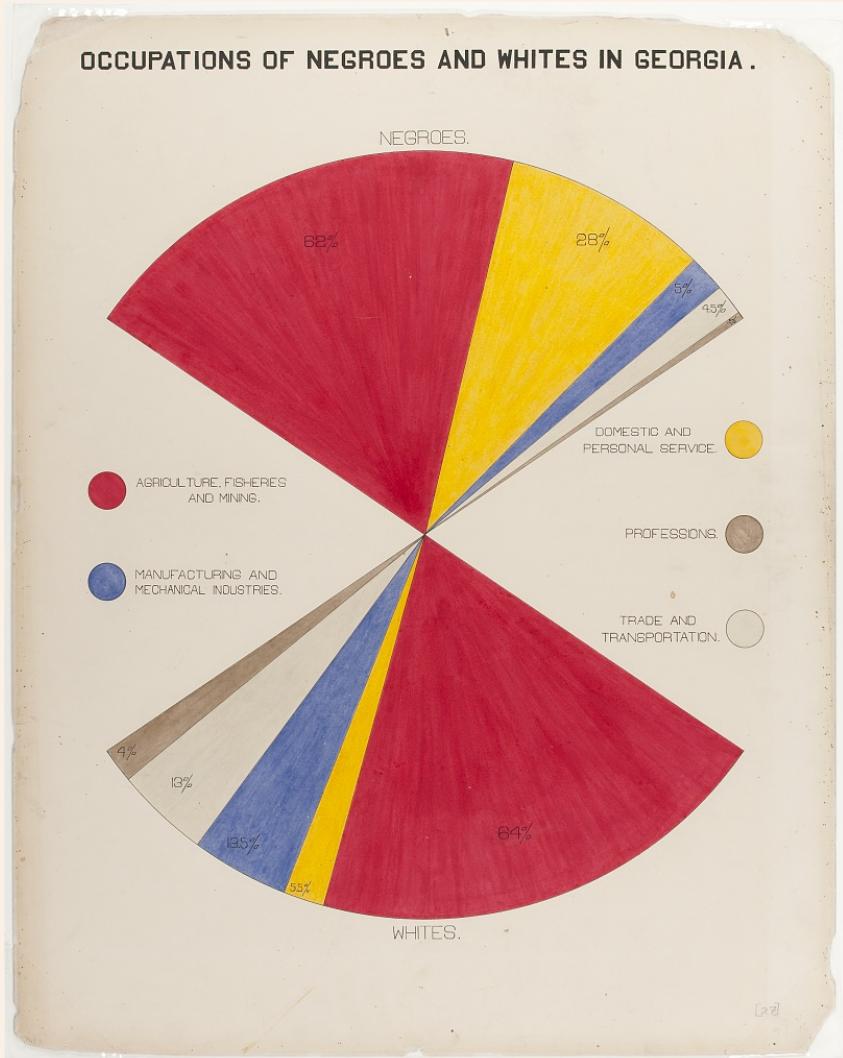
Describe the status and progress of Black Americans since emancipation.

The visual compares the occupations of Black and white populations of Georgia, showing parity for some occupations, while highlighting differences for others.

Activity: Discuss the message that the visual is attempting to convey



Explore: Aesthetics and Design



The “Fan-Chart” visual uses proportionally sized wedges to encode the data. The populations are arranged, in sections, top (Black), and bottom (white) such that the wedges may be easily compared.

Also note the legends arranged on the left and right, placed in the gaps between the wedges.

