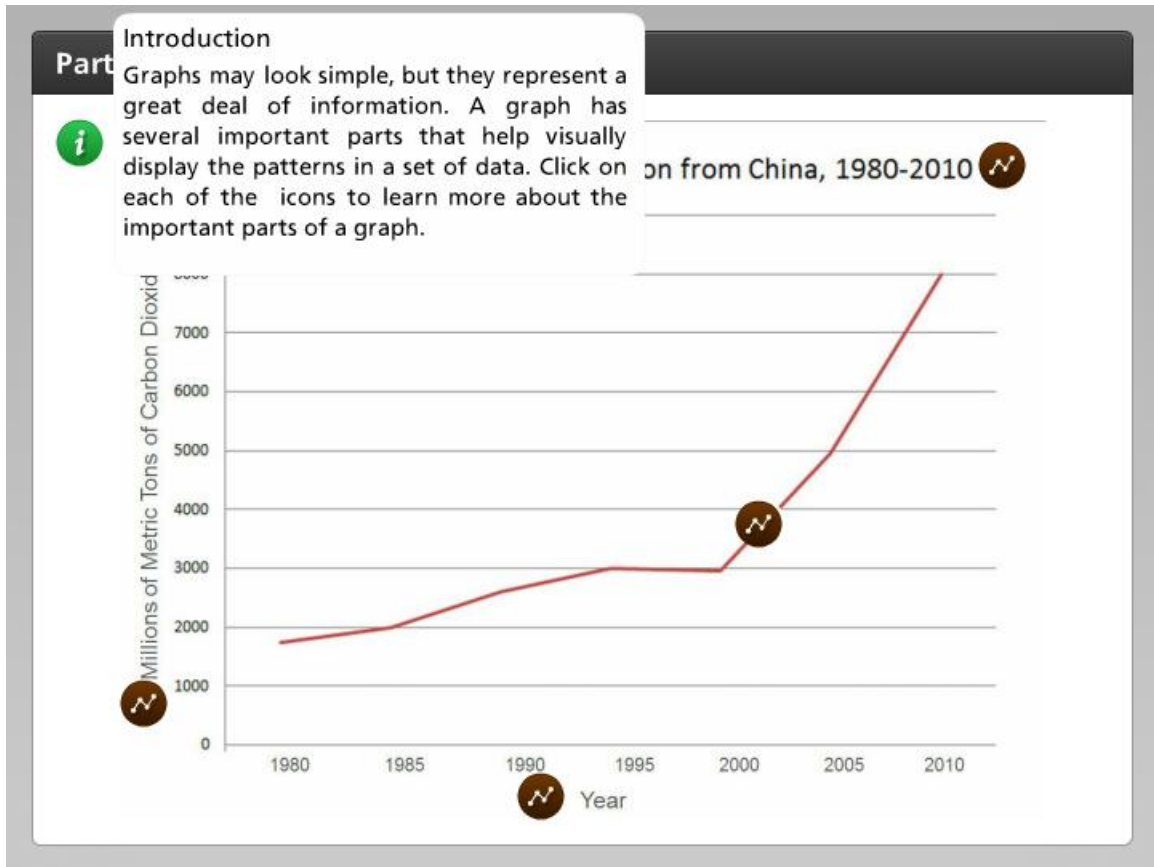


Module 1: What is Earth Science?

