Why we traverse

Setting the scene

Lets say you're chilling at home, minding your own business. You open the pantry, wanting a brew of freshly ground coffee.

But then ...

You realize you forgot to buy coffee beans at the shops (sigh)!

Don't stress - you've got an idea

You have a friendly neighbor who is an avid coffee enthusiast like you.

One problem: you need to get to your neighbors house (hint hint ... you want to move around the DOM).

What's the fastest and most efficient way to get there?

Is it:

1. Walk from your house to their house (since you already know their address remember)?

   or
2. Pull out your phone, swipe your unlock code, look up their address on Google maps, then walk according to the directions Google gives you?

Traversing the DOM ***vs*** Accessing the DOM

If you walk directly from your house to their house, you're doing the equivalent of traversing the DOM (aka: getting one element from a

equivalent of traversing the DOM (aka: getting one element from a neighboring element in the DOM).

If you choose option 2, by looking up their address on Google, you're doing the equivalent of `document.querySelector` or the other DOM access methods to find elements.
Which method is more efficient?

It depends.

Option 1 can be better in some cases - in a simple DOM tree, its much easier to walk over to other elements than it is getting too complicated. However, not always. What if your friend's house is located in some downtown alley in some random street (i.e. what if the node or element you're looking for is heavily nested within other elements)? As you guessed it, option number 2 is the better solution.

Hope this simple analogy is making sense.

Keep going ...

See you in the lectures!