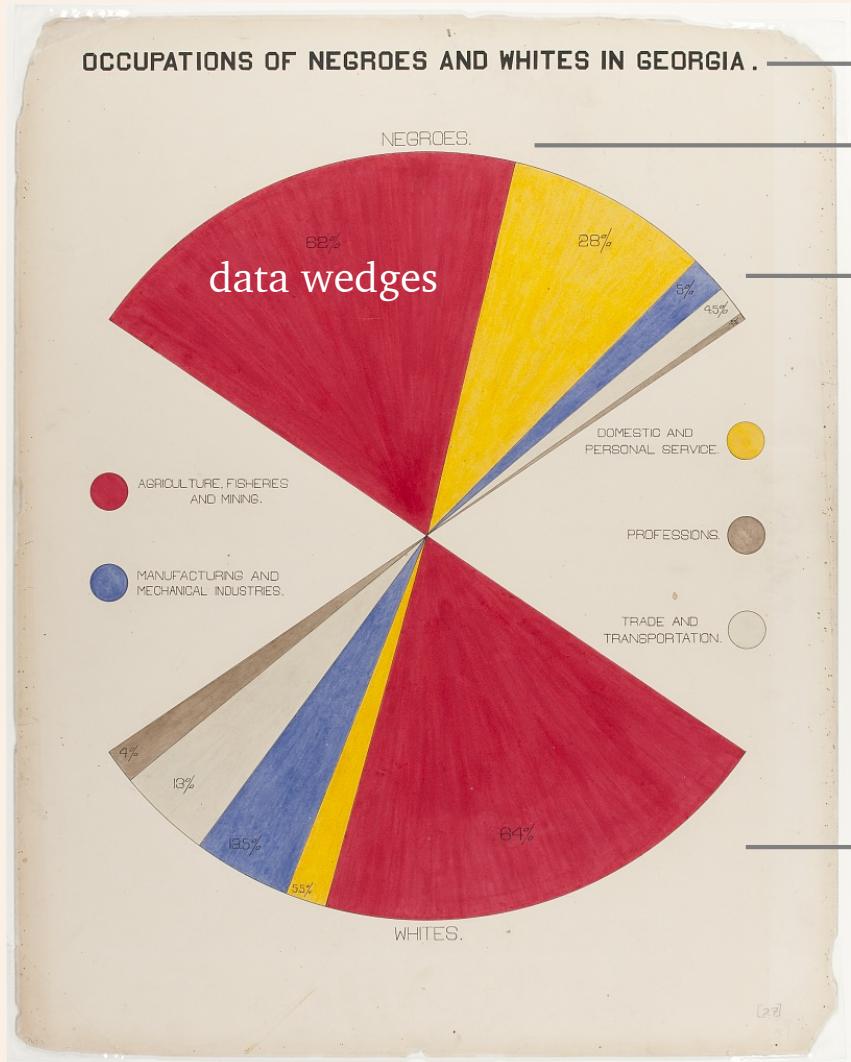
The visual uses the typical Du Bois color palette.





