**Study Guide 1 - Intro to Canvas Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Due:** Start of class, second meeting of week 2. Submit this DOC and the zipped source files. Answer the questions and fill in the blanks. Late submissions will not be accepted.

• The <canvas> tag defines an area on the page that we can draw into using a procedural drawing API. This bitmap drawing API has methods for drawing lines, paths, rectangles, arcs, circles, curves, and text.

• The canvas drawing API allows a developer to create Flash-like games and experiences without using the Flash SDK and with no need for a browser plug-in.

• The canvas API is focused on drawing, and is fairly lightweight. The full specification is here: <http://www.w3.org/TR/2dcontext/>

• Our free canvas “textbook” is located here: <https://developer.apple.com/library/safari/documentation/AudioVideo/Conceptual/HTML-canvas-guide/Introduction/Introduction.html>

• Apple invented canvas in 2004 as a way to add customized dashboard widgets to OS X. It has since been adopted by all major browsers and is supported by the current versions of Chrome, Firefox, Internet Explorer (8>), Konquerer, and Opera.

• We will mostly be using Chrome in class because it is cross-platform, ubiquitous, and has a built-in debugger.

• You can check the canvas compatibility of your browser at these sites:

[http://caniuse.com/#feat=canvas](http://caniuse.com/)

[https://html5test.com](https://html5test.com/)

**I. About Canvas**

* Read the “At a glance” section under *About Canvas*

A. **You can add a Canvas element with a few lines of code**

(*no answer required* - we’ll do this in the next section)

B. **There are Methods for Drawing** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*You draw shapes other than rectangles by creating a path, adding line segments, curves, or arcs, and closing the path. Begin a path using beginPath(). Set the starting point, or start a discontinuous subpath, by calling the moveTo(x, y) method. The closePath() method draws a line from the current endpoint to the starting point of the path, creating a closed shape.*

**The path is not actually drawn until you \_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

*Close the path, and then either call the "stroke()" and/or "fill()" function*

**Canvas supports matrix transforms—anything you draw can be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

*Can be maniputlated and transformed on the canvas*

C. **It’s Easy To Include** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Just add a '<canvas>' tag in your html, and add content using javascript with documnet.querySelecter('canvas'); and [canvas].getContext('2d');*

D. **You Can Also Render** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Videos, Text, and Graphics*

E. **Canvas is Great for InfoGraphics** - give examples:

You can display intereactive charts and graph with data in them. Instead of static images you can allow the user to hover and see detailed information about the content.

F. **Canvas Can Create Fast, Lightweight Animations**.

(*no answer required -* note: Apple’s examples use setInterval() for animation - we’ll instead be using requestAnimationFrame() in our examples)

G. **You Can Manipulate Pixels Directly for Image Processing** - give examples:

You can place an image on a canvas, then you can loop through and access the pixel data. After you have the pixel data you can determine how you want to manipulate it by setting the pixels on the canvas, by drawing 1\*1 rectangles.

H. **Make Games That Play on Desktop and iOS Devices**.

(or Android, Blackberry, Windows, … - *no answer required* )

I. **The Web Inspector Provides Built-in JavaScript Debugging**

To access the Web Inspector on Chrome and Safari, right-click in the browser window and select “Inspect Element” to bring up the debugger. On Safari, you’ll first have to Choose **Safari > Preferences > Advanced** and check the “Show Develop in menu bar” box.

*no answer required*

J. **Export to Canvas is Possible from Illustrator or Flash**

*no answer required*

**II. Setting Up the Canvas**

1) Read over the “Setting Up the Canvas” section - the following steps are listed:

- Start by Adding a <canvas> Tag

- Specify the Fallback Behavior

- Create a Drawing Context

- Support Retina Displays from the Start

(a good practice, but we’re not going to worry about this in the course)

* Save and Restore the Context

(we’ll get into this soon)

2) Your first canvas App:

The canvas drawing API allows a developer to create interactive experiences and games without the need for a browser plug-in.

You need to do the following to get started drawing in canvas on an HTML page:

* Wait for the HTML page to load
* Get a reference to the <canvas> tag on the page
* Get a reference to the “drawing context”, which is the 2D drawing API we use to do the actual drawing.
* Start issuing drawing commands!

