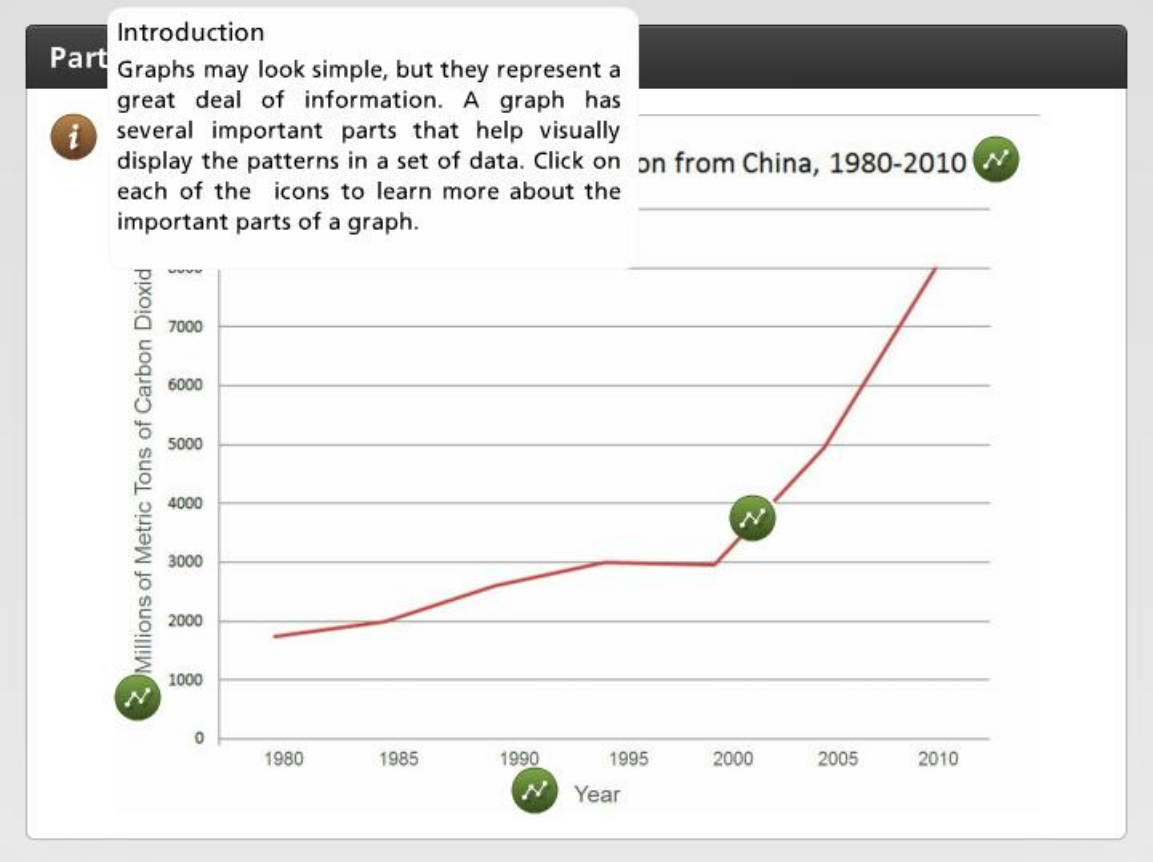
Module 1: Fundamentals of Biology
Topic 3 Content: Parts of a Graph Notes

