

Canva



Thematic area: Graphic design, storytelling, visual content creation and multimedia development



Game engine: Any



Link: <https://www.canva.com/>



Why & when to use this resource

Canva is an online graphic design platform that allows users to create visual content through an intuitive drag-and-drop interface. It is particularly useful during the design phase of educational game development, where creators need to develop **visual assets, storyboards, characters, infographics, presentations, and promotional materials.**

In the context of educational games, Canva can be used to design **game interfaces, educational infographics, dialogue scenes, maps, badges, certificates, and visual learning materials.** Its extensive template library enables users with no graphic design experience to create professional-looking resources.

Eligible educators and youth workers working with schools or educational institutions may apply for **Canva for Education**, which provides free access to premium features such as advanced templates, multimedia resources, collaboration tools, and classroom-friendly functionalities.

Using Canva helps educators, youth workers, and young people transform educational concepts into engaging visual materials that can later be integrated into Genially, RPG Maker MV, or other game development platforms.



Strengths

- ◆ Easy-to-use drag-and-drop interface.
- ◆ Thousands of free templates and graphic elements.
- ◆ Supports collaborative design.
- ◆ No graphic design experience required.
- ◆ Allows creation of images, presentations, videos, and infographics.
- ◆ Cloud-based and accessible from multiple devices.
- ◆ Useful for creating educational and game-related visual assets.
- ◆ Facilitates teamwork and co-creation.
- ◆ Built-in AI-assisted tools to help generate or edit images, text suggestions and design ideas.



Limitations

- ◆ The free version has limited access to certain assets and features, which require a premium subscription.
- ◆ Internet connection required.
- ◆ Free version has limited access to certain assets.
- ◆ Complex designs may require additional editing tools.
- ◆ Export options may vary depending on account type.
- ◆ Copyright restrictions vary for free and premium assets. Users should always check Canva's licensing terms before exporting or distributing designs containing premium elements.



Tutorial sheet



How to use this tool

Canva can be used to create visual assets for games, including storyboards, character cards, maps, infographics, certificates, dialogue screens and promotional materials. Its template-based approach makes it accessible to beginners and supports collaborative content creation. In the examples, users create the visual identity and storyboard for a game called **"Digital Democracy Quest"**, where players learn about democratic participation and EU values.



Step-by-step guide

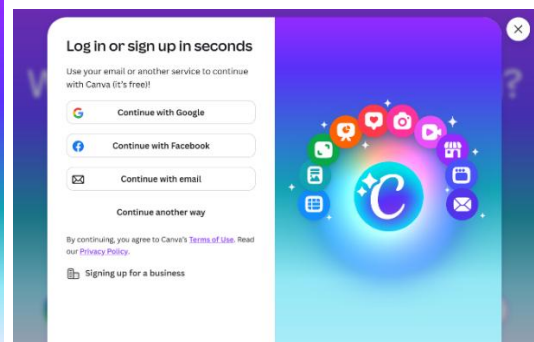
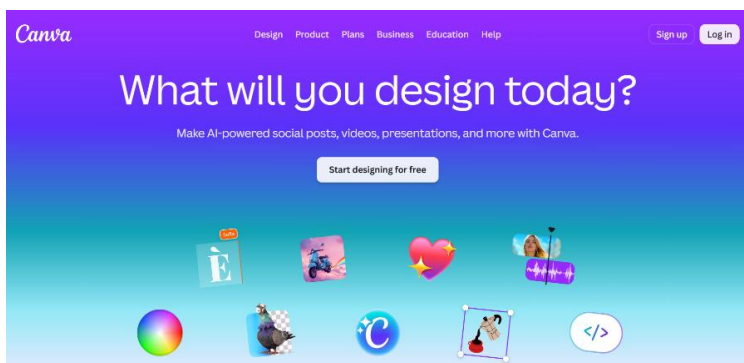
★ STEP 1: Create a Canva account

Visit Canva, click "Sign up" and register using an email address, Google account, Microsoft account, or Apple ID.

Once registered, access the Canva dashboard where all your future educational game projects will be stored.

