

ACTIVITY 4: MADTOMS INFOGRAPHIC

In this activity, students will further learn about Madtoms by researching them to create an infographic that synthesizes their learning and visually communicates what they've learned to others about Madtoms.

Students will need access to computers and the Internet for this activity. Using an infographic creating tool, such as Canva, Google Slides, etc., students will work with a partner to summarize what they've learned about Northern Madtoms thus far, conduct any additional research that they feel is necessary, and create an infographic to communicate what they've learned to others. They can work with a template or create an infographic from scratch.

This project-based activity is open ended and has only a driving question, resources, and framework for setting up the project. Adapt this framework to fit your students.

Driving Question

How might we visually communicate information about Northern Madtoms in order to educate and inform others?

What Makes an Infographic Stand Out?

The hallmark features of an infographic are:

- Great Graphics
- Clearly Organized Information
- Information is Concise
- Descriptive Titles and Subheadings
- Informative Data
- Specially Formatted Facts
- Great Use of Space and Layout

Evaluating Performance on This Task

Teachers can consider a performance rubric for evaluating the infographics students create that utilizes the categories above—or includes others—and rates the categories on a scale of 1–3, where 1=not evident; 2=somewhat evident; and 3=evident.

Note: When you introduce and set up this project, be clear that students need to keep track of, and cite, their information sources in a separate document with their infographics when they turn them in.



Image Credit: Great Lakes Now

Research Resources

Students can use the resources available from Great Lakes Now in this episode and lesson, review this [Madtoms Fact Sheet](#) from Michigan State University's Natural Features Inventory of Michigan, this [Assessment and Update Status Report on the Northern Madtom](#) from the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada, or conduct their own additional research. The Madtoms Fact Sheet from MSU is like an infographic in the way that it chunks information, but it is unlike an infographic in that the information is displayed in text only and there is a lot of information.

*Note: An additional article is included in the resources section of this lesson entitled **Turning the Tables by Kathy Johnson**. It goes into depth about the spines, venom, and stings of the Northern Madtom—an important aspect of the fish that should be included in the infographic—so be sure to make this article available in print or online for students to read during their project research.*

Presentation & Feedback Session

Have partners pair up with other partners to present their infographics to one another. Instruct students—prior to presenting—that they will need to provide one piece of feedback and ask one question to their presenters. They should use the **Notice and Wonder Protocol** for this to keep the feedback structured and constructive. You may wish to model this format for students ahead to help them familiarize themselves with how to give good feedback and ask questions posed as a wonder.