What does the fetch() method do? How can it be used instead of an AJAX call?

Fetch is a global API method will pull the requested target and fulfill the request when said target is available. It will only quit attempting to fetch if there is a network error. It is similar to ajax but uses less code to preform similar functions.

Ref: https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/API/Fetch_API/Using_Fetch

In JQuery, what does it mean to "traverse the DOM"?

It is the act of moving through the HTML code looking for specific tags and elements that is has been tasked to find. It will search through the parent and children in search of the tag requested. It is almost a form of shorthand for JS to grab html elements to be used, changed, or even removed from the users interface depending on the action needed.

Ref:

https://www.w3schools.com/jquery/jquery_traversing.asp#:~:text=With%20jQuery% 20traversing%2C%20you%20can,moving%20through%20%2D%20the%20DOM%20t ree.

What is your favorite thing you learned this week?