Creating an account allows you to:

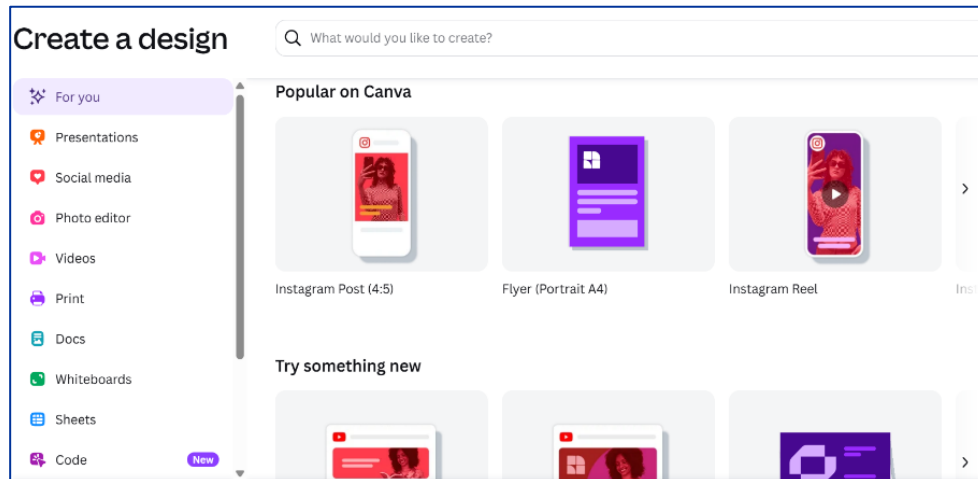
- save all your designs;
- collaborate with colleagues or project partners;
- reuse templates in future projects;
- access your work from different devices.





★ STEP 2: Create a new design

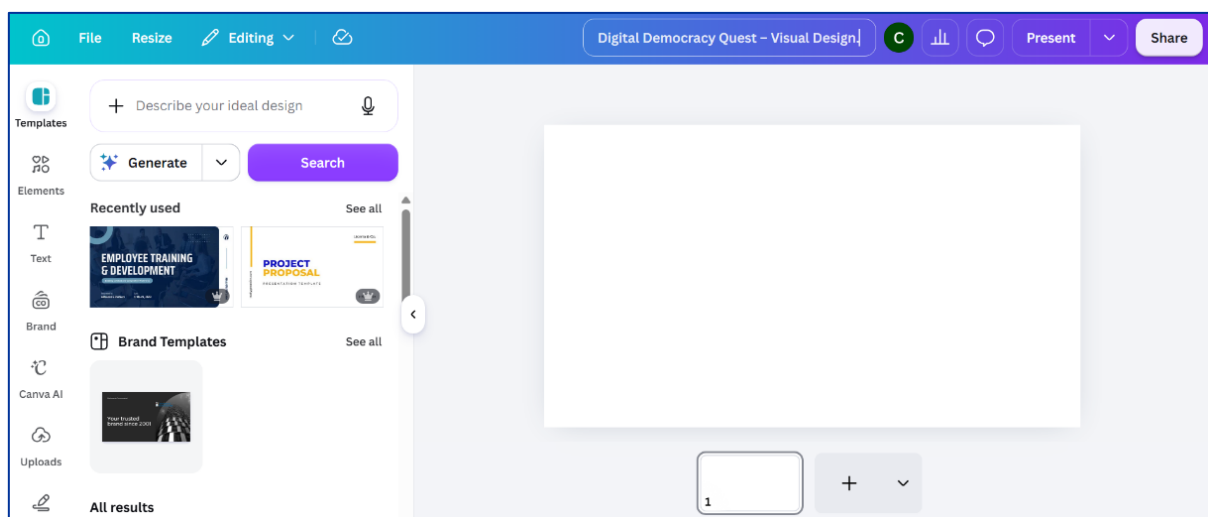
Click on the left "Create a Design" and select the desired format such as Presentation, Poster, Infographic, or Custom Size.



In this case, select **Presentation (16:9)** since this format can later be exported and used as a storyboard or design document for Genially or RPG Maker MV.

Rename your project: **Digital Democracy Quest – Visual Design.**

Creating a dedicated project helps organise all graphical assets that will be produced during game development.



★ STEP 3: Design the game's visual identity

Choose a clean educational template. You can also choose to browse Canva's template library and choose a design suitable for your educational game project.

