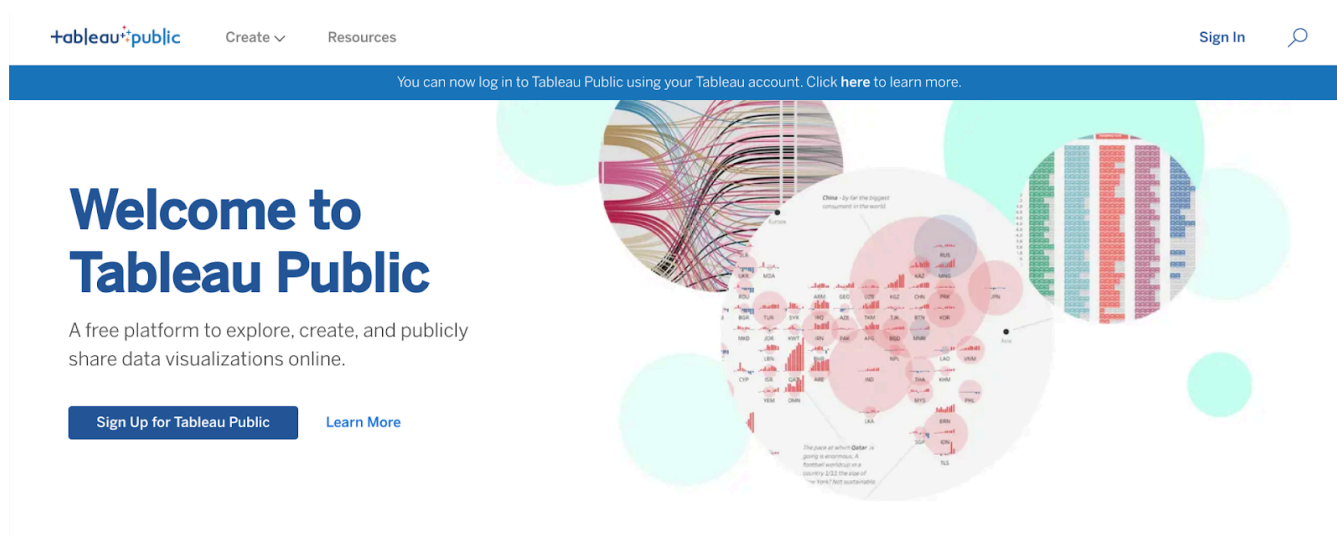# Optional: Using Tableau Desktop

You have started exploring Tableau as a data visualization tool in business intelligence dashboards to convey insights with stakeholders. Throughout this program, you will continue to use and access Tableau—eventually using it to create your own dashboards. This reading will enable you to familiarize yourself with Tableau's interface and functionality.

Create a profile on Tableau Public

With Tableau Public, you can create and share visualizations. If you don't already have an account, make one on the Tableau Public ⧉ site. Note that trying to make an account from the main page will sign you up for a Tableau Free Trial rather than a Tableau Public account.

The difference between these two options is that a Free Trial lasts for 14 days, whereas Tableau Public gives you long-term access through the web version of the program. It has some limitations compared to the other versions of Tableau, but it is free to use and will enable you to complete the upcoming activities. You can also use your Tableau credentials to access Tableau Public if you already have an account! You are welcome to try the free trial or purchase Tableau, but it is not required for this program.

Complete the information in the signup form. When you click the **Create My Profile** button, you'll be transferred to your profile page. This is where your Tableau Public visualizations can be made public to share with your peers. In the tabs on this page, you can access lists of visualizations you've made.