Explore: Aesthetics and Design

22x28 inch portrait mode



Title

Labels

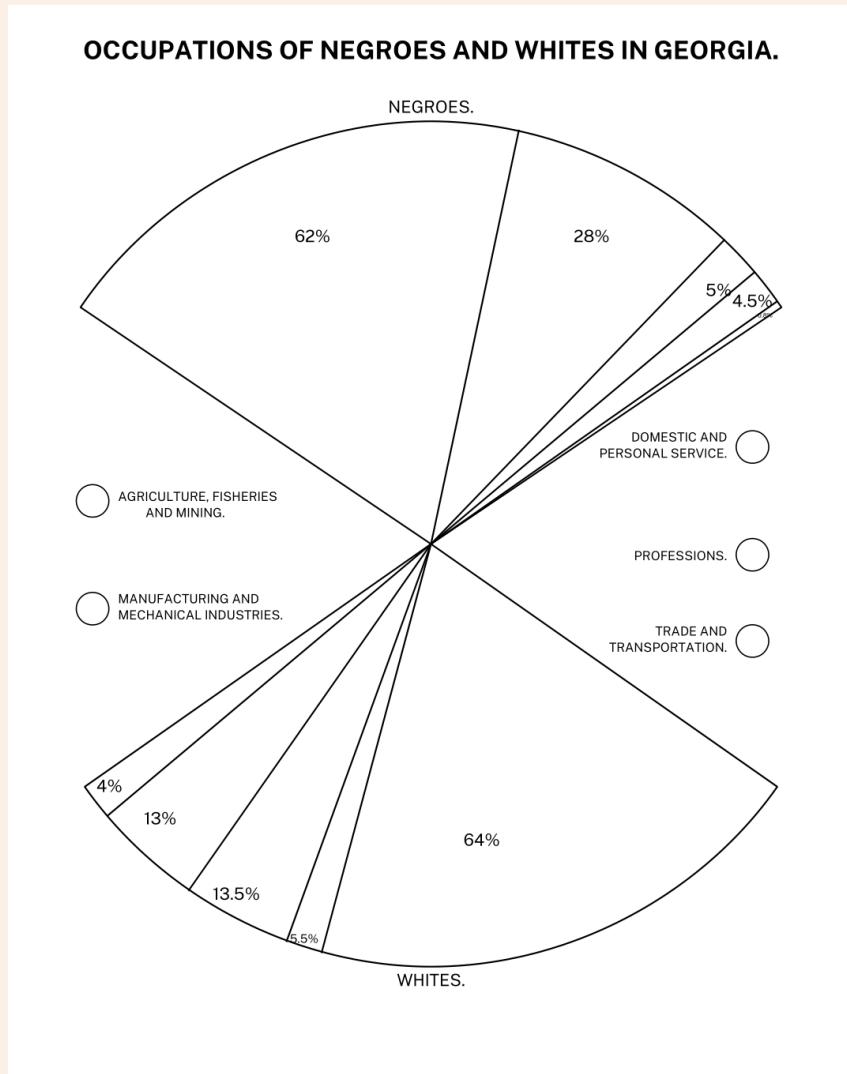
Black Georgians

Legend

White Georgians



Explore: Recreate



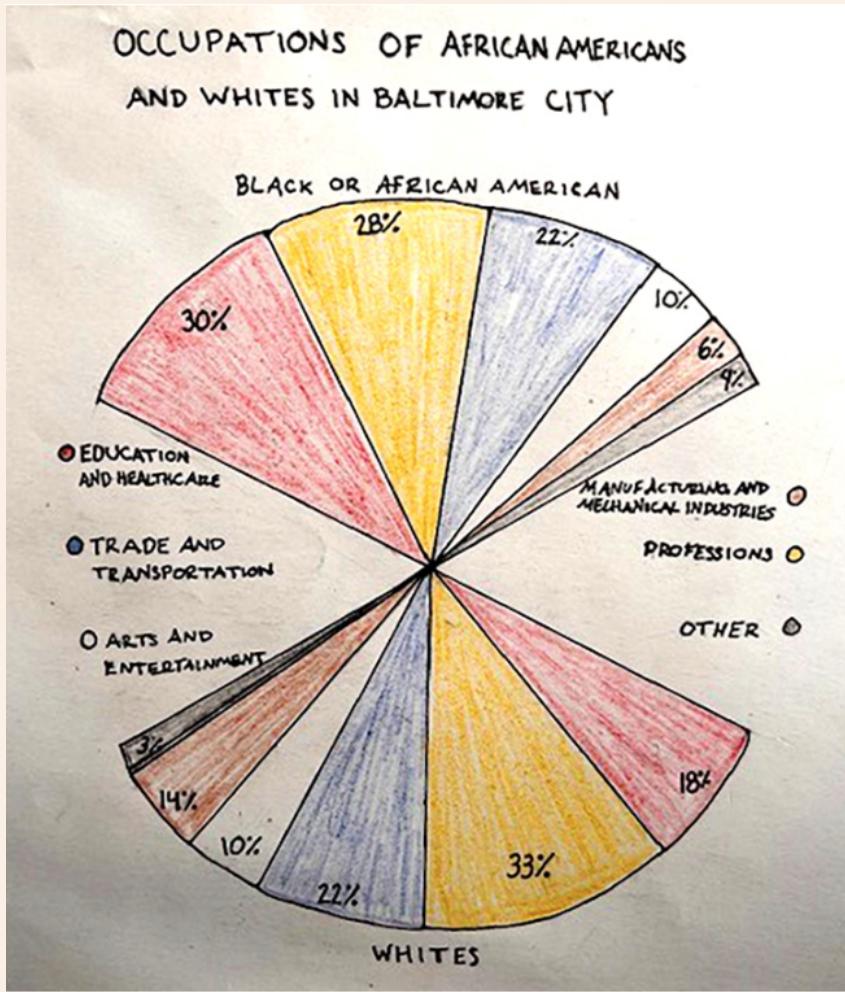
Re-create the visual using pens, paper and other analog materials like markers, colored pencils, rulers, and protractors.

Strive for rapid iteration, and do not focus on precision, but rather exploring the various components of the chart, and how they are conveying the message and information. Students may work together or individually.

