

## Introducing Tables

- A **table** in HTML is created using the `<table>` element and can be used to represent information that exists in a two-dimensional grid.
- Tables can be used to display calendars, financial data, pricing tables, and many other types of data.
- Just like a real-world table, an HTML table can contain any type of data: not just numbers, but text, images, forms, even other tables.

### Basic Table Structure

- HTML `<table>` contains any number of rows `<tr>`.
- Each row contains any number of table data cells `<td>`.
- Many tables will contain some type of headings in the first row. In HTML, you indicate header data by using the `<th>` instead of the `<td>` element, as shown in Figure 4.3.
- Browsers tend to make the content within a `<th>` element bold, but you could style it anyway you would like via CSS.
- The main reason you should use the `<th>` element is not, however, due to presentation reasons. Rather, you should also use the `<th>` element for accessibility reasons and for search engine optimization reasons.
- Some browsers do not by default display borders for the table; however, we can do so via CSS.
- All content must appear within the `<td>` or `<th>` container.
- Each row must have the same number of `<td>` or `<th>` containers.

### Spanning Rows and Columns

If you want a given cell to cover several columns or rows, then you can do so by using the **colspan** or **rowspan** attributes (Figure 4.4).

Title	Artist	Year	Size (width x height)	
The Death of Marat	Jacques-Louis David	1793	162cm	128cm
Burial at Ornans	Gustave Courbet	1849	314cm	663cm

  

```

<table>
<tr>
  <th>Title</th>
  <th>Artist</th>
  <th>Year</th>
  <th colspan="2">Size (width x height)</th>
</tr>
<tr>
  <td>The Death of Marat</td>
  <td>Jacques-Louis David</td>
  <td>1793</td>
  <td>162cm</td>
  <td>128cm</td>
</tr>
...
</table>

```

Notice that this row now only has four cell elements.

FIGURE 4.4 Spanning columns