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Library After Hours: Reinventing the First-Year Experience, One Epic Party at a Time

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Strand, K., Fullmer, N., & Daybell, P. (2023). Library After Hours: Reinventing the first-year experience, one epic party at a time. Workshop for Instruction in Library Use (WILU), Montreal, Canada. May 16-19, 2023

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Library
After Hours

Reinventing the first-year experience, one epic party at a time

Utah State University

Katie Strand
First-Year Experience Librarian

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Archival Cataloging Librarian

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Educational Outreach Librarian

Presentation Overview

01 **Background**
USU's FYE program & library integration

02 **Pre After Hours**
Event goals & institutional support

03 **After Hours Event**
Timing, staffing & event offerings

04 **Post After Hours**
Impact, assessment & future plans

01

Background

USU’S FYE PROGRAM & LIBRARY INTEGRATION

Connections (USU 1010)

74% of students participate

3 intense days

2 credits

30 students per class

Course Objectives

1. Why am I here?
2. How do I best engage myself in the process of becoming an educated person?
3. How do I become a fully engaged member of the University community?

Workshops

campus resources, upstander training, study skills

Assignments

pre-class reading, final reflection paper

Social Activities

community engagement, luminary

Library Integration

Lockbox Activity

Students work in groups to solve a series of library clues

Optional

In 2019, the library workshop was no longer required

Assessment

Focus groups with Connections students in March of 2020

Assessment Findings

Lack of consistency in first-year student awareness of library resources.

Students who participated in the workshop appeared to have a **more nuanced understanding of the library.**

Students who did not receive the library workshop wished that there had been an **opportunity to discover the library**.

Students who attended the workshop still experienced **anxiety while navigating the library building**.

Many students think the library is a place of myriad opportunities, but often believe **it's their responsibility to discover those opportunities**.

02

PRE AFTER HOURS

EVENT GOALS & INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT

After Hours Goals

Discovery

New USU students will discover resources and services that can help them academically and financially during their time at USU.

Belonging

New USU students will become more comfortable navigating the library building and feel that it is truly a space for them

Fun

New USU students will have fun in the library.

Gaining Support
inside the library and across campus

Collaborator

Campus IT Labs was also made optional in 2019

Funding

Gained admin support and additional funding, $8,000 total for 2022

Connections

Shift from workshop to social activity

Library Wide Support

Planning task force with members from every library unit

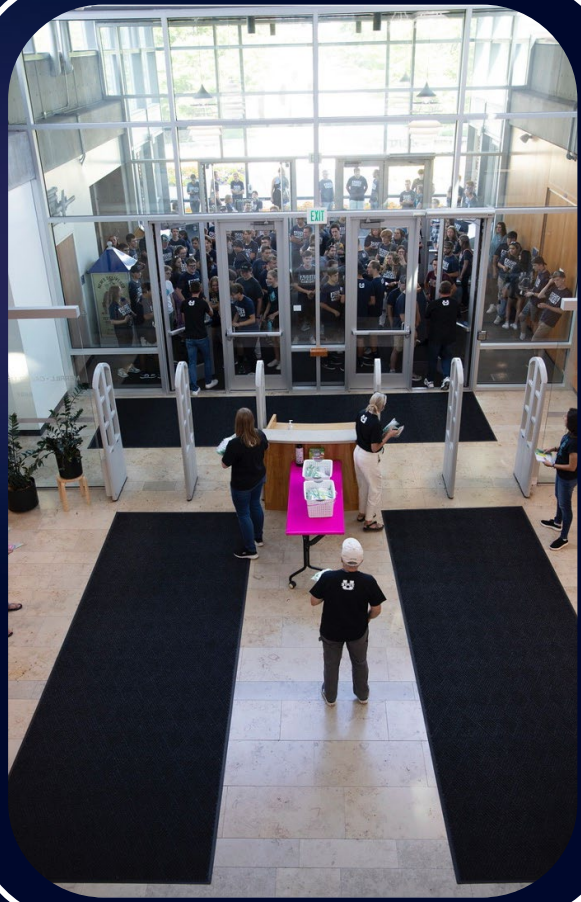
03

AFTER HOURS EVENT

TIMING, STAFFING & EVENT OFFERINGS

Day & Time

- 2-hour event for USU Connections students only.
- Penultimate event before Freshman luminary.
- Closing Party vibe.



Staffing
All Hands -on Deck

Planning Team Leads

2-3 Committee Members served as point for each main activity area

Staff and Student Volunteers

Any and all additional volunteers, ended up with an additional 20

Third Party Vendors

Outside vendors staffed soda bar and laser tag

Refreshment

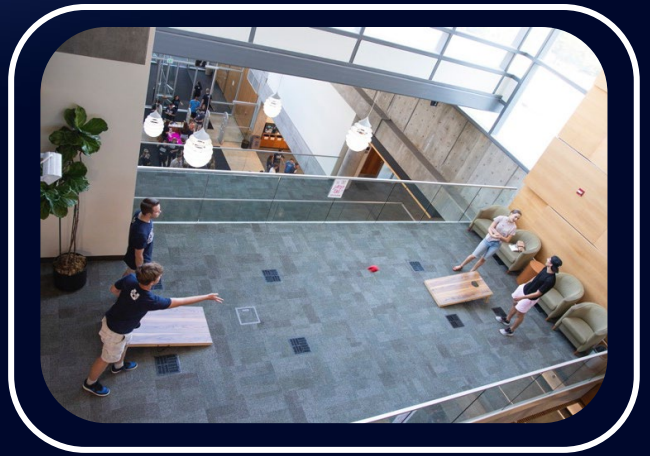
"The soda bar was a fun addition, I haven't seen that before."