At the end of the session, the re-creations may be shared and critiqued as a group.



Explore: Modernize

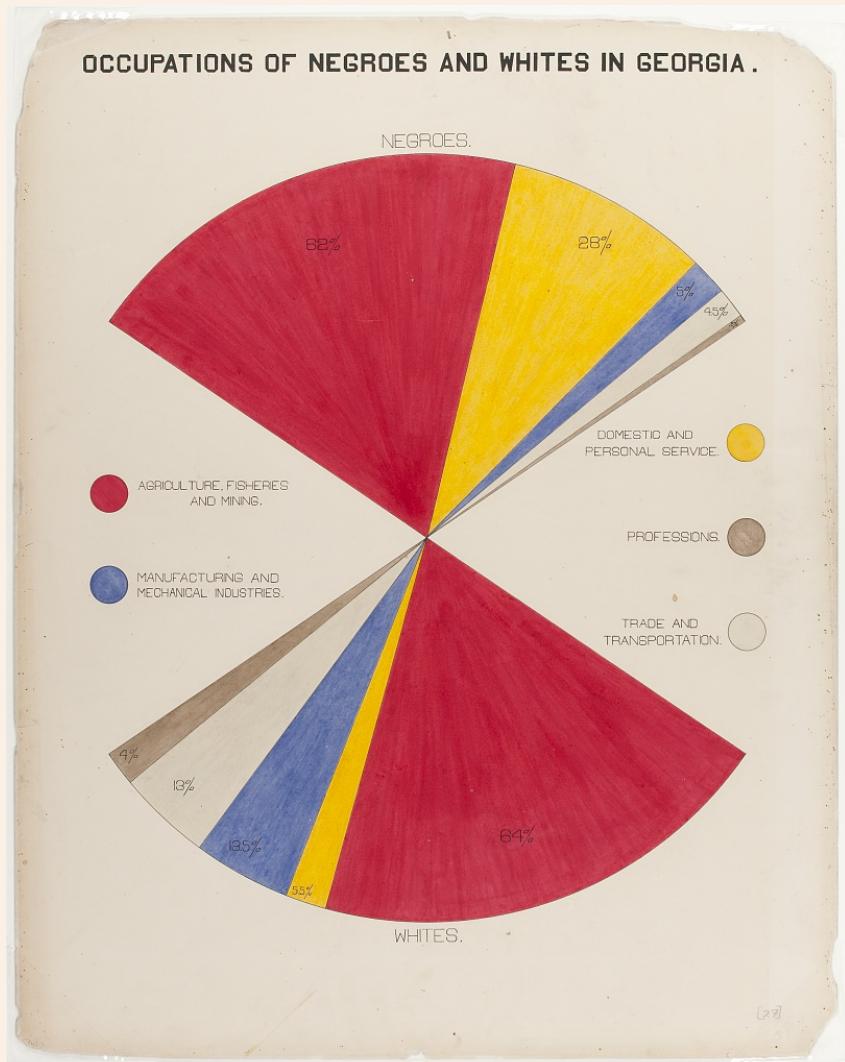


In this section, students may apply modern data to the Du Bois Style. This involves data gathering, selection of appropriate chart type, and defining the elements to apply the Du Bois style to (for example color palette, labeling methods)

This example shows modern data on the occupations of African-Americans and Whites in the city of Baltimore.



Explore: Analytical Methods



This section address the effectiveness and analytical methods used in the visual.

- Is the “fan chart” an effective?
- Can the viewer make comparisons?
- What conclusions are drawn?
- What additional questions are raised?



Explore: References

Du Bois Visualizations for Consideration in STEM Education

<https://github.com/ajstarks/dubois-data-portraits/tree/master/dubois-stem>

Du Bois Visualization Style Guide

<https://github.com/ajstarks/dubois-data-portraits/blob/master/dubois-style.pdf>

Recreating the Du Bois Data Portraits

<https://speakerdeck.com/ajstarks/recreating-the-dubois-data-portraits>

Du Bois Visualizations Catalog (originals)

<https://speakerdeck.com/ajstarks/du-bois-visualizations-originals>

African American Photographs Assembled for 1900 Paris Exposition

https://www.loc.gov/collections/african-american-photographs-1900-paris-exposition/?st=grid&sb=date_desc