Here is a simple example (see mycourses for **sg-1.html**):

<!DOCTYPE html>

<html lang="en">

<head>

<meta charset="utf-8" />

<title>Canvas 1</title>

<script>

"use strict";

// #1

window.onload = init;

function init(){

// #2

var canvas = document.querySelector('canvas');

// #3

var ctx = canvas.getContext('2d');

/\* #4 - start drawing! \*/

// draw filled square

ctx.fillStyle = "red";

// ctx.fillRect(x,y,width,height);

ctx.fillRect(20,20,100,100);

}

</script>

</head>

<body>

<canvas id="canvas" width="750" height="500">

Get a browser that supports Canvas!

</canvas>

</body>

</html>

Go ahead an load this example in the browser so you can see the exciting red square on the screen. Note that (0,0) is in the upper-left corner of the screen. x-values get larger as you move to the right, and y-values get larger as you move down the screen.



The **sg-1.html** example that’s posted to mycourses has additional JS code that you can uncomment and see more drawing examples.

Before you move on, go get this file and play with it now. Uncomment the remaining code section-by-section and experiment:

* change the x/y/width/height values,
* change the .fillStyle and .strokeStyle values
* change the startAngle and endAngle values

to see what happens.

Also note that .strokeText() strokes the outline of the text with the current .strokeStyle, and .fillText() fills the text with the current .fillStyle You can use these together to get some nice effects.

Here’s the default version:

3) For the following, modify the **sg-1.html** example file to get the answer (first comment out all of the drawing code under step #4).

For your answers, assume that you already have a variable named ctx that points at the drawing context. Note: The squares only require 1 or 2 lines of code, the circles will require a few more.

A. Write code that will **fill** a black 50x50 square at (0,0)

*ctx.fillStyle = "black";*

*ctx.fillRect(0, 0, 50, 50);*

B. Write code that will **fill** a purple 50x50 square at (300,300)

*ctx.fillStyle = "purple";*

*ctx.fillRect(300, 300, 50, 50);*

C. Write code that will **stroke** a purple 50x50 square at (300,300)

*ctx.strokeStyle = "purple;*

*ctx.rect(300, 300, 50, 50);*

*ctx.stroke();*

D. Write code that will **stroke** a 5 pixel thick green line between (0,100) and (100,500)

*ctx.strokeStyle = "green"'*

*ctx.lineWidth = 5;*

*ctx.beginPath();*

*ctx.moveTo(0, 100);*

*ctx.lineTo(100, 500);*

*ctx.closePath();*

*ctx.stroke();*

E. Write code to **fill** a black circle at (0,0) that has a radius of 50 pixels.

*ctx.fillStyle = "black";*

*ctx.beginPath();*

*ctx.arc(0, 0, 50, Math.PI \* 2, false);*

*ctx.closePath();*

*ctx.fill();*

F. Write code to **fill** a yellow semi-circle (180 degrees ie. Math.PI radians) at (200,200) that has a radius of 100 pixels.

*ctx.fillStyle = "yellow";*

*ctx.beginPath();*

*ctx.arc(200, 200, 100, Math.PI, false);*

*ctx.closePath();*

*ctx.fill();*

G. What are the default colors for .fillStyle and .strokeStyle if you don’t specify them?

*Black '#000000'*

H. Try giving .fillStyle a non-existent CSS value for a color like “pukegreen” - what color do you get instead?

*Black '#000000'*

I. What is the default value of .lineWidth if you don’t specify a value?

*1*

J. Check the console tab in the web inspector - why is “init() called” being logged later than “In the bottom of the <script> tag” even though “init() called” appears first in the source code?