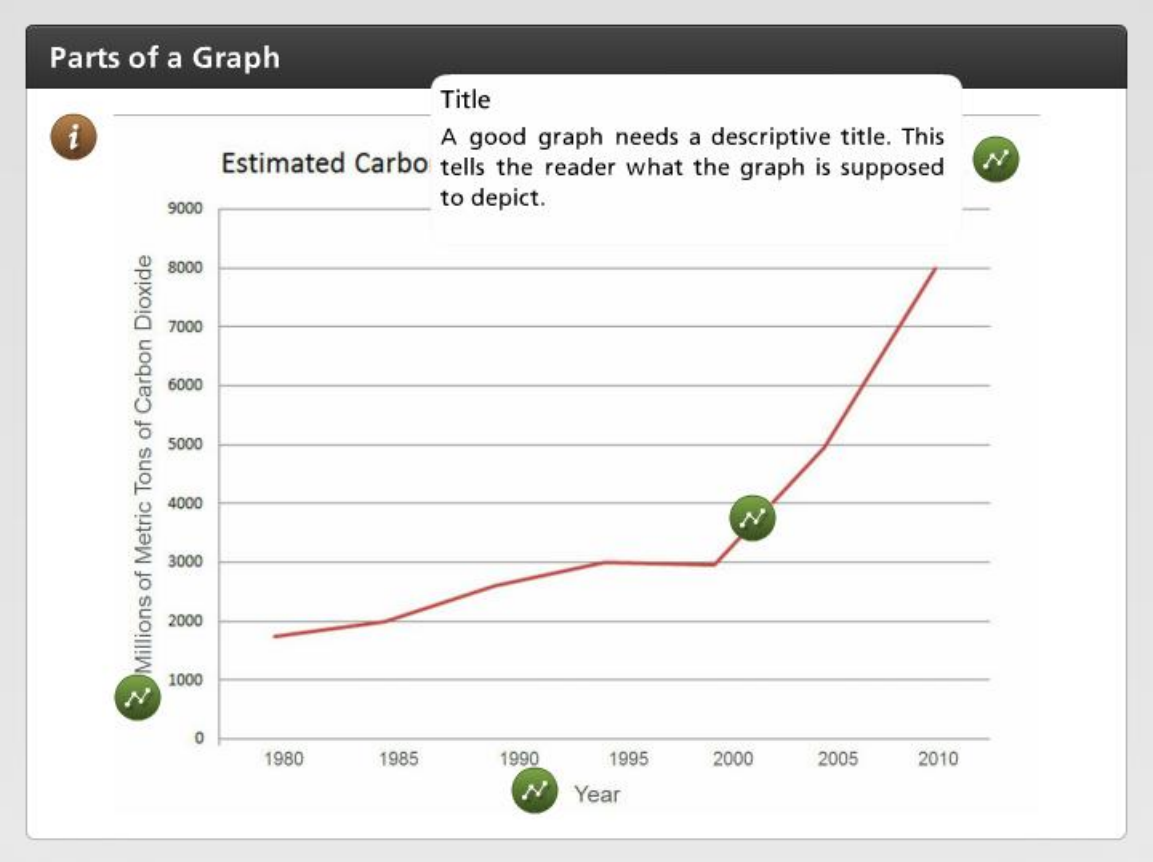
Introduction



Graphs may look simple, but they represent a great deal of information. A graph has several important parts that help visually display the patterns in a set of data. Click on each of the icons to learn more about the important parts of a graph.