Games: Active

- Fully staffed and hosted activities
- Breakout Boxes in Special Collections & Archives
- 3rd Party Laser Tag.
- VR Experience
- Video Games

Games: Passive

- Passive student-led activities
- Lawn games
- Coloring & Cat Videos

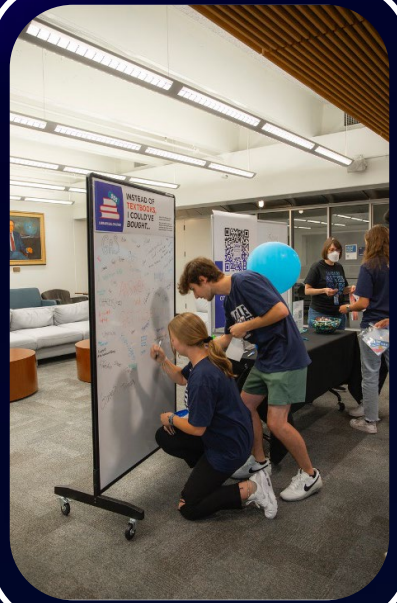


Information Booths

Familiarize Service Points

"I enjoyed being able to wander and explore without feeling weird."

Highlight Resources



Explore the Space

"There was lots of fun booths and helped me gain an overall better layout of the library."

Raffle

Get Good Prizes

Drive Traffic to
Information Booths

04

POST AFTER HOURS

IMPACT, ASSESSMENT & FUTURE PLANS

OVER 1,500

First-year students attended the event

Impact

Comfort

Erase hesitation and demystify the library

Fun

Increase discovery and excitement

Assessment

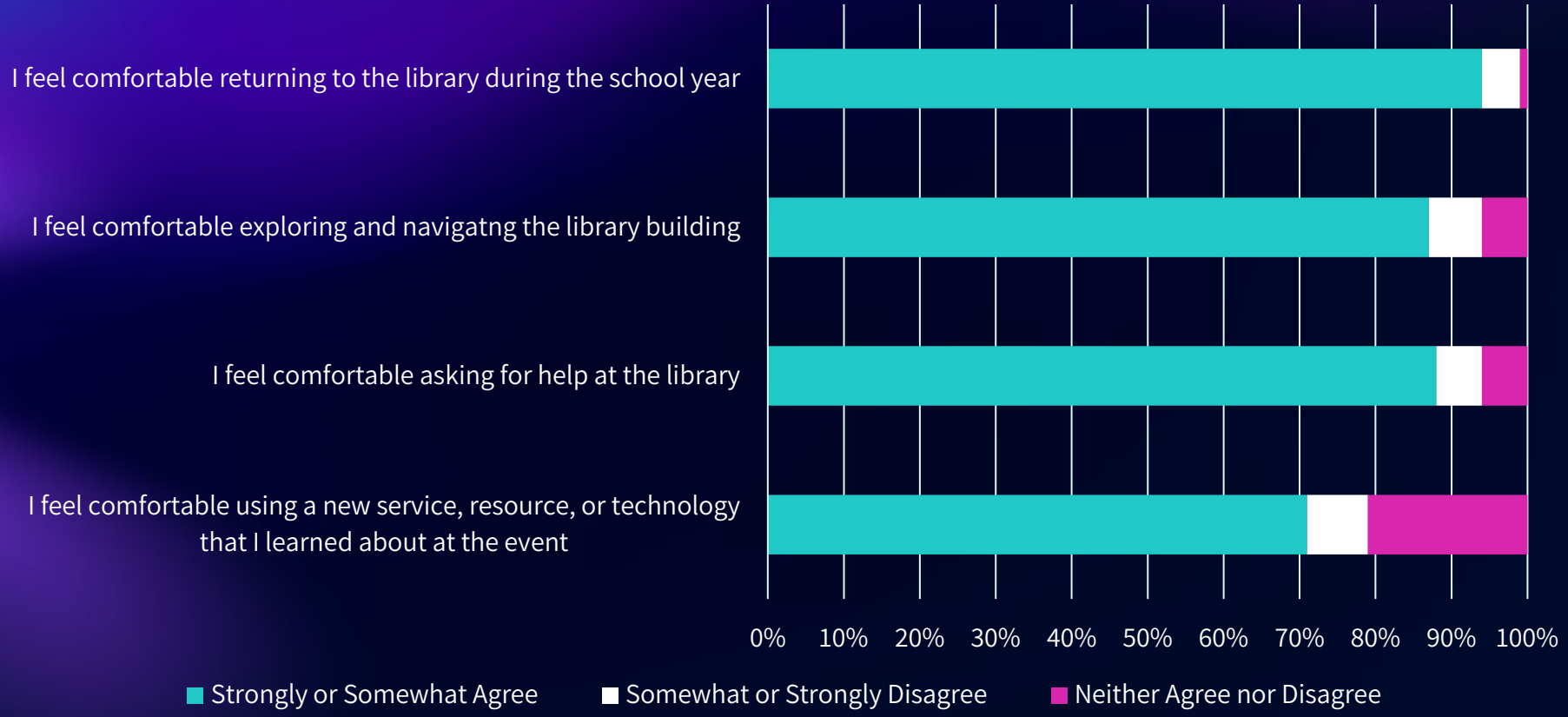
Understand student needs & student-library interaction

