

Getting started with Background Images

What would the web be without images? A big pile of boring content. That's it! In this lesson, I will get you started with background images in CSS.

In this section we will take a deep look at background images and the vast array of options CSS has for us. This is one fun section!

The first question in your mind is perhaps, how do I set an image as the background of an element?

Pretty easy.

For some of the examples in this lesson, I'll be using these two images.



300px * 167px

1260px x 700px



Two images. The same image, but of different sizes. One small, the other, quite large.

That being said consider the markup below:

```
1
2 <div class="bg">
3 </div>
4
```

Give the `.bg` class a background-image like so:

```
1 .bg {
2   background-image: url('')
3 }
```

And here comes the explanation 🖱️

The `background-image` property

The `background-image` property is the required property for setting a background image. It's value is equal to `url()`. Where the `url` will hold the path to the image.


See the output below:

HTML CSS Output

CSS

output

```
1
2
3
4
5 .bg {
6   height: 100vh;
7   background-image: url("https://stat
8 }
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
```



20
21



In the example above, I have used the larger kittens image. You'll notice that the image is cut off. i.e the whole extent of the image isn't displayed.

This is because the image is way larger than the available screen size. Hence, the portion of the image that couldn't be contained within the section was cut off.

What if we used the smaller image? Here's the result.

HTML

CSS

Output

```
1 .bg {  
2   height: 100vh;  
3   background-image: url("http://i.imgur.com/...");  
4 }  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21
```

CSS

output



What just happened?

Take a look at the code above. Nothing has changed. Except the `url` now points to the smaller image.

Now you see the following vital behaviour of background images 

The Default Behaviour of Backgrounds

1. By default, background images are repeated when they cannot fill up the available space.

i.e. if the background image applied is small, the image will be repeated multiple times till the available width and height is contained. This explains why the images are tiled in the second example.

2. When backgrounds are repeated, they are repeated from left-to-right, and top-to-bottom.

3. By default, if the image is too large, it gets cut off.

CSS is pretty smart.

So, in the next lesson we'll see how to have full control over what goes on with background images.

See ya!