W.E.B. Du Bois Data Portraits, Visualizing Black America

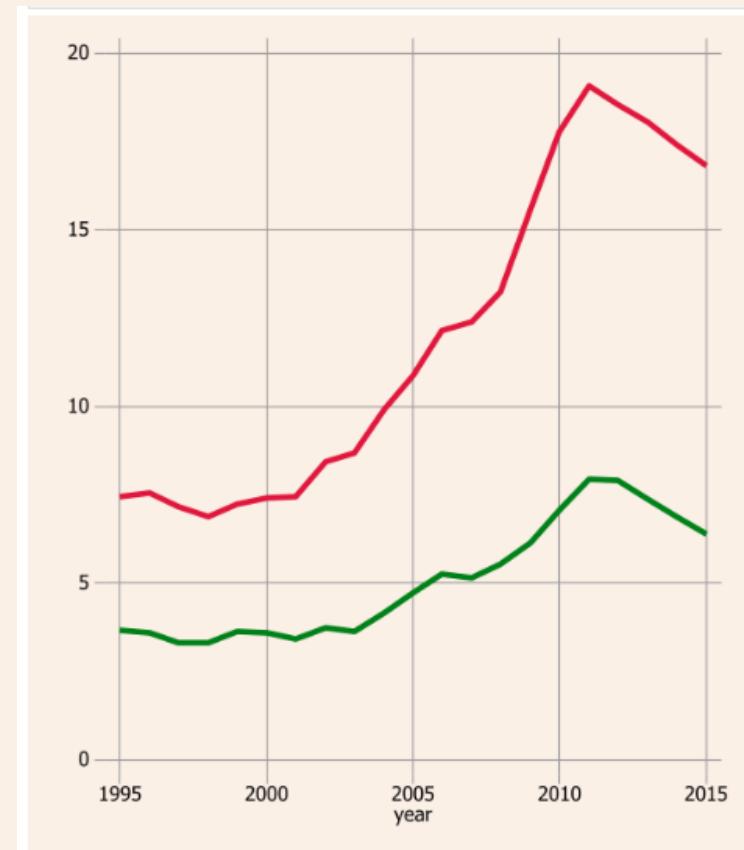
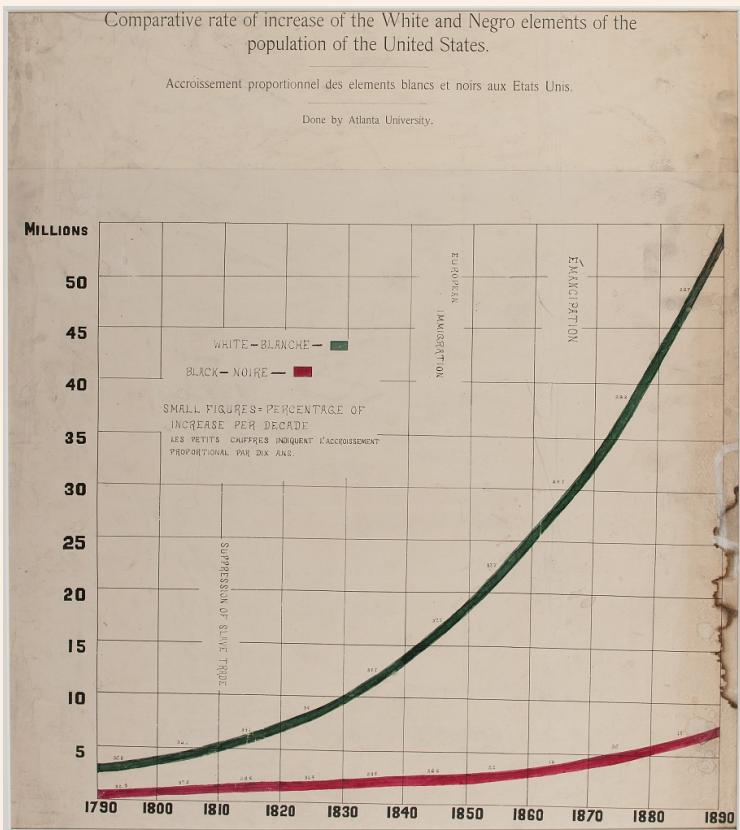
<https://papress.com/products/w-e-b-du-boiss-data-portraits-visualizing-black-america>

Black Lives 1900, W.E.B. Du Bois at the Paris Exposition

<https://www.theredstoneshop.com/products/black-lives-1900>



Implement





Implementation

The Implementation section builds on the Context and Explore sections and guides the students through building a Du Bois-style visualization using digital tools.