Assessment of Event

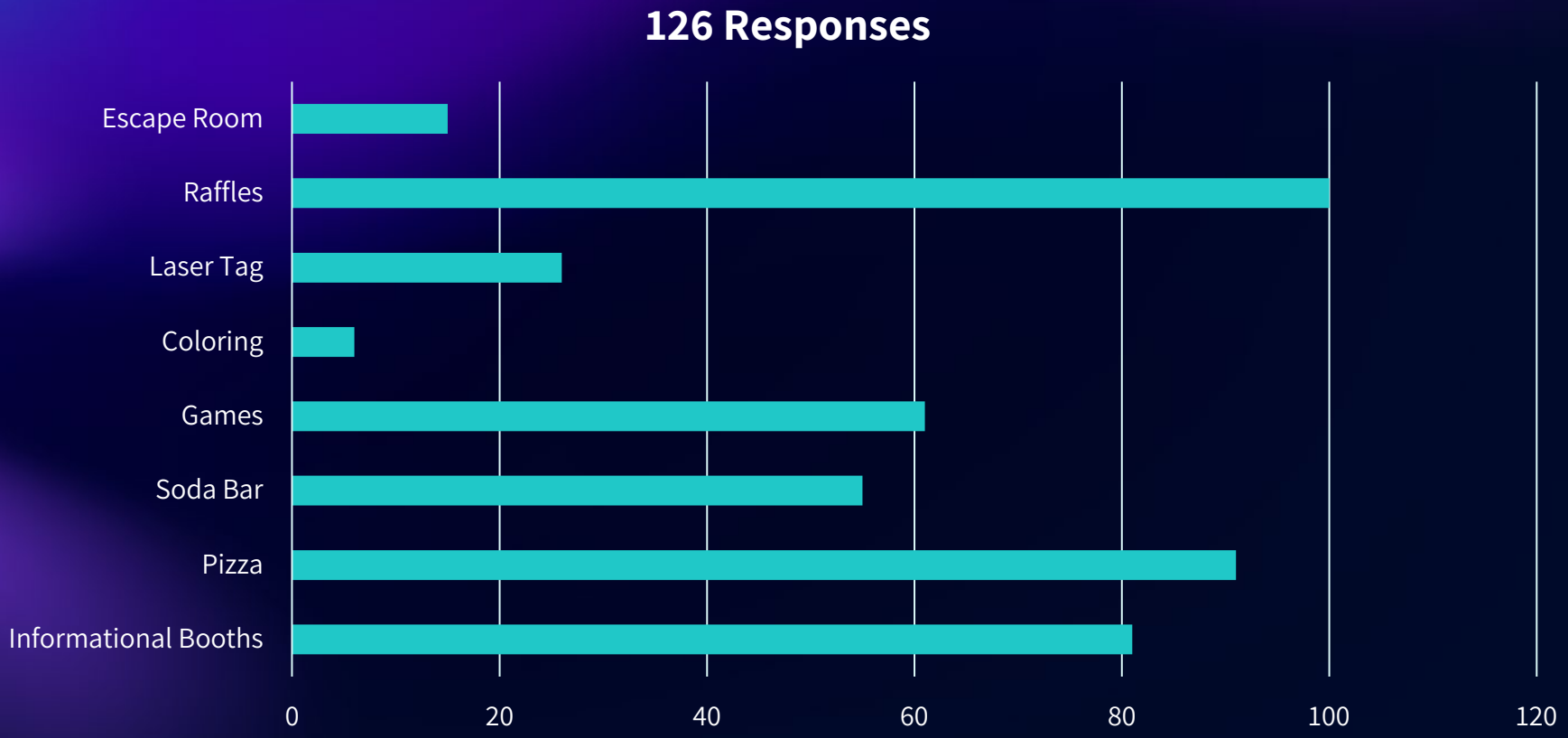
Connections student were invited to complete a survey about the event. **149 students** completed the survey.

- 126 students who attended
- 23 students who did not

Level of Agreement



Student Participation



“It was something you don’t always get to experience at the library”

“I liked how creative it was and how many different activities there were”

96% of student said they would recommend this event to future Connections students.