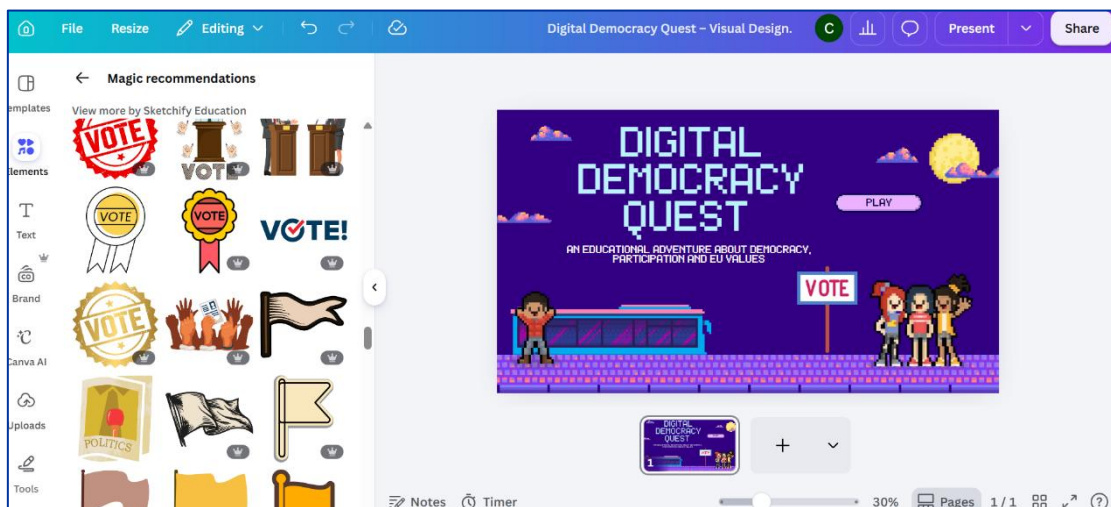


Customise it by adding a title and subtitle: "**Digital Democracy Quest: An educational adventure about democracy, participation and EU values.**"

Insert:

- EU-inspired colour palette (for example blue, yellow, white)
- icons representing voting, dialogue and citizenship
- a simple background representing a European city

This first slide becomes the game's visual identity and cover page.

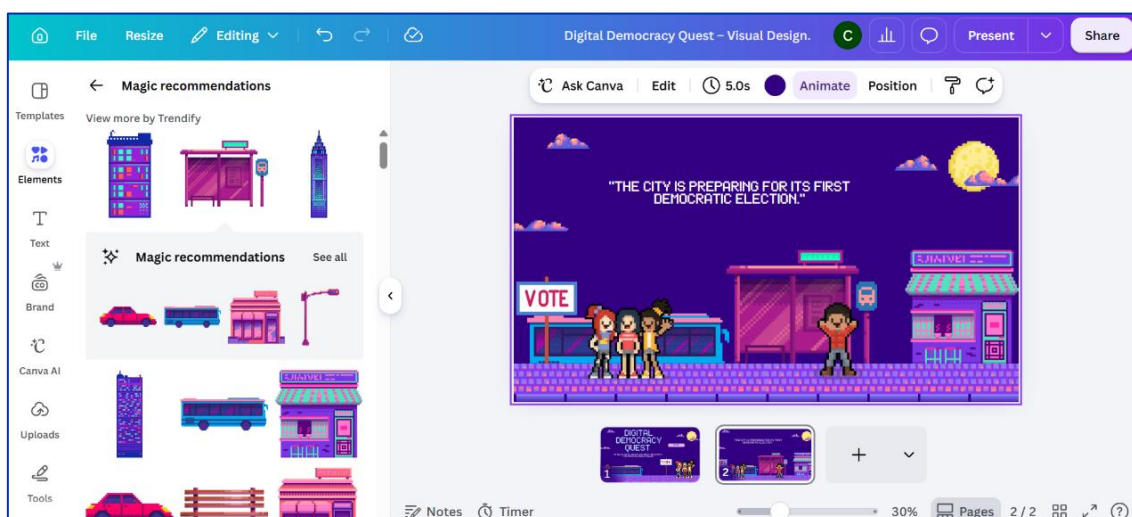


✦ **STEP 4: Create the Storyboard**

Duplicate the first slide. Transform each slide into one scene of the game.