The example shown here uses R and Jupyter notebook, which provides an interactive environment to explore the visual, starting from a basic graph, to applying the Du Bois style.

Note that participants of the Du Bois Challenge, an annual online exercise that re-creates a curated set of Du Bois visuals, provides examples of digital re-creations using tools such as R, python/matplotlib, and Tableau.



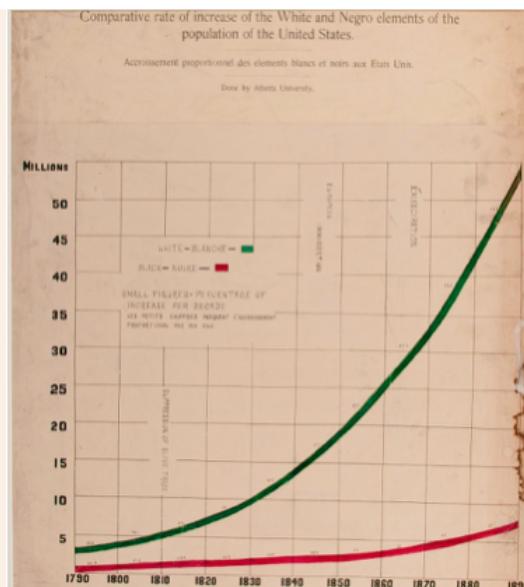
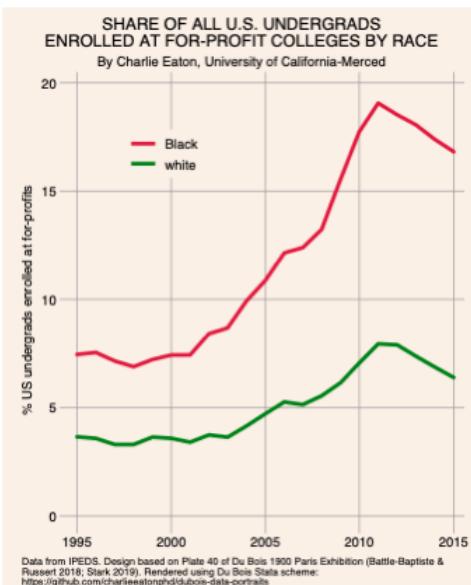
Implementation: Introduction