Module 1: Fundamentals of Biology
Topic 3 Content: Parts of a Graph Notes

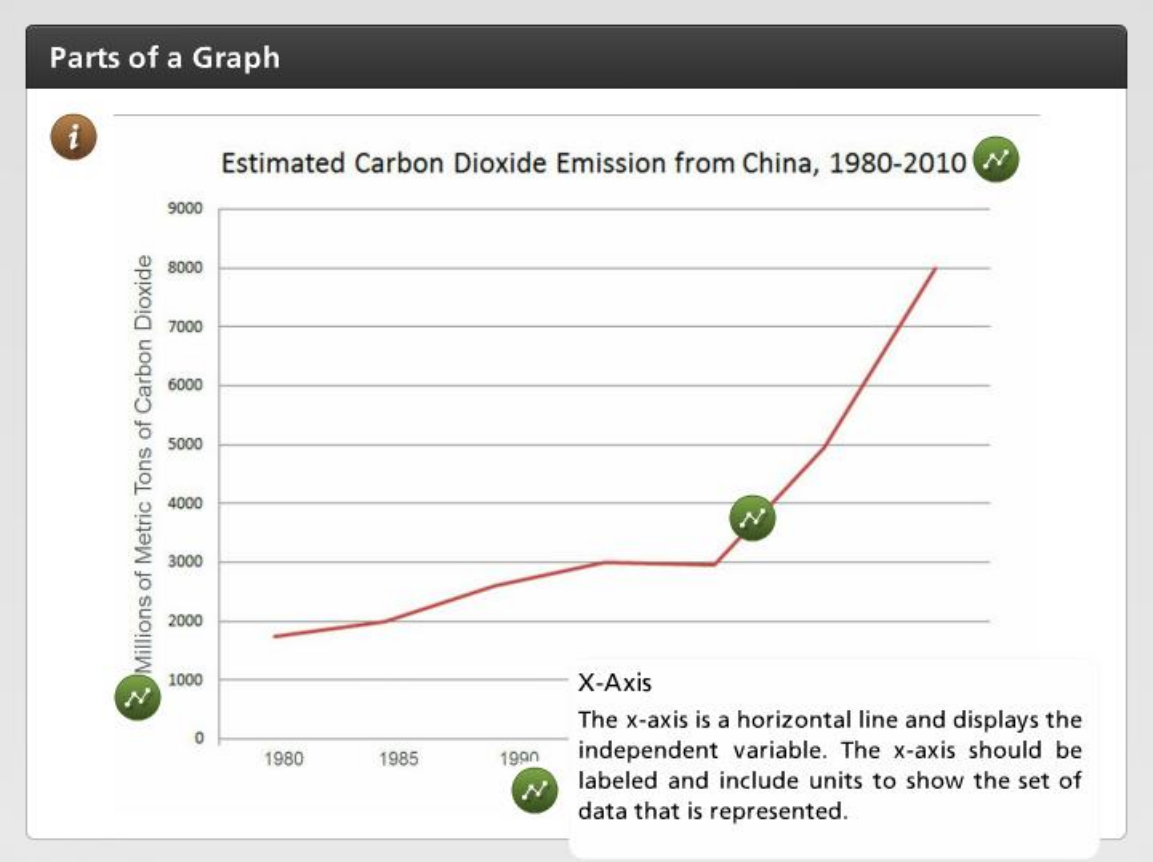
Title



A good graph needs a descriptive title. This tells the reader what the graph is supposed to depict.

Module 1: Fundamentals of Biology
Topic 3 Content: Parts of a Graph Notes

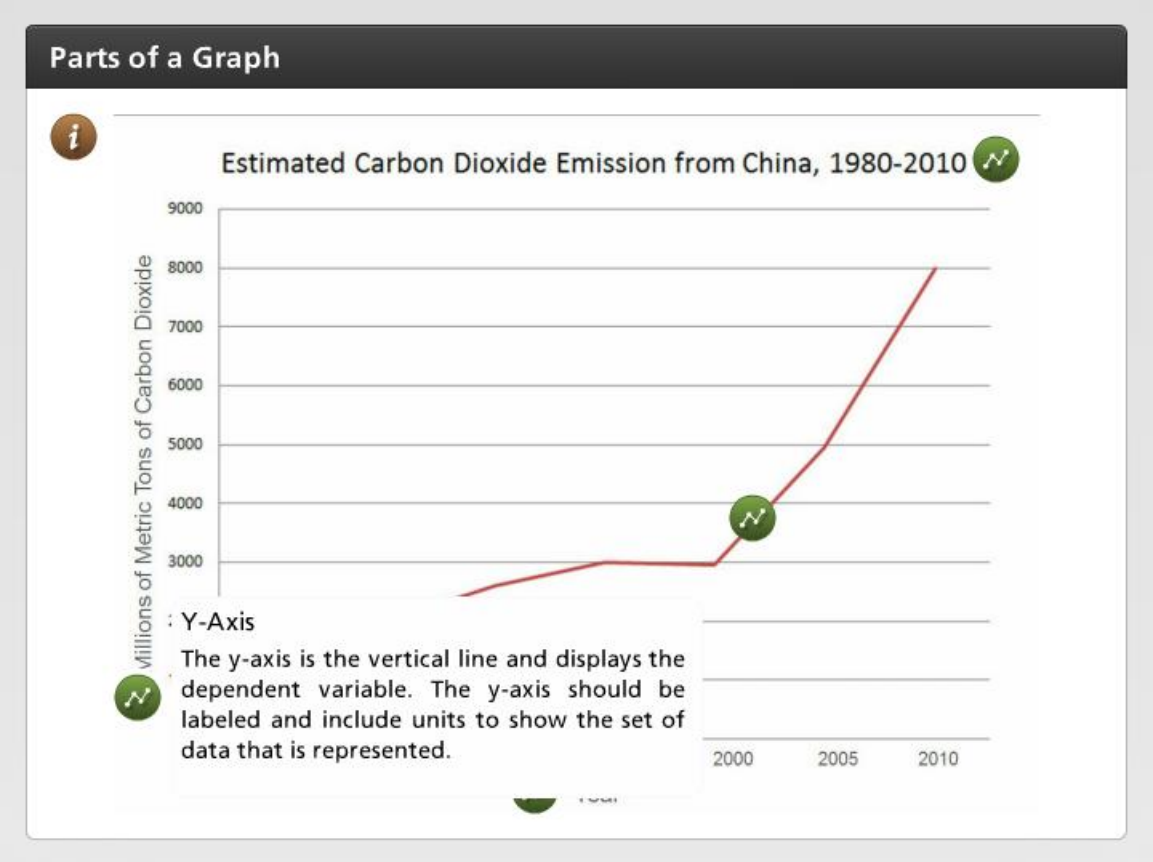
X-Axis



The x-axis is a horizontal line and displays the independent variable. The x-axis should be labeled and include units to show the set of data that is represented.