Challenges

Planning	Coordinating library and campus logistics
Buy - in	Apprehension and roadblocks from library and campus
Funding	Collecting funding from multiple entities

Benefits

Engagement

Belonging

Fun

Future Plans

Increase funding

Library partnerships

Update Logistics

Move booths and reorganize raffle

Assessment

Survey 2023 participants

Thanks!

Do you have any questions?

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01

Name of the Section

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You Could Use Four Columns, Why Not?

Mercury

Mercury is the closest planet to the Sun

Mars

Despite being red, Mars is a cold place

Venus

Venus is the second planet from the Sun

Saturn

Saturn is the ringed one and a gas giant

Introduction

Mercury is the closest planet to the Sun and the smallest one in the Solar System—it’s only a bit larger than the Moon

“This is a quote, words full of wisdom that someone important said and can make the reader get inspired.”

—Someone Famous

The Slide Title Goes Here!

Do you know what helps you make your point clear? Lists like this one:

- They’re simple
- You can organize your ideas clearly
- You’ll never forget to buy milk!

And the most important thing: the audience won’t miss the point of your presentation

You Could Use Four Columns, Why Not?

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Mercury is the closest planet to the Sun

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Despite being red, Mars is a cold place

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Venus is the second planet from the Sun

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Saturn is the ringed one and a gas giant

Maybe You Need to Divide the Content

Mercury

Is the closest planet to the Sun and the smallest one in the Solar System—it’s only a bit larger than the Moon

Venus

Venus has a beautiful name and is the second planet from the Sun and its atmosphere is extremely poisonous

You Could Use Three Columns, Why Not?

Mars

It’s full of iron oxide dust, which gives the planet its reddish cast

Jupiter

It’s a gas giant and also the biggest planet in the Solar System

Saturn

It’s a gas giant, composed mostly of hydrogen and helium

AWESOME WORDS

Because key words are great for catching your audience's attention

02

Name of the Section

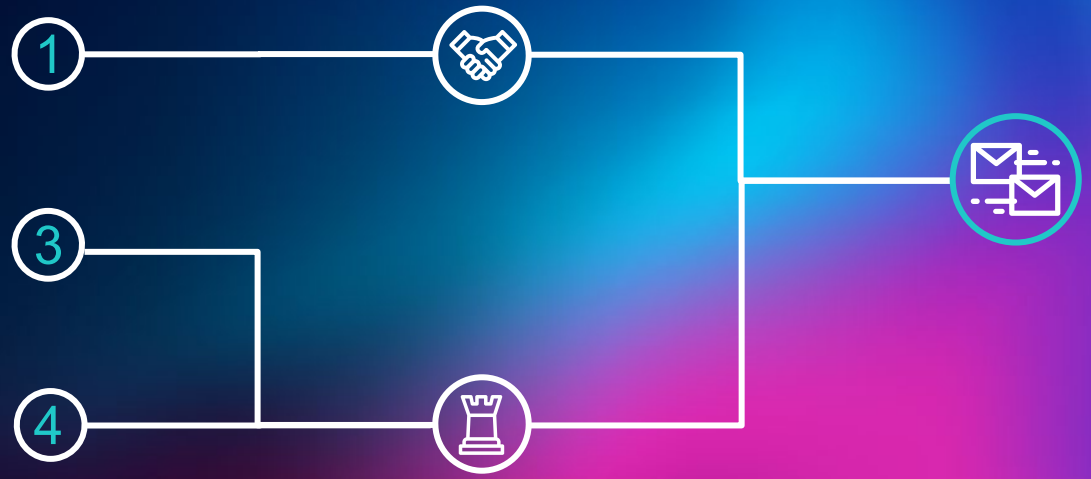
You could enter a subtitle here if you need it

