Reading and Understanding Circle Graphs, Bar Graphs, Line Graphs, & Informational Graphics

Why Do We Care?

- Important in science!
- News!
- Make a point!
- Become a better candidate!
- Become a better citizen of the world!
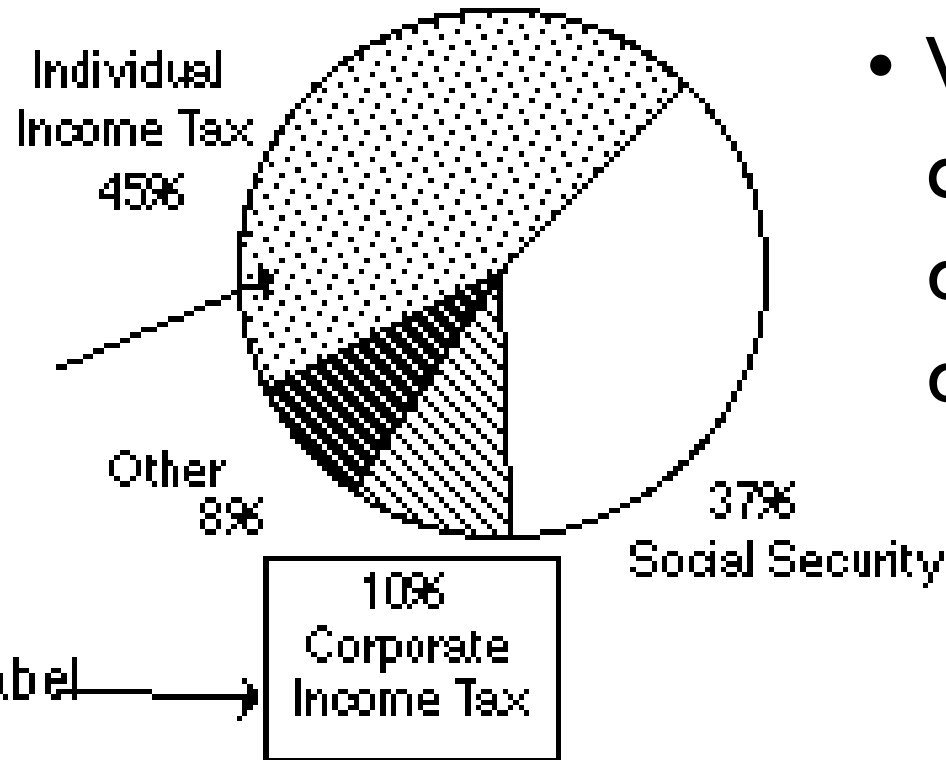
What should I know?

- How to properly read a graph
- How to understand what is being said
- How to create your own graph

- Why?
  - See previous slide!