duboisforprofitenrollments.ipynb

File Edit View Run Kernel Tabs Settings Help

Code ▾

No Kernel



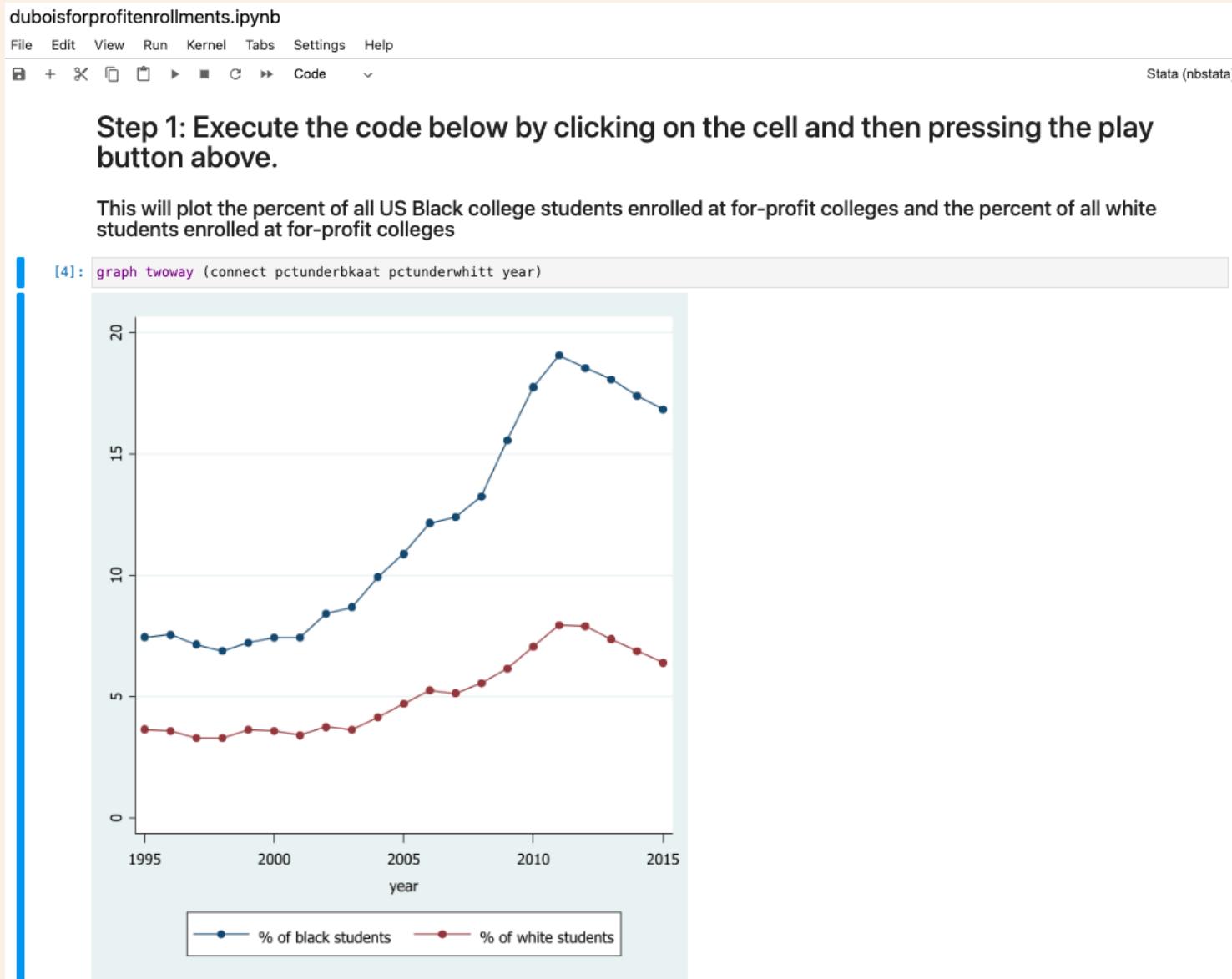
In this exercise, you will learn how to graph for-profit college enrollments by race since 1995 (left).

You'll learn how to plot the for-profit college data using similar design elements as Du Bois' Plate 40's plot of the U.S. population by race from 1790 to 1890.

You'll also learn how to modify the graph according to your own creative ideas for what might capture your audience's attention while still accurately representing the data.



Implementation: Basic Chart





Implementation: Hinting

duboisforprofitenrollments.ipynb

File Edit View Run Kernel Tabs Settings Help

Stata (nbstata)

In the cell below, add a "du bois scheme" specification to change the color pallete and background color. If you need a hint, press ... below.