Infographics Make Your Idea Understandable…

Despite being red, Mars is a cold place

Venus has a beautiful name, but is terribly hot

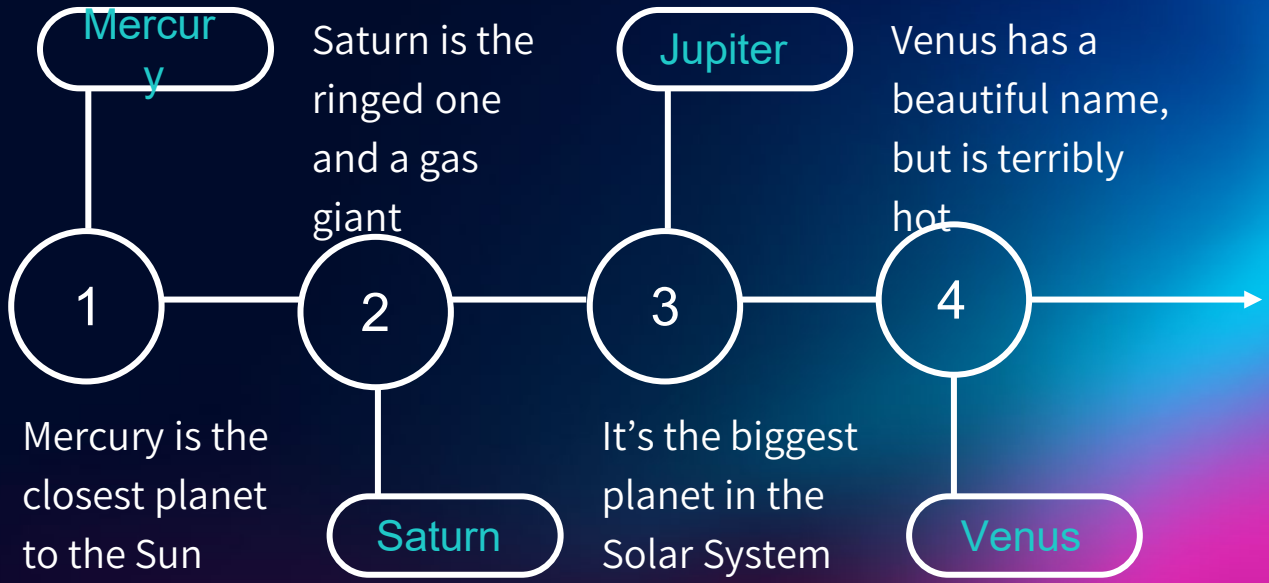
Saturn is the ringed one and a gas giant



… And the Same Goes for Tables

	Mass (Earth)	Diameter (Earth)	Gravity (Earths)
Mercury	0.06	0.38	0.38
Mars	0.11	0.53	0.38
Jupiter	95.2	9.4	1.16

A Timeline Always Works Well



This Is a Map

Mercury

Mercury is the closest planet to the Sun

Venus

Venus is the second planet from the Sun

Jupiter

It’s the biggest planet in the Solar System

Saturn

Saturn is the ringed one and a gas giant

How About the Percentages?

20%

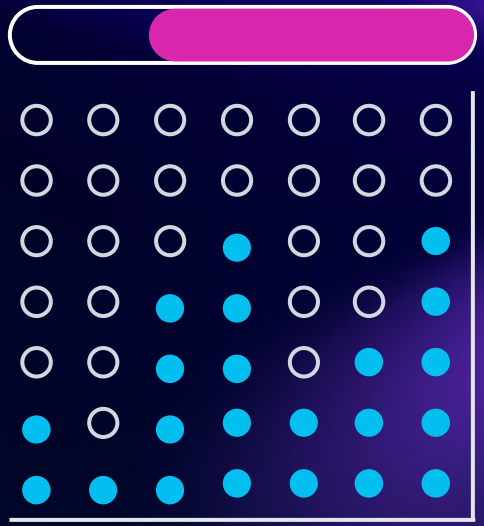
Mercury is the closest planet to the Sun

78%

Venus has a beautiful name, but it’s hot

61%

Despite being red, Mars is a cold place



This Is a Graph

Mercury

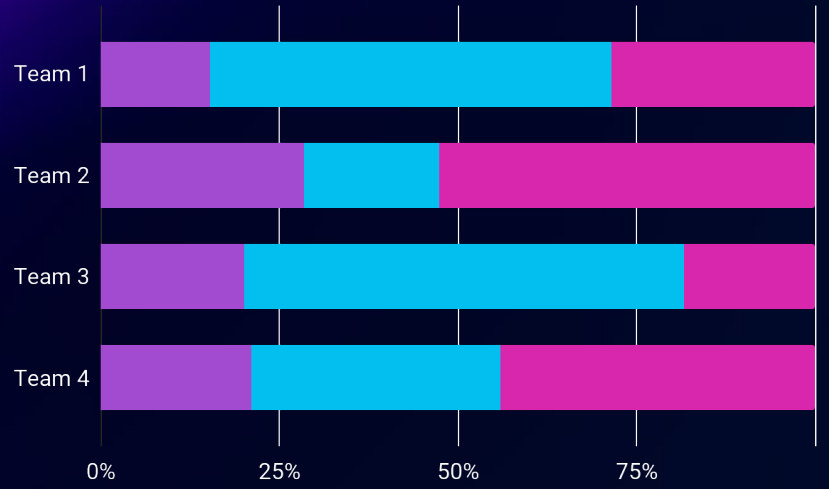
Mercury is the closest planet to the Sun

Jupiter

It’s the biggest planet in the Solar System

Saturn

Saturn is the ringed one and a gas giant



To modify this graph, click on it, follow the link, change the data and paste the new graph here