Topic 3 Content: Parts of a Graph Notes

Introduction

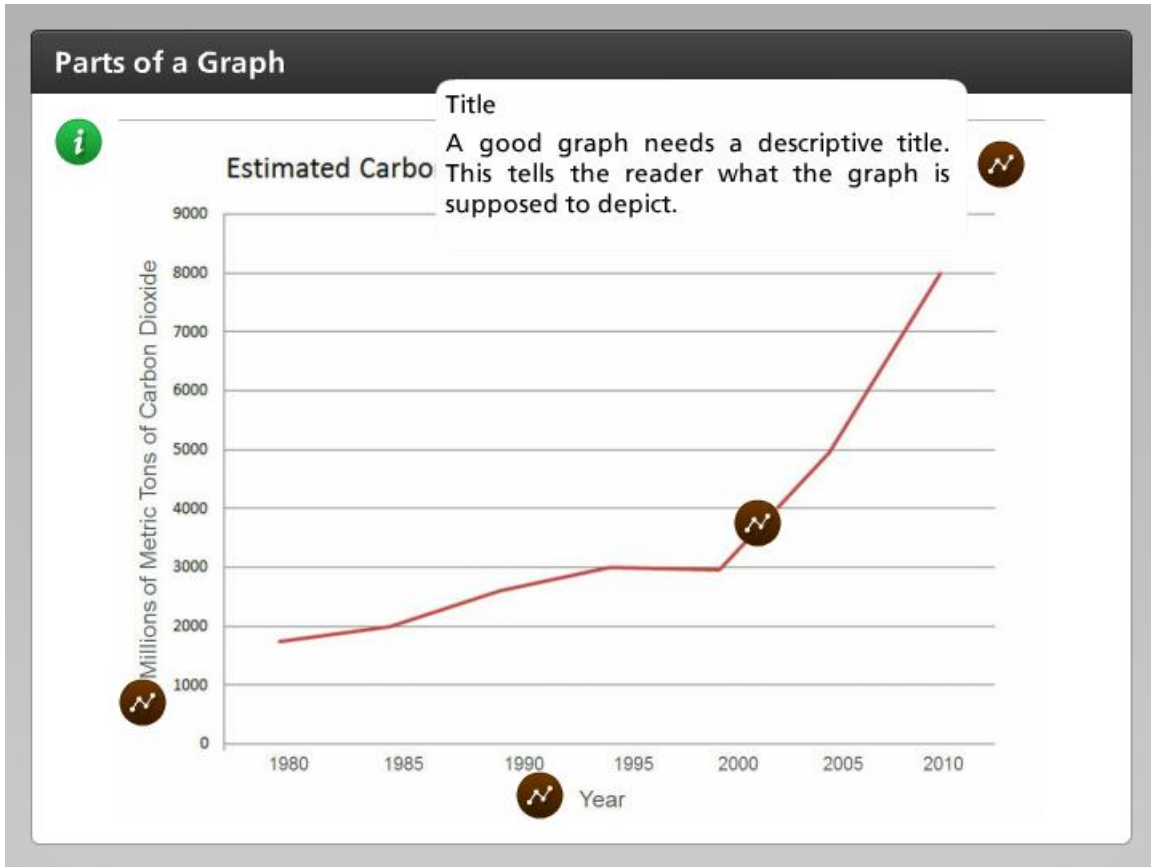


Graphs may look simple, but they represent a great deal of information. A graph has several important parts that help visually display the patterns in a set of data. Click on each of the icons to learn more about the important parts of a graph.

