



How to Fix It?

Making Alt Text for Images in Notes vs. Tests

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ColoMATYC 2026

Credit:

At AMATYC 2024:

- Presentation: “Can You See What I See?” by Tricia Van Brunt, PhD
- Informative and focused on the way to write alt text for images
 - For images/graphs in class
 - For images/graphs on tests
 - How to keep them clear, concise and helpful
- So I want to pass on some of this knowledge I gained

At TAP! 2025 & FTLC Thursday Summer 2025:

- This is a version of the presentation that I did at TAP! This last Spring with improvements that were discussed at that session for Summer 2025. But still relevant as the accessibility deadline approaches.



Alternative Text (Alt Text)

Text that is used to describe an image or graphic for those that cannot see it.

Key Features:

- Descriptive of picture and its function
- Not Redundant meaning if in text not in alt text too
- Do not use "image of" or "phrases of"
- Avoid quotes and apostrophes due to how screen readers work

According to: Colorado Governor's Office of Information Technology

[https://oit.colorado.gov/standards-policies-guides/guide-to-accessible-web-services/accessible-images#:~:text=Always%20include%20alternative%20\(al\)%20text,Don't%20be%20redundant.](https://oit.colorado.gov/standards-policies-guides/guide-to-accessible-web-services/accessible-images#:~:text=Always%20include%20alternative%20(al)%20text,Don't%20be%20redundant.)

How to add the Alt Text

D2L:

1. Open the page/announcement to the edit
2. Right click on the image
3. Click image
4. Enter a description in the box
5. Click save
6. Click save/done for the page/announcement

Microsoft Office:

1. Select the image
2. Right click on the image
3. Click view alt text...
4. Enter a description in the box

Google Docs:

1. Select the image
2. Right click on the image
3. Select the alt text option
4. Enter a description in the box

Why does this matter?

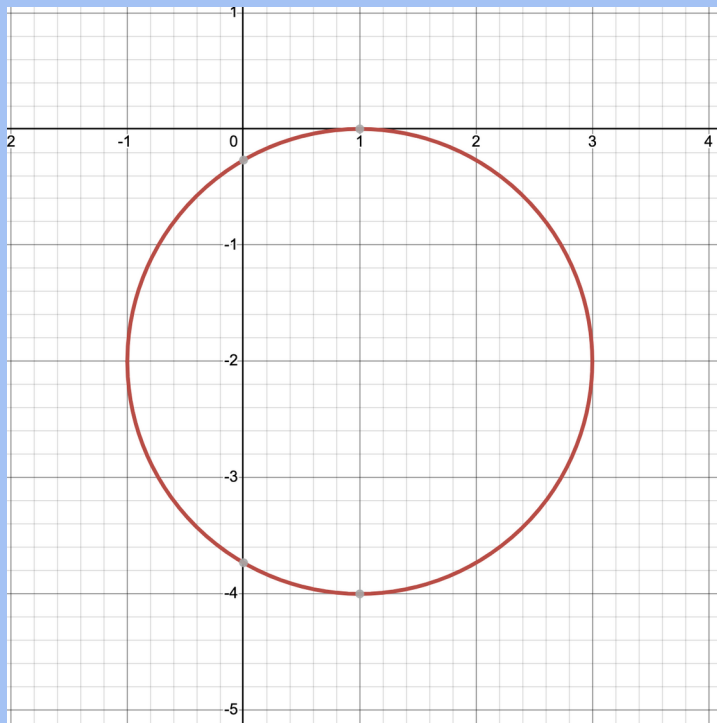
Task: On a piece of paper in front of you, can you draw a graph of a circle?



Share with the group.
Do you all have the same circle?



Is this circle that you drew? This is the one I meant for you to draw.



Example Improvement!

Notes/Homework:

Give all the information.

