



Create Your Own Infographic: Population Demographics on Washington's Farms

Students will learn...

- To comprehend, analyze and interpret data from primary sources
- To visually represent data
- To improve their media literacy skills

You will need...

- [List of Enslaved People, 1799](#)- transcript and original
- Analyzing Infographics Worksheet (Mount Vernon in 1799 Infographic)
- Paper or an online resource for students to make their infographic

- Have students pick one farm and then make an infographic based on its population demographics. The infographic could include:

- Number of men vs. women, Washington's vs. the dower slaves, children vs. adults
- How many people were married to someone on another farm.
- The average age
- How many enslaved people were hired from Mrs. French

Opener: Analyzing an Infographic

- Give your students Analyzing Infographics Worksheet with the *Mount Vernon in 1799* infographic.
- Have them answer the questions¹ to help them analyze infographics.

- Make sure they include a title, their name, labels, their data source, and the message/argument/generalization of their infographic.

Task: Create Your Own Infographic

- Tell your students that they will also be creating an infographic using Washington's *List of Enslaved People, 1799*.
- It list divides the enslaved workers into tradesmen and his five farms. The list also differentiates between those enslaved people belonging to him and the dower slaves, belonging to Martha and her children from her first marriage.

Closer: A Classroom Collection

- Have students with the same farm compare infographics to see what they chose to highlight and if they have the same data.
- Have students with different farms should switch infographics with each other and ask them to interpret the other's infographic. Perhaps even answering the same questions that you presented before.
- Optional: Compare this document with Washington's Will, where he frees his enslaved population (also written in 1799). How would that affect the farm's demographics?

¹ Taken from Emma S. Thacker et al. "Reading, Analyzing, and Creating Informational Graphics in the Elementary Classroom," *Social Studies and the Young Learner*, vol. 31, no. 4 (April/March 2019), 15-18.