Circle Graphs
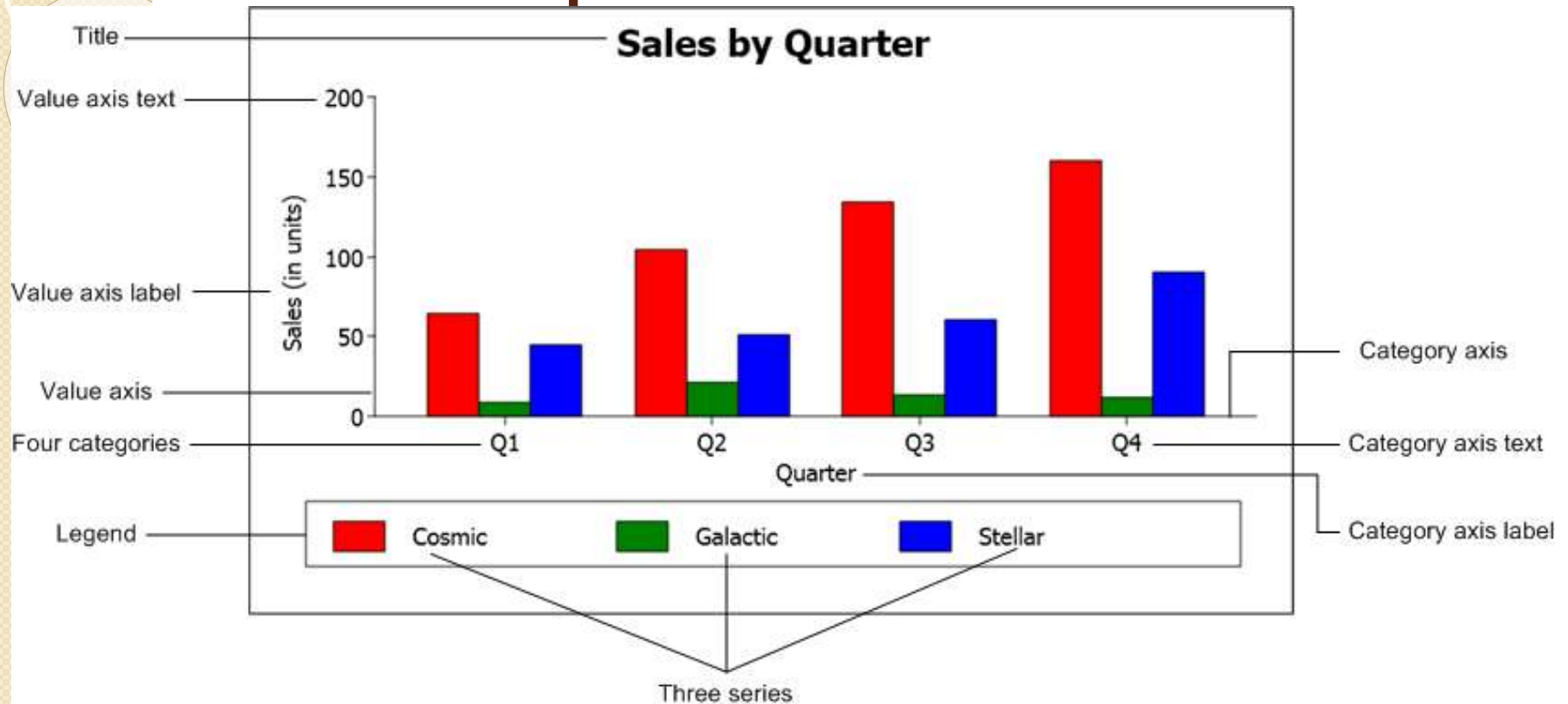
Graph Title ⟶ **Revenue Sources for the Federal Government**

Individual Income Tax 45%

One Sector ⟶

Other 8%

10% Corporate Income Tax ⟵ A Sector Label
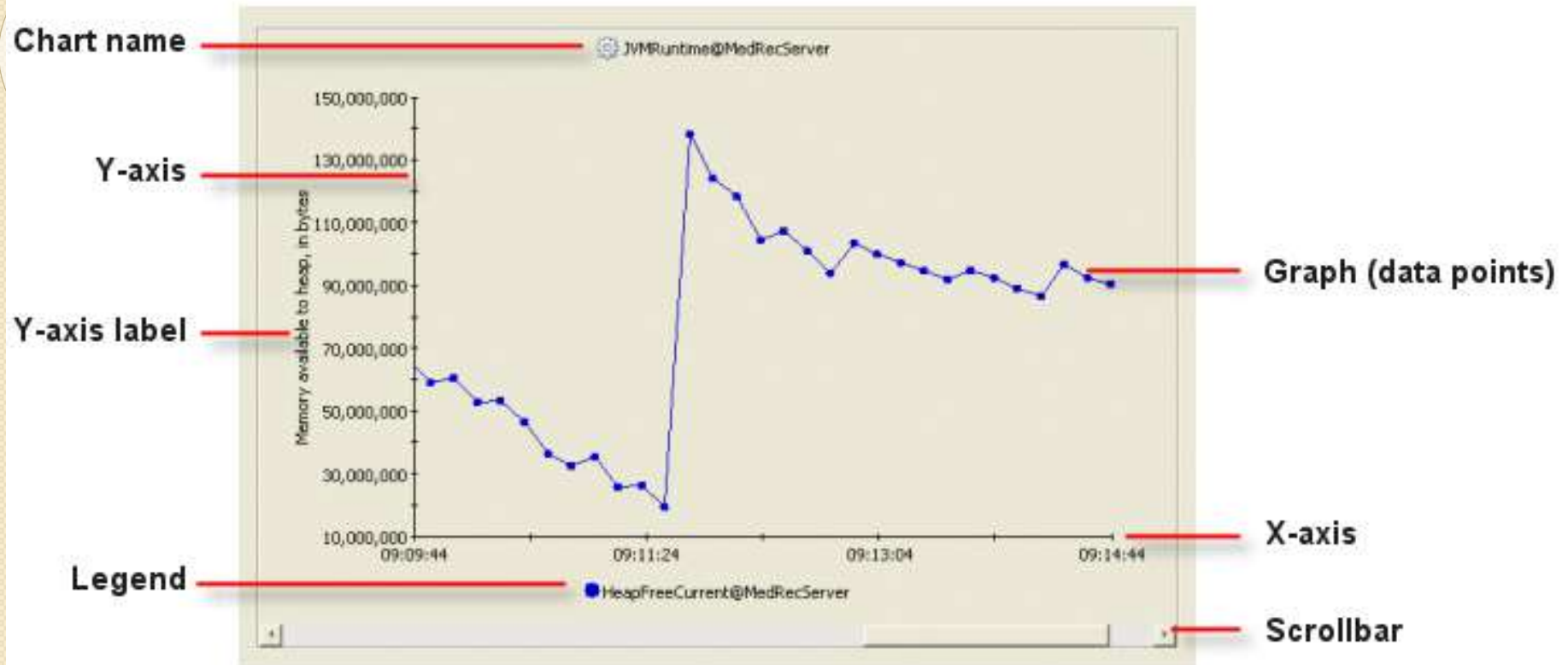
37% Social Security