Module 1: Fundamentals of Biology
Topic 3 Content: Parts of a Graph Notes

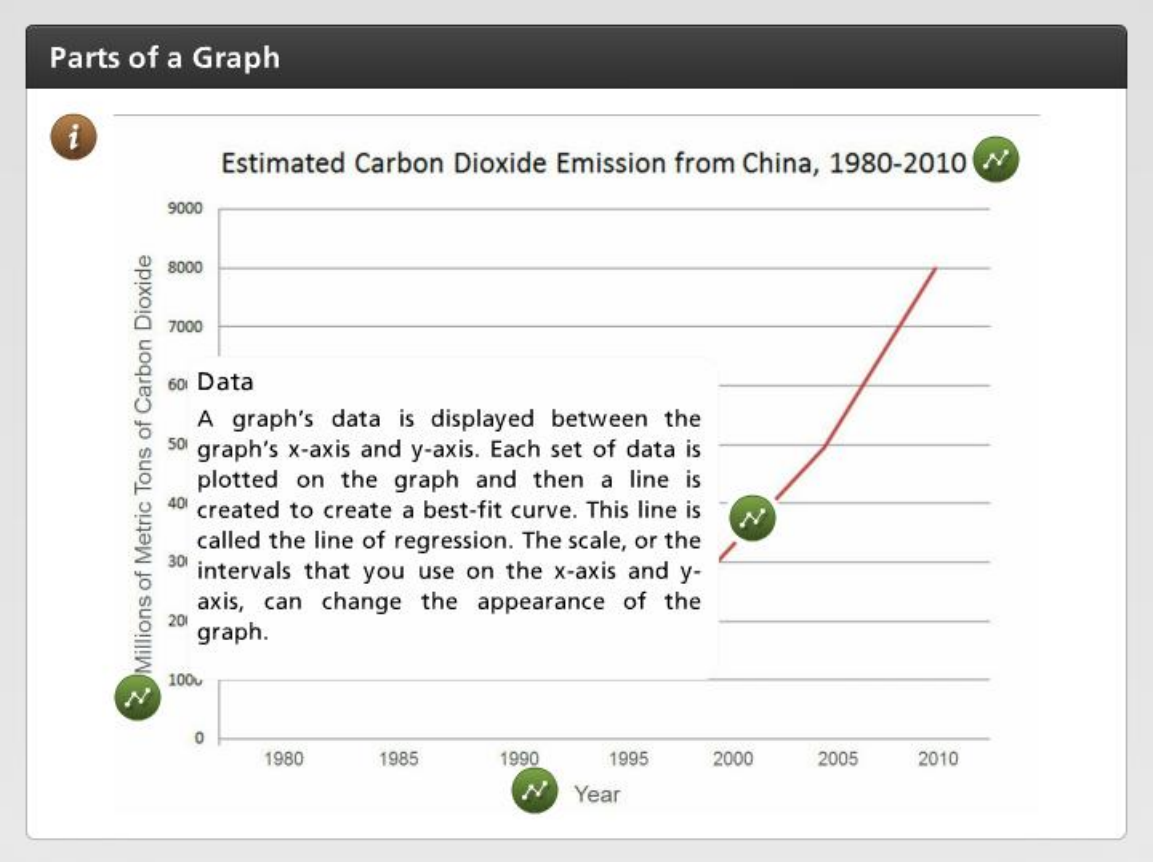
Y-Axis



The y-axis is the vertical line and displays the dependent variable. The y-axis should be labeled and include units to show the set of data that is represented.

Module 1: Fundamentals of Biology
Topic 3 Content: Parts of a Graph Notes

Data



A graph's data is displayed between the graph's x-axis and y-axis. Each set of data is plotted on the graph and then a line is created to create a best-fit curve. This line is called the line of regression. The scale, or the intervals that you use on the x-axis and y-axis, can change the appearance of the graph.