You Could Use Six Columns

Mercury

Mercury is the closest planet to the Sun

Mars

Despite being red, Mars is a cold place

Venus

Venus is the second planet from the Sun

Neptune

Neptune is the farthest planet from the Sun

Saturn

Saturn is the ringed one and a gas giant

Jupiter

It’s the biggest planet in the Solar System

333,000.00

earths is the Sun’s mass

24h 37m 23s

is Jupiter’s rotation period

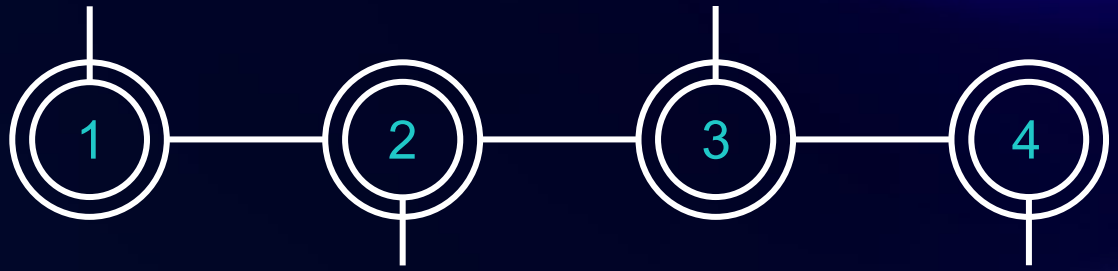
386,000 km

is the distance between Earth and the Moon

A Timeline Always Works Fine

Mercury is the closest planet to the Sun

Despite being red, Mars is a cold place



Neptune is the farthest planet from the Sun

Venus is the second planet from the Sun

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Our Evolution

2005

Mercury is the closest planet to the Sun

1

2008

Despite being red, Mars is a cold place

2

2010

Venus is the second planet from the Sun

3

Our Evolution

2012

Saturn is the ringed one and a gas giant

4

2019

Earth is the planet where we live on

5

And Still Countin g

Alternative Resources

Vector

- Northern lights landing page
- Northern lights landing page
- Northern lights landing page
- Template northern lights landing page
- Northern lights landing page

Resources

Vector

- Northern lights night sky space landing page
- Northern lights landing page
- Abstract design of northern lights landing page
- Northern lights landing page

Photo

- Woman making notes on charts
- Pretty woman writing on chart
- Man and woman coworking with papers

Icon

- Marketing Icon Pack

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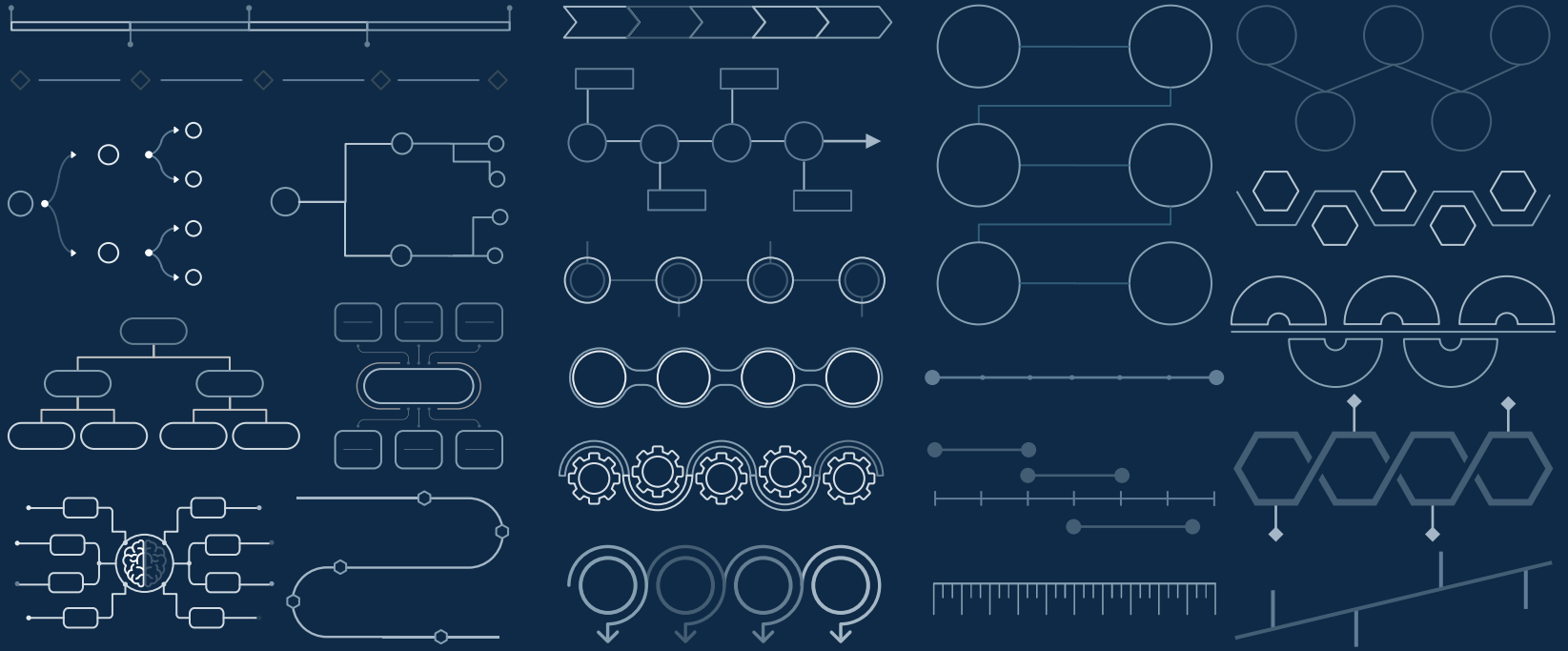