- What's missing?
- What could be done differently?

Bar Graphs

- What's missing?
- What could be done differently?

Line Graph

- What's missing?
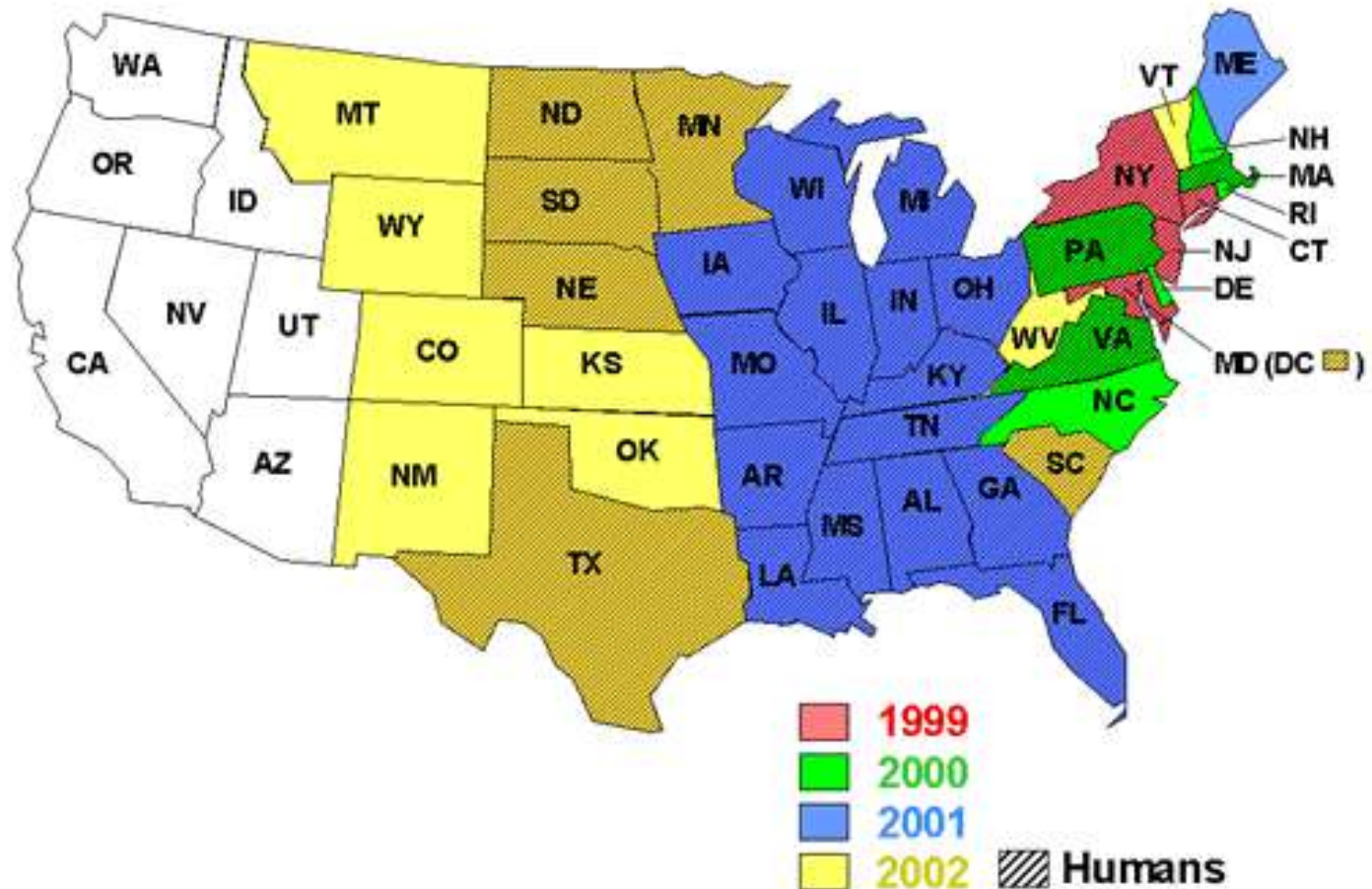- What could be done differently?