Example: **Scene 1:** Arrival in the city

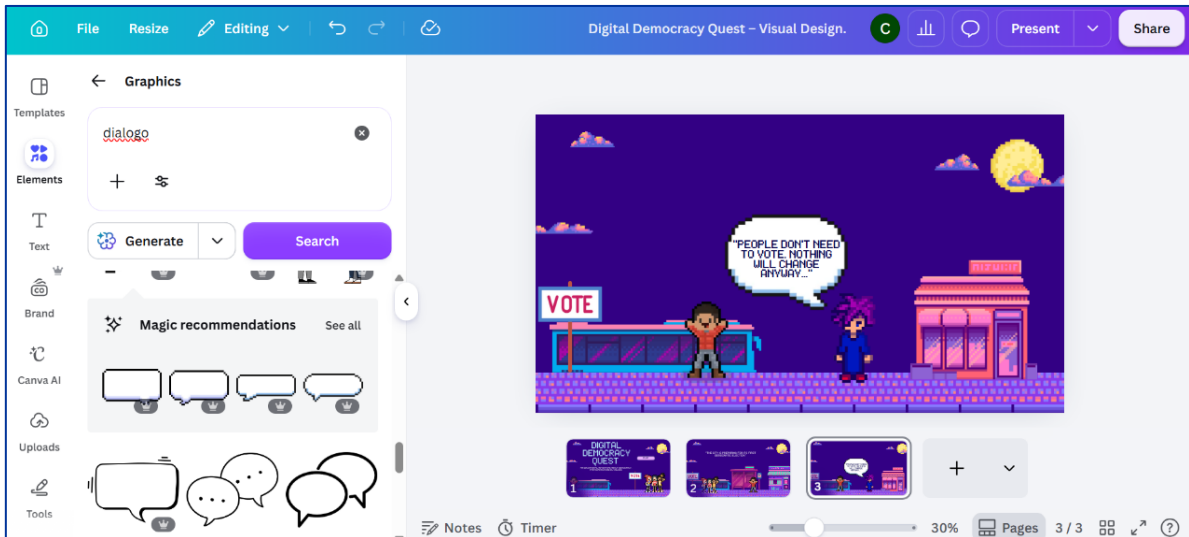
- Image: European town square
- Text: "The city is preparing for its first democratic election."
- Learning objective: Understand why elections matter.





Scene 2: Meet the Manipulator

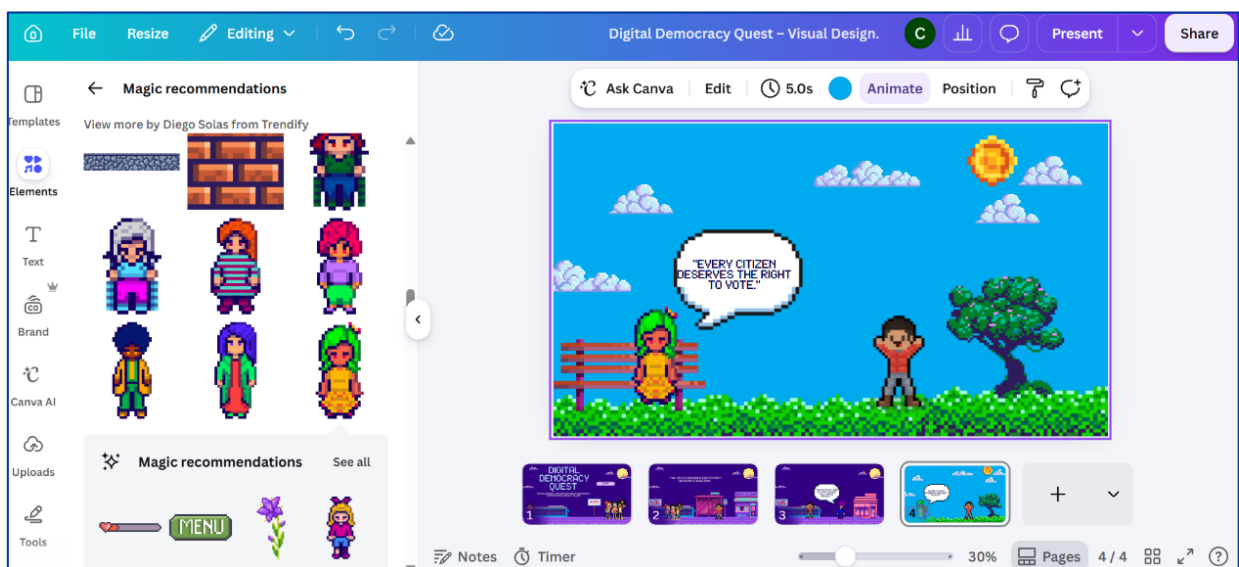
- Image: Shadowy character
- Dialogue: "People don't need to vote. Nothing will change anyway..."
- Learning objective: Recognise misinformation.



Scene 3: Meet the Suffragette

- Image: Historical character
- Dialogue: "Every citizen deserves the right to vote."
- Learning objective: Understand equal voting rights.

The storyboard visually organises the narrative before game development begins.





★ STEP 5: Create game assets

Canva can be used to create a wide variety of visual assets that enhance both the educational and gameplay experience. Organising these assets before development will make it easier to build your game.

