

Timing: 1 hour

Level: Ages 15 and up

Introduction to HTML and CSS

Activity Overview

HTML and CSS are a set of best practices used to build web projects. They are web standards, that are constantly evolving and being enhanced to allow a web site to be properly rendered and viewed across browsers and devices. In this activity students will be introduced to and learn about the best practices for using CSS and HTML.

Note: Portions of this activity align to the Adobe Certified Associate objectives. Within the instruction steps and technical guides, the specific learning objectives for the exam(s) are referenced with the following format: ^{1.1}

Activity Objectives

Design skills

- Learning basic HTML
- Understanding CSS

Project Assets

- *Presentation:* Introduction to HTML and CSS ^{2.1, 4.1}
- *Guide:* Introduction to HTML and CSS ^{2.1, 4.1}

Background preparation resources

[Technical and content information](#)

[ISTE NETS*S Standards for Students](#)

[Adobe Certified Associate objectives](#)

Activity Steps

1. Introduce students to the activity by discussing the following:
 - HTML and CSS are a set of best practices for building web projects.
 - HTML and CSS are web standards that are constantly evolving and being enhanced.
 - HTML5 is the fifth iteration of HTML and is considered the future standard for supporting interactive media across browsers and devices.
2. Using your school website, or another of your choice, open the site in a web browser, select Source (or Page Source) from the View menu, and show students the source code. Using the *Introduction to HTML and CSS* presentation and guide [2.1, 4.1](#), briefly explain what HTML is and how it works. Briefly explain Cascading Style Sheets and why it is important to use CSS when creating designs. Explain that HTML provides the *structure* of the page and CSS the (visual and aural) *layout* of a page. Discuss why separating content (the HTML code and tags) from presentation (the CSS rules) is important and allows for easy maintenance and updating of a web site.
3. Briefly demonstrate what tags to include on every HTML document (<HTML>, <HEAD>, <TITLE>, <BODY>) [4.1, 5.6](#) Identify whether HTML5 is being used, and if so, identify DOCTYPE, character sets, and semantic marker tags.
4. Briefly discuss the importance of CSS as follows: [2.1](#)
 - Simplifies text formatting
 - Enables design of consistent-looking pages
 - Enables site-wide changes
 - Enables responsive designs for websites
5. Briefly discuss best practices for using CSS and introduce the three main types of CSS styles: Class, Tag, and ID. [2.1](#) Using the source code, show students where and how CSS was used on the school's website.
6. Now that your students have an understanding of CSS and HTML ask student groups to look up a different website of their choosing and identify the tags and CSS styles used and what each does in rendering the web page. Ask the groups to present their findings to the class or document them to be handed in.
Note: You can also ask them to identify prefixes and includes.
7. Explain the importance of using HTML and CSS web standards when building web projects and encourage students to research and stay abreast of new uses of HTML and CSS (like HTML5 and CSS3) as they continue working in web design.

Background preparation resources:

- To view video tutorials aligned with the skills required to complete this project, visit Adobe TV: <http://tv.adobe.com>
- For more teaching and learning resources on the topics in this project, search for resources from the community on the Adobe Education Exchange: <http://edex.adobe.com/>

HTML

- HTML Primer: www.htmlprimer.com
- W3C HTML5 specifications: www.w3.org/html/wg/drafts/html/master/single-page.html

- HTML5 differences from HTML4: www.w3.org/TR/html5-diff/
- What are web standards and why should I care? (an article defining web standards and the role of HTML5 and CSS3 in implementing them): <http://www.adobe.com/inspire/2012/04/what-are-web-standards.html>

CSS

- Basic and advanced techniques of Cascading Style Sheets: the CSS Technology Center at www.adobe.com/devnet/dreamweaver/css.html
- CSS Zen Garden. A demonstration of what can be accomplished through CSS-based design: www.csszengarden.com/
- W3C CSS home page: www.w3.org/Style/CSS/

ISTE NETS*S Standards for Students

This project is aligned to the ISTE NETS*S Technology Standards. Depending on the subject and content area the student selects you may research your own state content standards to see how this project aligns to your state requirements.

ISTE NETS*S: Curriculum and Content Area Standards – NETS for Students:

6. Technology Operations and Concepts
 - Students demonstrate a sound understanding of technology concepts, systems, and operations.
 - Students:
 - a. understand and use technology systems.

Adobe Certified Associate Exam Objectives

Adobe Certified Associate, Web Authoring objectives

- 2.1 Demonstrate general and Dreamweaver-specific knowledge of best practices for designing a website, such as maintaining consistency, separating content from design, using standard fonts, and utilizing visual hierarchy.
- 4.1 Demonstrate knowledge of Hypertext Markup Language
- 5.6 Use basic HTML tags to set up and HTML document, format text, add links, create tables, and build ordered and unordered lists.

For more information

Find more teaching materials for using Adobe software in your classroom on the Adobe Education Exchange: <http://edex.adobe.com/>.



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