Informational Graphics

- What should be included?
  - Title
  - Legend or key
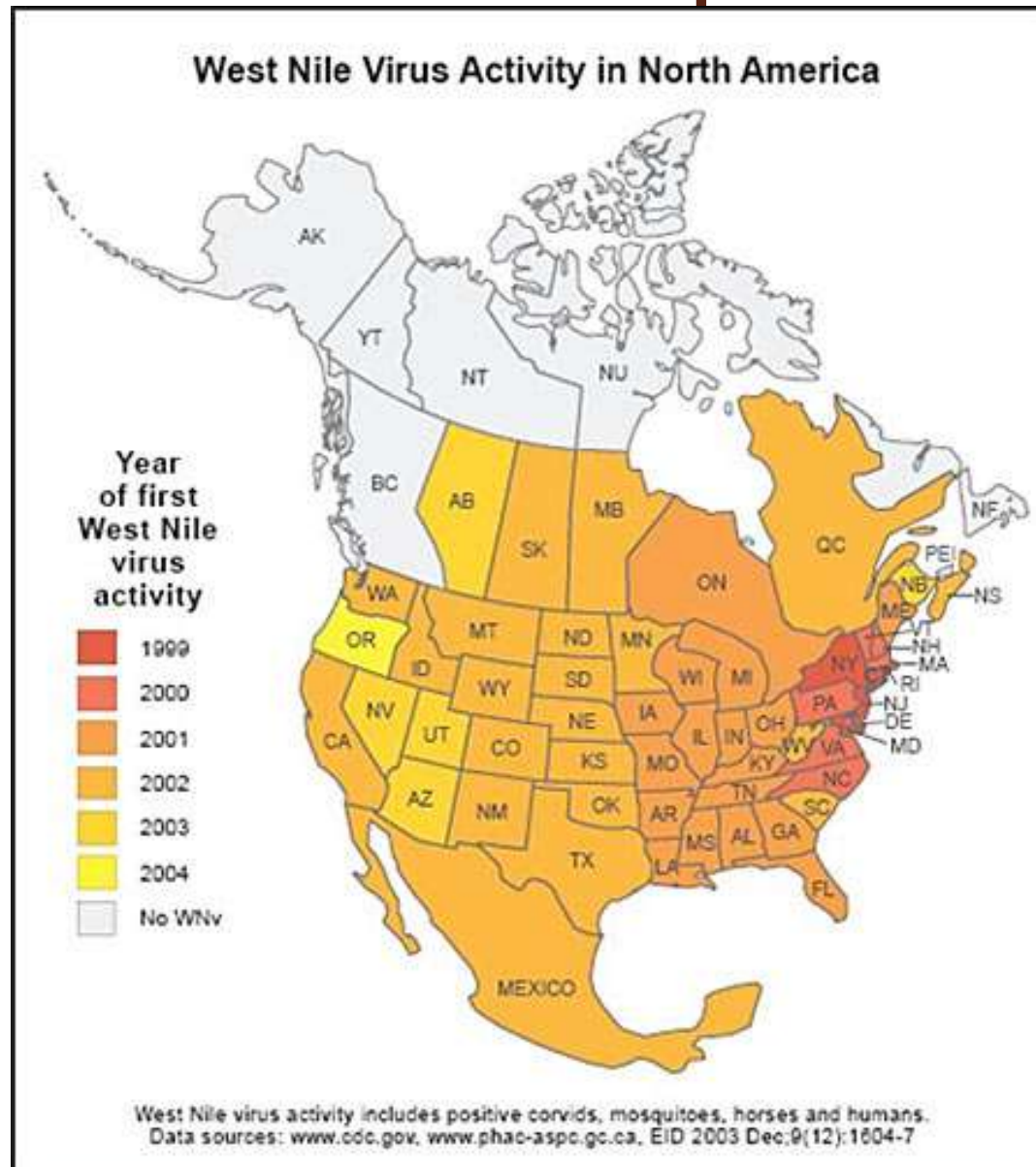 - Units or correct proportions
  - Source
- What's missing here?