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Title

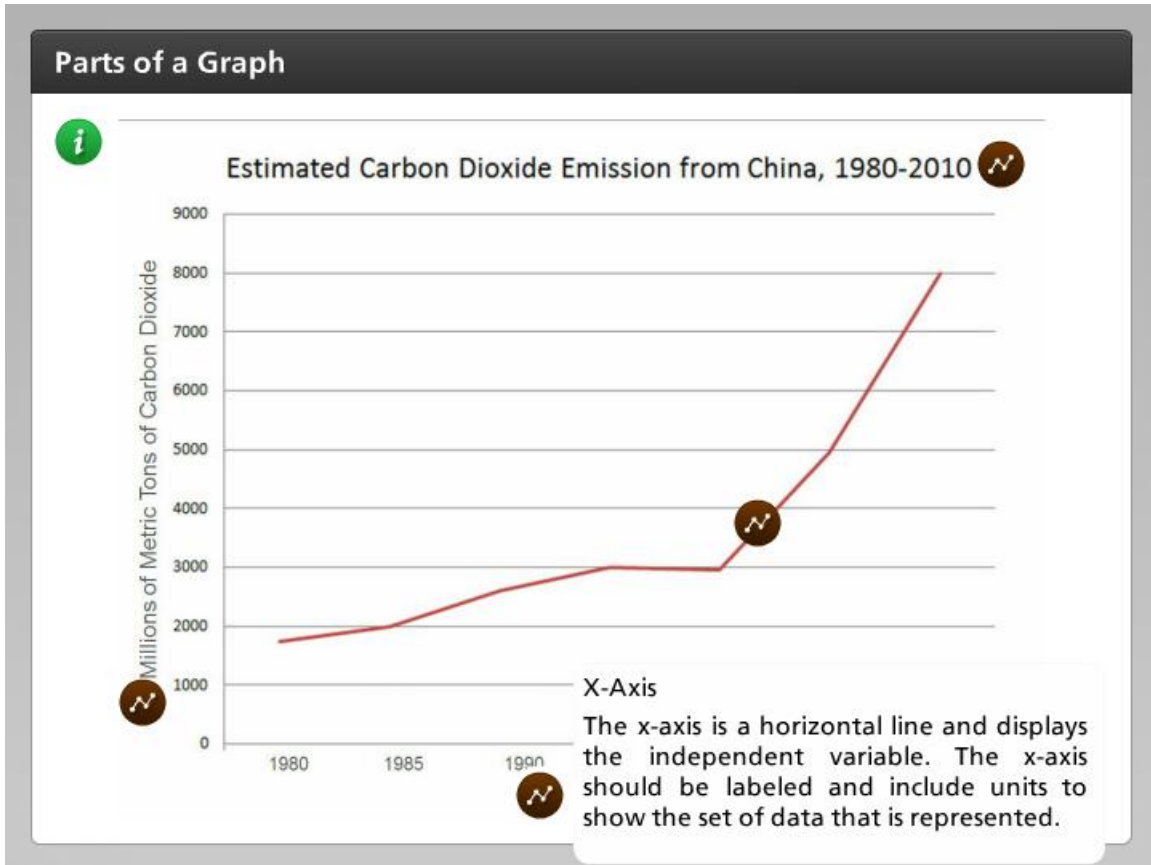


A good graph needs a descriptive title. This tells the reader what the graph is supposed to depict.