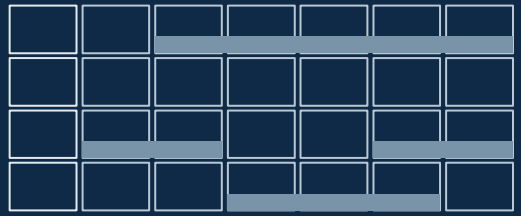

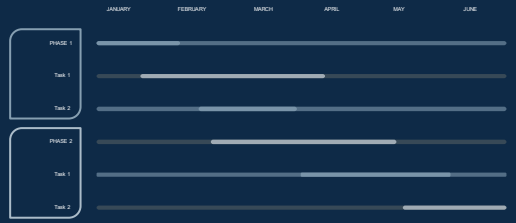
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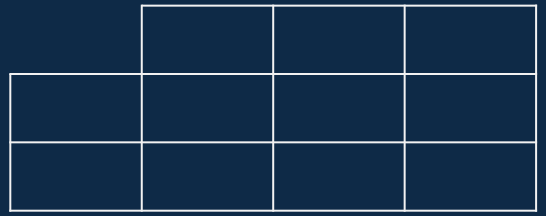

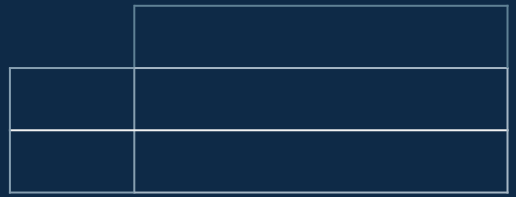

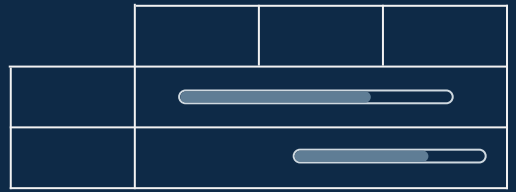

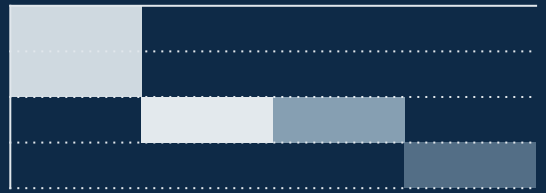

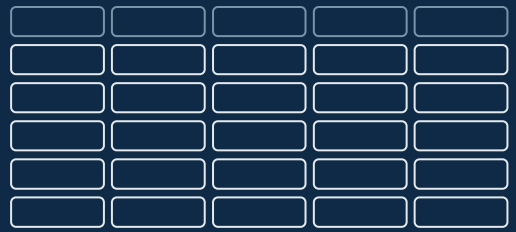

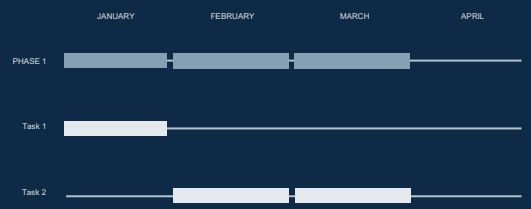
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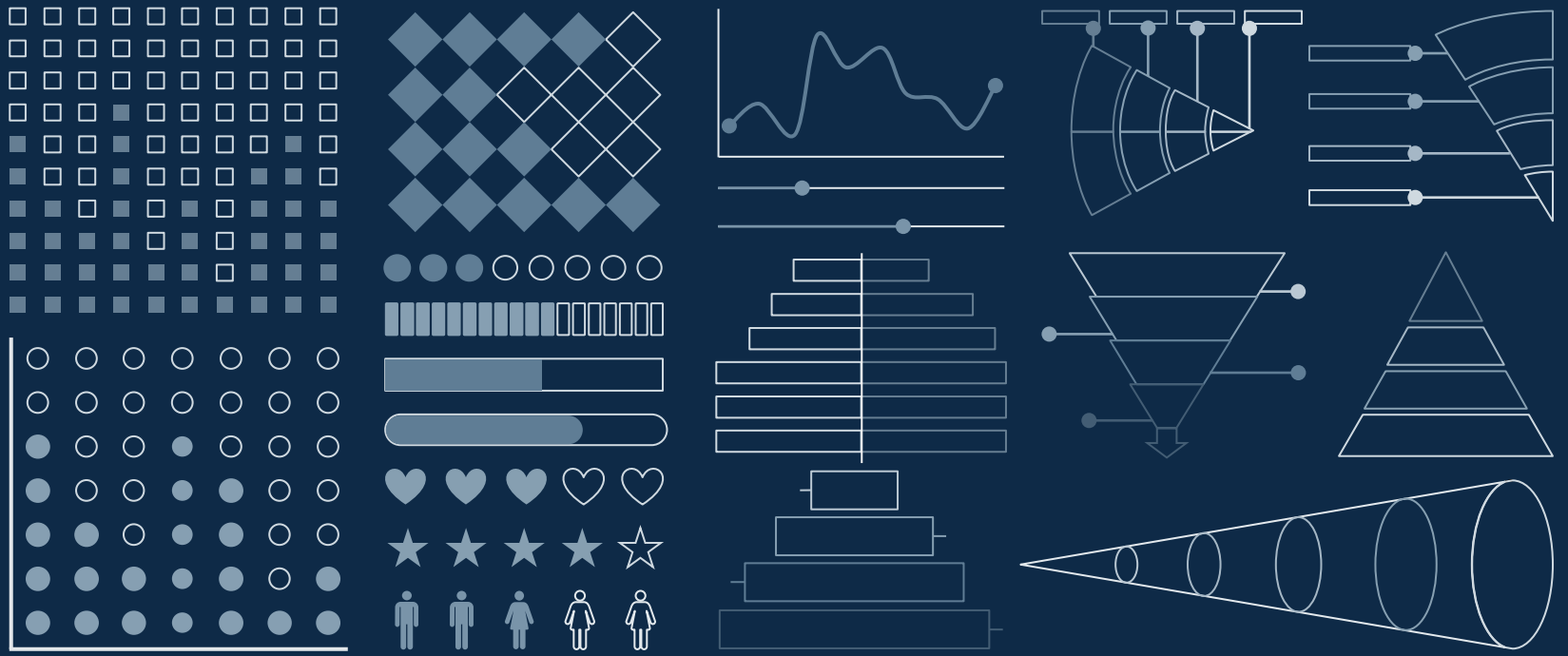
PHASE 1
Task 1
Task 2



