

Long Description for Complex Infographic

English II: Reading Strand, Module 5, Lesson 7, Section 4

This graphic describes complex data about oil consumption in the U.S. and compares it to Japan, China, and Europe. The headline reads “Burning Through Oil . . .”

This infographic shows human oil consumption from 1980 to 2007. The text on the left side of the graphic under the main heading shows nine barrels of oil and reads, “The world burns 85 million barrels of petroleum daily.” Next to the barrels, more text informs us that not only does the U.S. burn “one-quarter of the world’s oil” but also about one in nine barrels of the world’s oil “goes into American gasoline tanks.”

Below the barrels, icons that look like meters one would see on a gas pump show the miles per gallon (m.p.g.) that cars must attain—by law—to be sold in Japan (46 m.p.g.), Europe (43 m.p.g.), and China (36 m.p.g.), while new U.S. standards are only 27 m.p.g. for cars and 22 m.p.g. for light trucks.

A bar graph below the meter icons shows that Americans also drive more: 12,427 miles per year in comparison to 7,097 miles in Japan and 7,829 miles in the European Union. A graphic below the bar graph states that U.S. drivers drive more partly due to longer commutes. For every one person who rides a bicycle to work, five walk, nine take public transit, 154 drive alone, and 21 ride in carpools.

The last bar graph shows that U.S. consumption of oil has risen 21% since 1980 while Japanese and European oil consumption has either remained the same or decreased as much as 33%. The right side of the graphic contains an image of a nighttime roadway choked with an overwhelming amount of red brake lights from different kinds of vehicles.