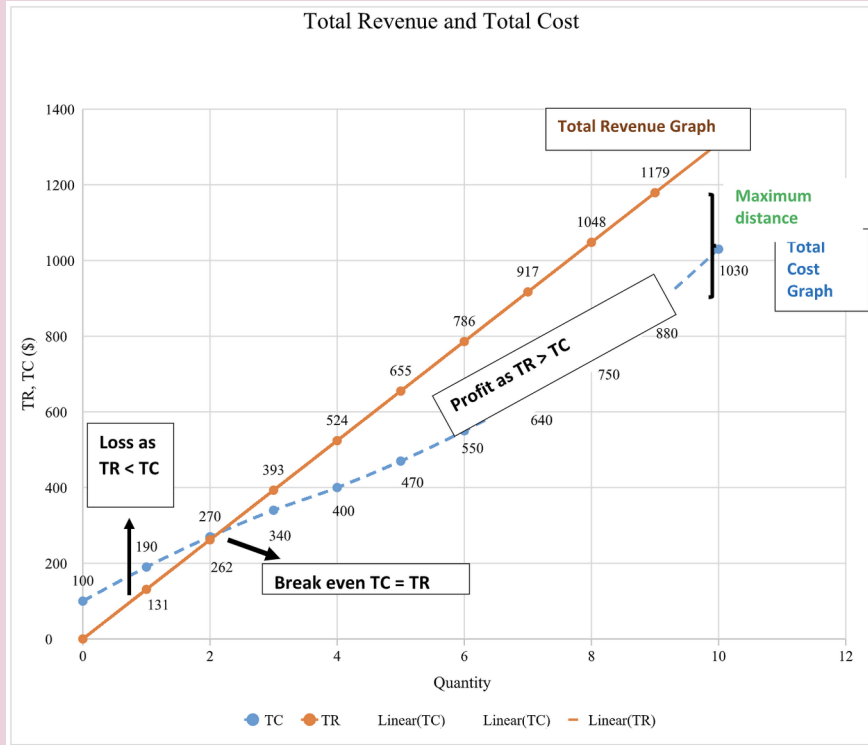
A graph of a circle that is centered at the point $(1, -2)$ that has a radius of 2. This means the circle is smoothly connected by going through the points $(1,0)$, $(3,-2)$, $(1,-4)$ and $(-1,-2)$.

Test Question: What is the equation of the circle?

Cannot give away information that would not normally be given.

A graph of a circle that is smoothly connected by going through the points $(1,0)$, $(3,-2)$, $(1,-4)$ and $(-1,-2)$ at an equal distance from the middle.

Alt Text for this economic graph



Example: Economics

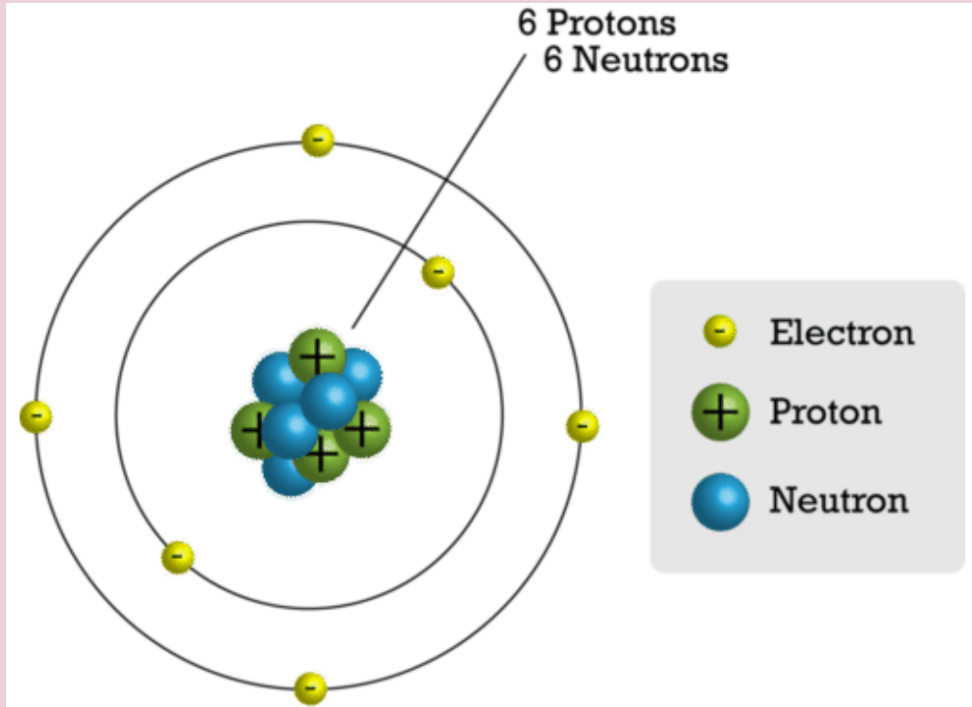
Notes/Homework:

