What is JavaScript’s history and why is it so popular in web development?

# Brief history of JavaScript

JavaScript was created by Brendon Eich in 1995 (within ten days). In the early 1990s, Java (a different programming languages) was used in programming webpages, however, Brendon Eich wished to create a simpler-syntax language with increased interactivity in web pages. JavaScript was standardised in 1996 and evolved through the 1990s and 2000s to have far more frameworks that were developed. In 1995, JavaScript was initially called Mocha.

In 2009, a framework called Node.js was created which allowed developers to create entire web applications (front-end and back-end). Around this time period, Node Package Manager (npm) was created and allowed the community to share packages and install packages developed by others.

In 2015, the ES6 version of JavaScript was introduced. This caused many frameworks such as React.js, Angular.js, and Vue.js to be created, increasing the productivity of web applications.

# Static vs Dynamic Content

In the past, websites were mainly static, meaning the page was previously loaded before a person used the web page; any updates would only be shown if the page was refreshed. However, JavaScript allows dynamic content, where information can update while a user is using the web page.

# Asynchronous tasks

Many programming languages are synchronous, meaning that a task needs to be completed before moving onto the next task. However, JavaScript is asynchronous, making it flexible and smooth, when working with a dynamic website.