Informational Graphics
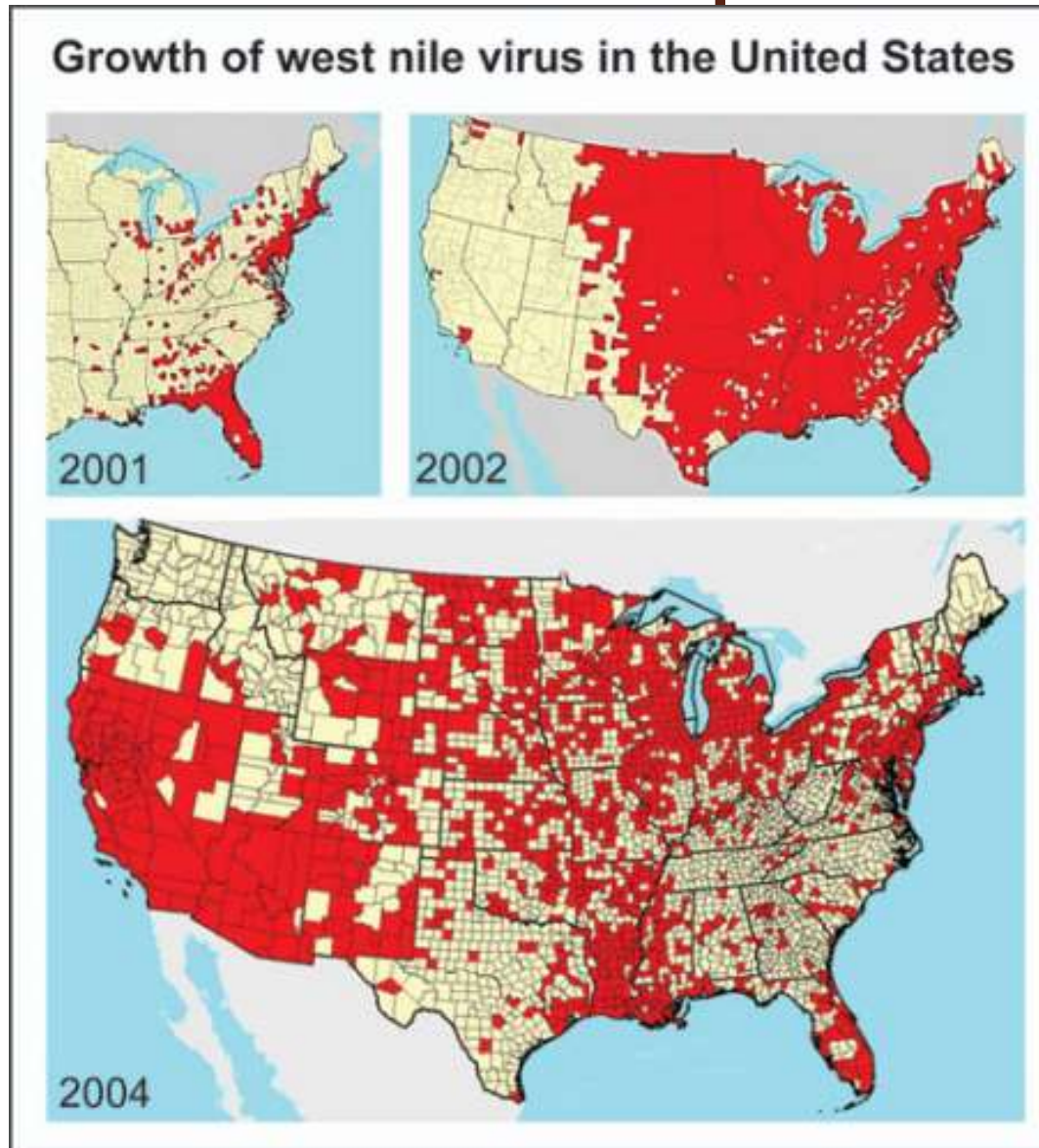

West Nile Virus in the United States, 1999 - 2002

Informational Graphics

West Nile Virus Activity in North America

Year of first West Nile virus activity

- 1999
- 2000
- 2001
- 2002
- 2003
- 2004
- No WNv

West Nile virus activity includes positive corvids, mosquitoes, horses and humans.
Data sources: www.cdc.gov, www.phac-aspc.gc.ca, EID 2003 Dec;9(12):1604-7

Informational Graphics

Growth of west nile virus in the United States

2001

2002

2004

Informational Graphics

- What did you notice about these maps?
- Were they the same?
- Did they show the same things?
- How else could the information be presented?

Informational Graphics

Errors in Graphics

Let's Practice!

- Circle Graphs with Skittles!