

Gapminder

After completing this section, students should be able to:

- Use Gapminder to create a dynamic graph and use it to tell a story.

How to use Gapminder

Gapminder is a plotting tool that lets you explore relationships between variables by country.

- Go to www.gapminder.org/tools
- Click the play button to see the change over time.
- You can highlight countries to track them over time
- You can change the transparency of deselected countries
- You can zoom in and out
- You can change the color coding on the bubbles
- Click on the arrows by the axes labels to change the variables being plotted. Note the precise definition and source for each variable (credibility!)
- You can also change from linear to logarithmic scales
- These features are demonstrated in the How To Use video (link at the top)

Examples:

- Example: Income and CO2 emissions.
- Education of women and fertility rates.

Tell a Story

Find a good story to tell with a Gapminder graph.

There are many variables to choose from. Choose yours guided by causal hypotheses, or else you may find, for example, a relationship between margarine consumption and divorce rates in Maine!