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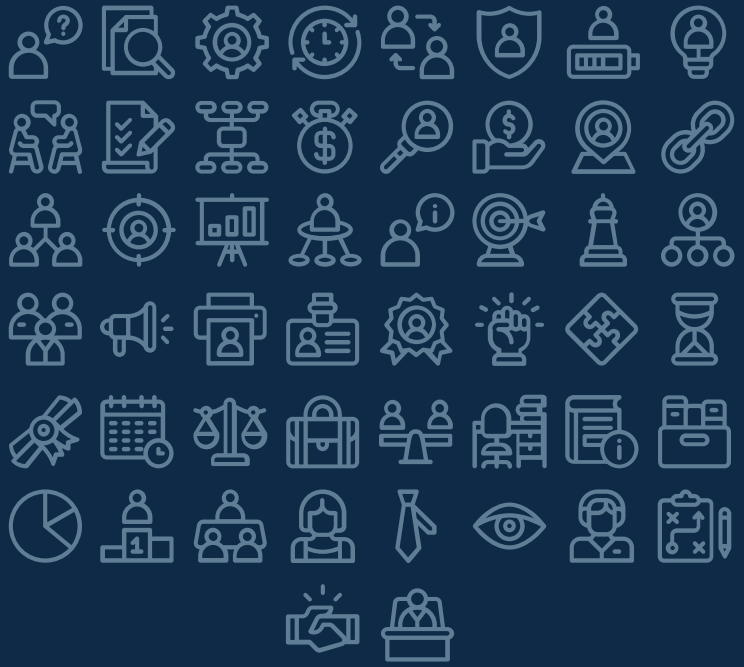
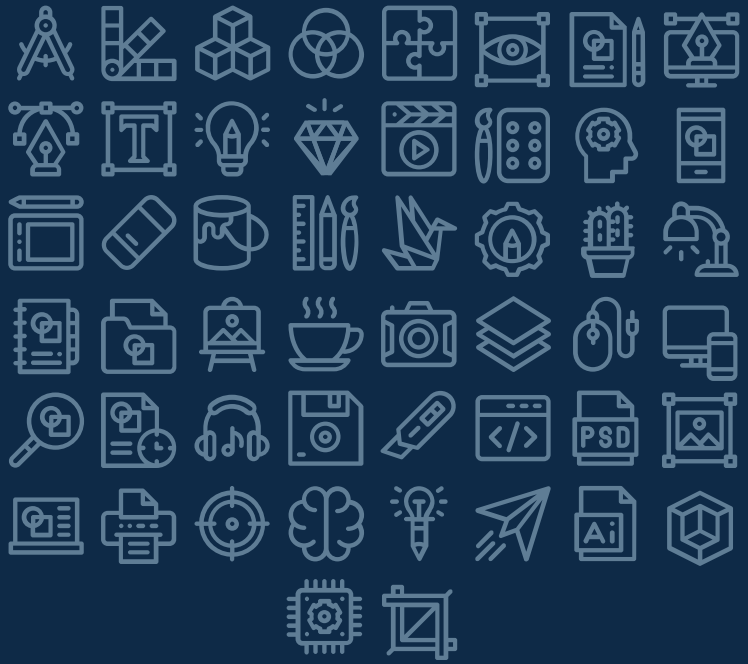


Help & Support Icons

Avatar Icons

Creative Process Icons



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Nature Icons

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