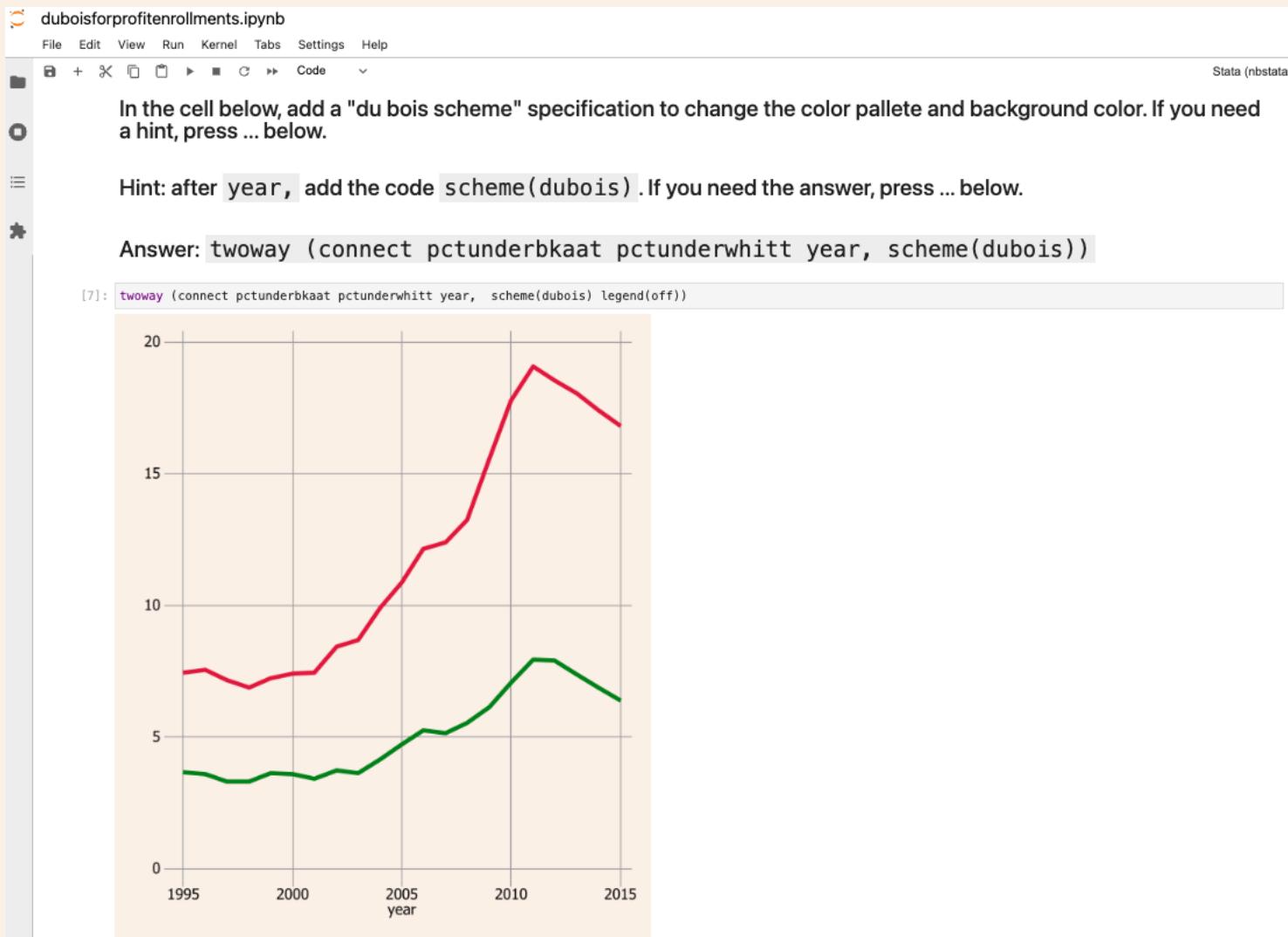
Hint: after `year,` add the code `scheme(dubois)`. If you need the answer, press ... below.

...

```
[6]: twoway (connect pctunderbaat pctunderwhitt year, legend(off)) scheme(dubois)
scheme(dubois) is not a twoway plot type
r(198);
```



Implementation: Applying style





Implement: References

Github Repository for the #DuBoisChallenge2024

<https://github.com/ajstarks/dubois-data-portraits/blob/master/challenge/2024/README.md>

Du Bois Challenge 2024 Recap

<https://speakerdeck.com/ajstarks/du-bois-challenge-2024-recap>

2024 Du Bois Challenge using R Programming.

<https://medium.com/illumination/2024-du-bois-challenge-using-r-programming-02af8afa5626>

Developing Du Bois's Data Portraits with Python and Matplotlib

<https://www.edriessen.com/2024/02/07/developing-du-boiss-data-portraits-with-python-and-matplotlib/>

Three Tricks I Learned In The Du Bois Data Visualization Challenge

<https://nightingaledvs.com/recreating-historical-dataviz-three-tricks-i-learned-in-the-du-bois-data-visualization-challenge/>

Molly Kuhs Du Bois Challenge repo

<https://github.com/makuhs/DuboisChallenge>

#DuBoisChallenge2024 using Python and Matplotlib

<https://github.com/edriessen/dubois24-python-matplotlib>

#DuBoisChallenge2024 using R

<https://github.com/sndaba/2024DuBoisChallengeInRstats/tree/main>

#DuBoisChallenge2024 using Tableau

<https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/camaal.moten7357/vizzes>