Create separate pages or folders for different asset categories, for example:

Character cards

- Main character (hero)
- Supporting characters (NPCs)
- Antagonists
- Historical figures
- Character profile cards

User interface (UI) elements

- Buttons (Start, Continue, Exit, Retry)
- Menus
- Navigation icons
- Dialogue boxes
- Progress bars
- Achievement notifications

Collectable items

- Keys
- Maps
- Letters
- Books
- Badges
- Certificates

Environment & decorative elements

- Backgrounds
- Buildings
- Trees and vegetation
- Furniture
- Street signs
- Decorative objects
- Flags and banners

Educational resources

- Infographics
- Information cards
- Maps
- Timelines

Game icons

- Inventory icons
- Mission icons
- Voting symbols
- Democracy-related icons
- Warning and information symbols

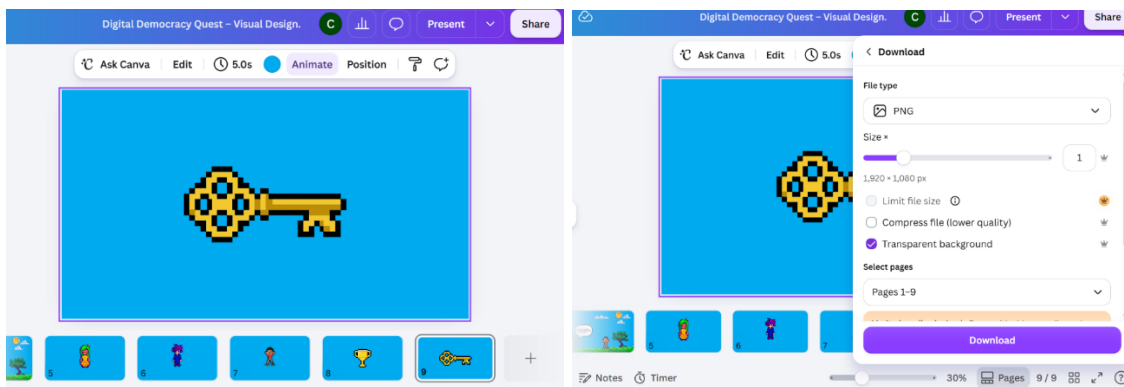


Multimedia & animated assets

Although Canva is not a game animation software, it allows users to create simple animated elements such as:

- Animated titles
- Moving icons
- Animated transitions
- GIFs for interactive presentations

Each asset can be exported as PNG and imported into RPG Maker or Genially.



★ STEP 6: Design an infographic

Create a simple infographic explaining “**How Democracy Works**”

Include: Citizens, Candidates, Campaign, Voting, Vote Counting, Results

Use icons, arrows and colour coding. This infographic could appear inside the educational game as a learning resource.



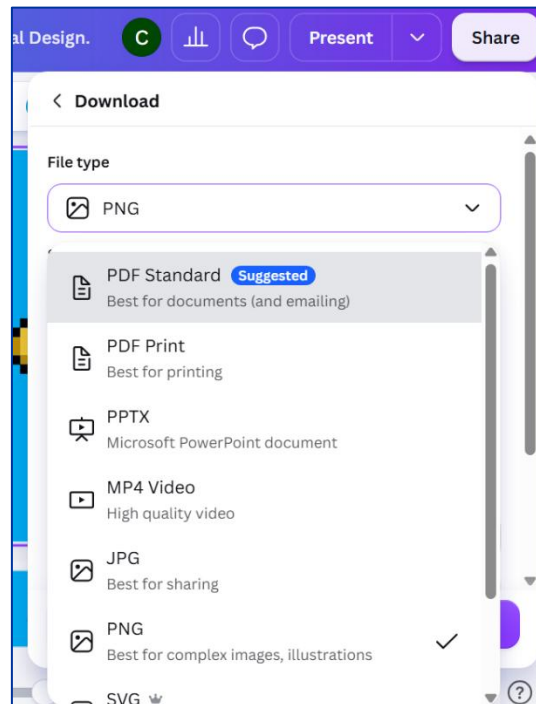


★ STEP 7: Share and export

Click **Share**. Invite collaborators to comment or edit.

Export in PNG, PDF or JPG.

The exported graphics can now be imported into Genially or RPG Maker MV.



Additional learning sources & tutorials

- ◆ Canva Design Platform: <https://www.canva.com>
- ◆ Canva Design School: <https://www.canva.com/designschool>
- ◆ Canva Help Centre: <https://www.canva.com/help>
- ◆ YouTube Canva Tutorials: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V9LrRF6EbyY>



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