*Because a function isn't run until a function is called, so the script is read in first. Then it waits until a function is called to run. So the bottom log is called first because it isn't in a function*

K. What is the default height and width of the <canvas> tag if you don’t specify a value (use google or the Web Inspector to find out)

*300 width, 150 Height*

**III. More above the Canvas API**

* Read over **Set the Stroke and Fill Styles**:

A. Color can be specified in all of the usual CSS ways - give the .fillStyle color for white in each format below :

i) CSS Keyword: ctx.fillStyle = "white";

ii) Longhand hexadecimal:

#FFFFFF

iii) Shorthand hexadecimal:

#FFF

iv) RGB percentage:

rgb(1.0, 1.0, 1.0);

v) RGB value:

rgb(255, 255, 255);

vi) RGBa value:

rgba(255, 255, 255, 1.0);

*Note that a gradient or pattern can also be used for* .fillStyle *and* .strokeStyle *values. HSL and HSLA values are also supported:* [*http://www.w3schools.com/cssref/css\_colors\_legal.asp*](http://www.w3schools.com/cssref/css_colors_legal.asp)

2) Read over **Drawing Rectangles**:

List the 3 rectangle methods below:

*fillRect(x, y, width, height);*

*strokeRect(x, y, width, height);*

*clearRect()*

*There’s also a 4th one,* rect()*, that creates a rectangle path without filling or stroking it. We’ll get into that one later.*

3) Read over **Paths and Subpaths**

A. You draw shapes other than rectangles by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Using lineTo creating lines for you shape*

B. Calling stroke() or fill() \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Will either stoke the path that you created or fill the inside area of the path you created*

C. A path ends when you call closePath() or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*You call strok() or fill()*

Apple mysteriously left out illustrative example code, so here’s some:

This code drew a parallelogram with side lengths of 200 and 100 units. Note that the stroke goes outside the boundaries of the path. Also note that if you change the order of the .fill() and .stroke() calls, you will get different results.

4) Skip down to **Drawing Arcs and Circles**:

arc(x,y,radius,startAngle,endAngle)

* What do x and y represent? (note that this is different from the rectangle methods)

*The position of the center of the arc*

B) Are angle values specified in *degrees* or *radians*?

*Radians*

C) By default, which way is the arc drawn, *clockwise* or *counter-clockwise*?

*Clockwise*

5. A little review - write a line of code:

* that sets the current fill color to green  
  fillStyle = "green"
* that sets the current stroke color to purple  
  strokeStyle = "purple"
* that sets the stroke width to 20  
  lineWidth = 20;
* that sets the current font to courier  
  font = "courier"
* that clears an entire <canvas> that is 640 x 480

clearRect(0, 0, 640, 480);

F. Lastly, where is 0,0 located in the canvas coordinate system?

*The top left corner*

**IV. Make something!**

HW! - worth 10 points

Create a scene with a “smiley face”:

* 4 arcs
* a horizon line (a line)
* and a tree (a path with 3 points plus a line for a trunk).
* The Smiley face is black and yellow. The tree is brown and green. See the first example and hints below - it doesn’t have to look exactly like mine.
* Be sure things are drawn in the right order (ex. The horizon line should be behind everything else). Canvas uses the “painters model” where new drawing is drawn on top of and obscures (or partially obscures) old drawing.

**Hint I:** My example canvas is 750 x 500

<canvas width="750" height="500">

Get a browser that supports Canvas!

</canvas>

**Hint II:** Here’s the code for the oval of the face:

var canvas = document.querySelector('canvas');

// get pointer to "drawing context" and drawing API

var ctx = canvas.getContext('2d');

// set state variables

ctx.fillStyle = "yellow";

ctx.strokeStyle = “black”;

ctx.lineWidth = 5;

// start drawing

ctx.beginPath();

// ctx.arc(x,y,radius,startAngle,endAngle, clockwise)

ctx.arc(375, 250, 200, 0, Math.PI\*2, false);

ctx.closePath();

// fill inside of arc with yellow

ctx.fill();

// stroke outside of arc with black

ctx.stroke();

**Hint III:** If nothing is getting drawn, check the debugger console for errors!

**ExtraCredit** - 1 point each - max grade 15/10

- Make the “sky” a skyish color - - use ctx.fillRect();

- Make the “ground” a groundish color - - use ctx.fillRect();

- Other elements? See examples above for ideas

**V. Submission**

This SG is worth 2 HW assignments.

1) ZIP up your smiley file and submit it to the mycourses dropbox - you can earn up to 15/10 points on this first assignment if you do the extra credit.

2) Post this study guide to the dropbox - this counts as the second assignment.

