Sizing Backgrounds Using Keywords

There are two keywords for sizing backgrounds. "contain" and "cover". Let's see how they work.

In one of the first examples in this section, we used a large background image within a smaller element.

The result was that the image got cut off. What if we didn't want this behavior ?

Here's the example again.

Output
HTML
CSS (SCSS)

This time we'll size the background image using these keywords. Like this:

```
background-size: contain
```

Alright, do it yourself.

In the playground above, write:

```
background-size: contain
```

what effect does this have?

Also, go ahead and change the declaration to this:

```
background-size: cover
```

In both cases, observe the results.

What do you notice?

Go ahead, I'll wait.

Here's what you must have noticed.

`cover` will **cover** the entire space required while keeping the aspect ratio of the image. Most times this will suffice.

`contain` will **contain** the entire image within the space required. If more space is left, the background will be repeated.

The great thing is, on resizing your browser, the background image will be dynamically updated too.

NB In both keywords, `contain` and `cover`, the aspect ratio of the image is kept intact.

Conclusion

Having trouble understanding any concepts discussed in this lesson?

Go ahead and try your hand at the playground above. You'll learn better by doing.

In the next lesson, we'll see another way to size your backgrounds.