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X-Axis

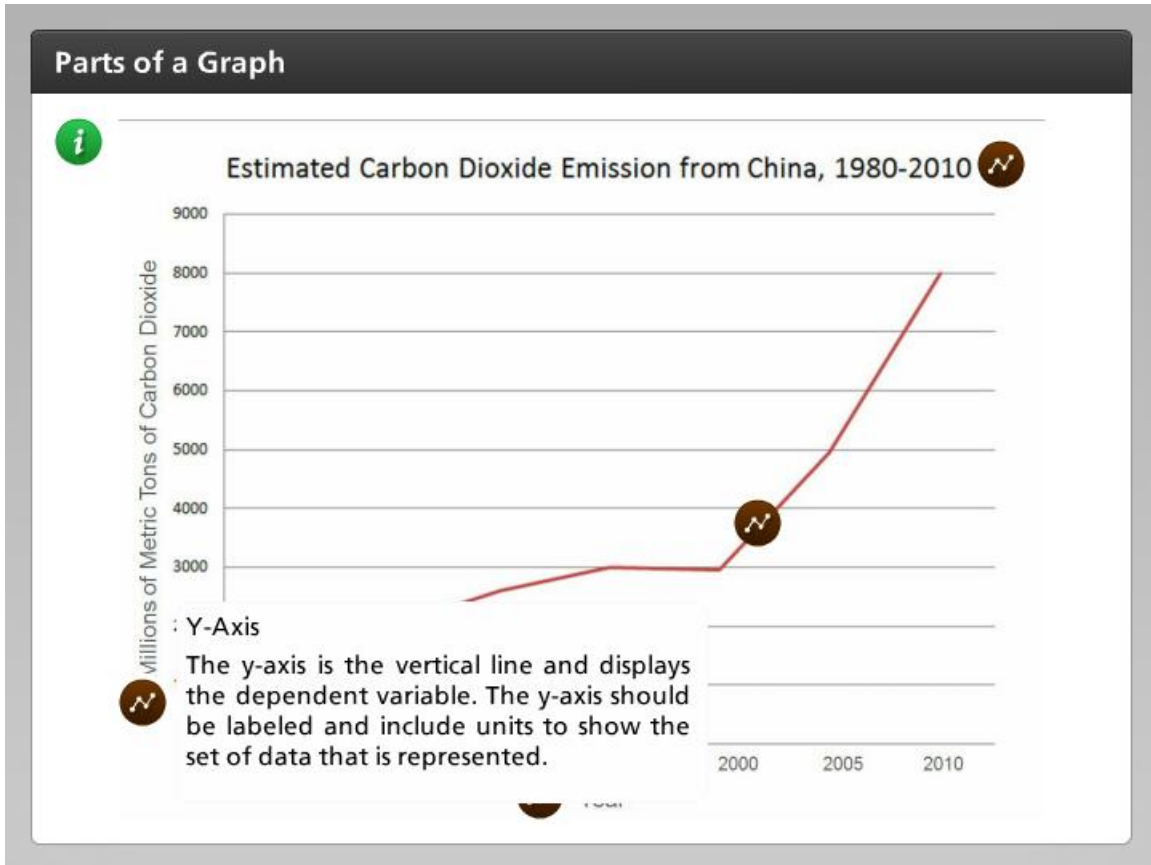


The x-axis is a horizontal line and displays the independent variable. The x-axis should be labeled and include units to show the set of data that is represented.

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Y-Axis

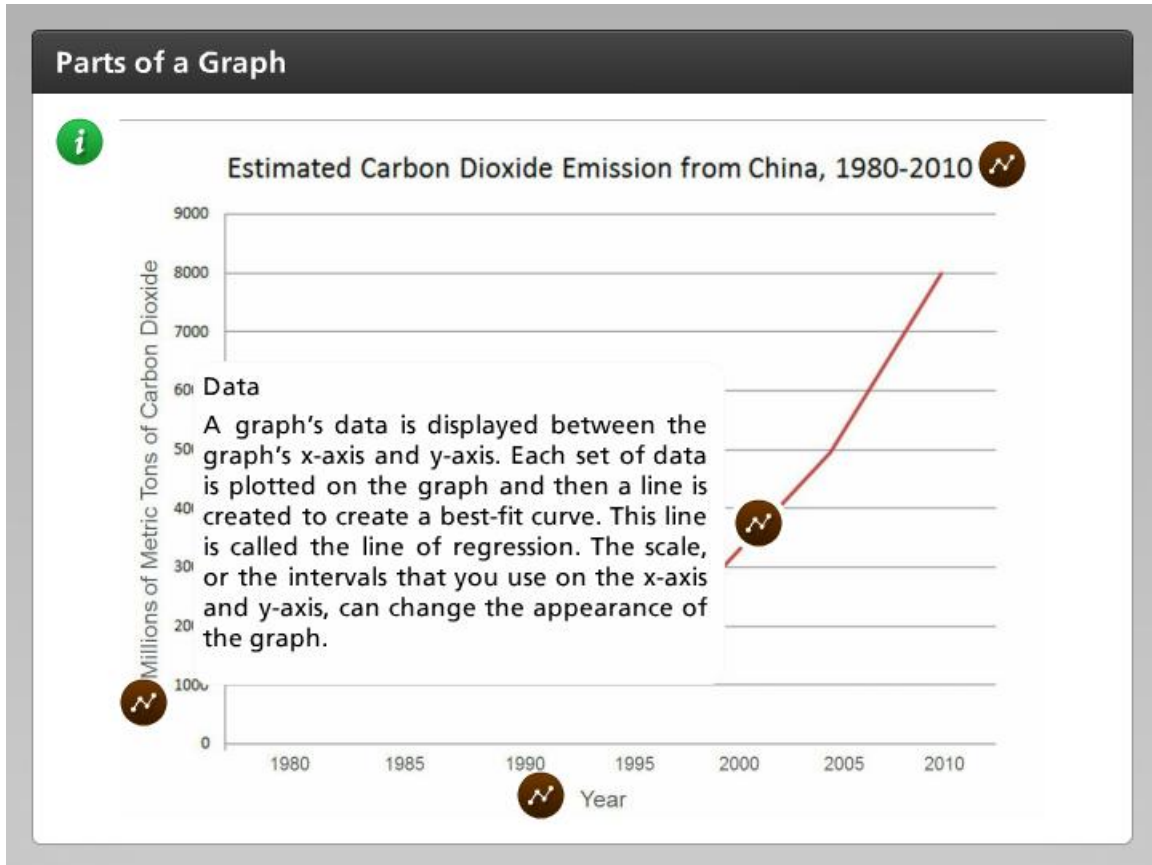


The y-axis is the vertical line and displays the dependent variable. The y-axis should be labeled and include units to show the set of data that is represented.

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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.