This is an image of a graph that compares the total cost to the total revenue. The total revenue is a linear line that starts at (0,0) then goes smoothly through the points (1,131), (2, 262), (3, 393), (4, 524), (5, 655), (6,786), (7, 917), (8,1048), and (9,1179). The total cost is curve that starts at (0,100) then goes smoothly through the points (1, 190), (2,270), (3,340), (4,400), (5,470), (6,550), (7,640), (8,750), (9, 880), (10,1030). there is the indicated break even point, where the two lines intersect at about (2,262). Before the lines intersect the total cost is greater than the total revenue indicating a loss of profit. After the intersection the total cost stays below the total revenue indicating a gain of profit.

Test: What is the break even point?

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Alt Text for this chemistry graph



Example: Chemistry

Notes/Homework:

A diagram of a carbon atom that depicts a nucleus that contains 6 neutrons as spheres and 6 protons as spheres with plus signs inside of them. Then surrounding the nucleus is one ring that encompasses the electron shell containing 2 smaller spherical electrons labelled with a negative sign. After that there is a even larger ring representing the electron shell containing 4 electrons as four small spheres labelled with a negative sign.

Test: What is the name of the chemical shown in the picture?

A diagram of an atom that depicts a nucleus that contains 6 neutrons as spheres and 6 protons as spheres with plus signs inside of them. Then surrounding the nucleus is one ring that encompasses the electron shell containing 2 smaller spherical electrons labelled with a negative sign. After that there is a even larger ring representing the electron shell containing 4 electrons as four small spheres labelled with a negative sign.

Your Turn: Landscapes



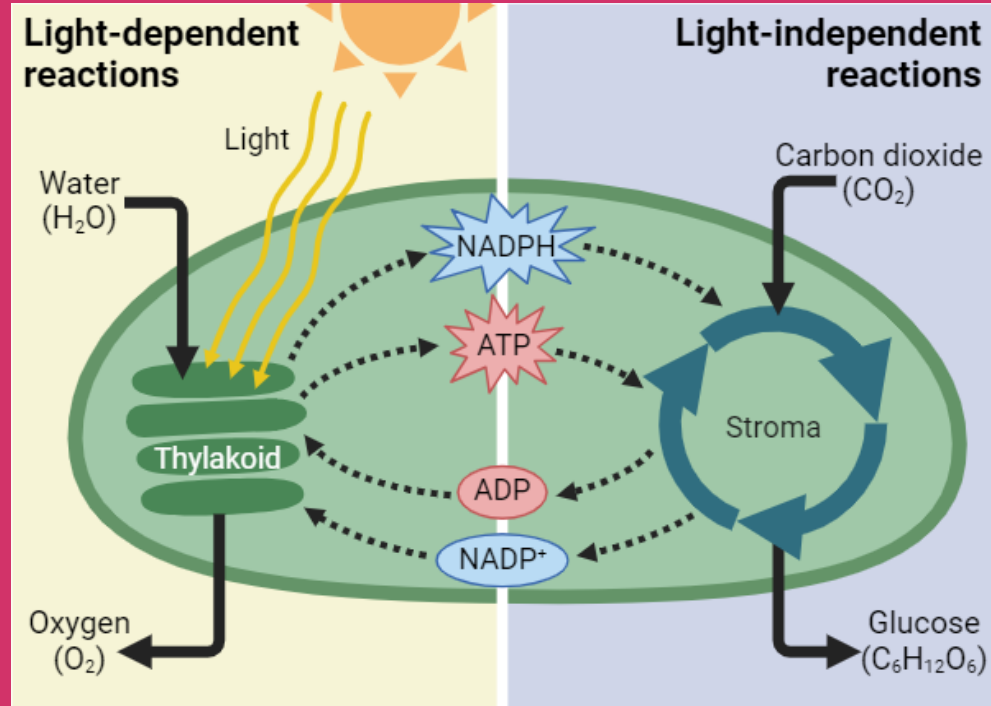
Your Turn: Women's History



Your Turn: Geography



Your Turn: Photosynthesis



Volunteers?

Is there a picture or type of picture someone here would like us to explore as a group?





Thanks for
Listening!
