11.3.1   Getting Started with JavaScript Functions

Dana has started to build her code, which is really exciting! When she imported the data, she took the first step in building her website. The next step is to build the table to sort and store the data.

Dana knows that building this table will introduce a new level of complexity involving `for` loops and functions. Thankfully, JavaScript and Python have similar logic, so after Dana reviews and practices with code similar to what she'll use in her project, she'll be ready to start integrating it into her code.

Functions in Python and JavaScript have similar logic: we provide the language with a set of instructions to follow, which can then be reused as needed. Watch the following video to learn more about JavaScript functions.

UFO Sightings with Javascript
Writing JavaScript

1:42

In Python, a simple print statement looks like this:

```
# Simple Python print statement
def print_hello():
    print("Hello there!")
```

In this code, the function is declared with the keyword `def` followed by the name of the function, a set of parentheses, and a colon, with the indented code below.

To write a print statement in JavaScript, we begin the same way: by declaring the function. To do this, we use the keyword `function`. (**Note:** Remember that the JavaScript syntax uses `console.log` instead of `print`.)

```
// Simple JavaScript console.log statement
function printHello();
```

At this point, the process diverges from Python. The next step is to add a set of curly brackets, and then add the indented code between them.

```
// Simple JavaScript console.log statement
function printHello() {
  console.log("Hello there!");
}
```

SKILL DRILL

Return to the console tab of your DevTools and run the JavaScript function you just reviewed.

Get more practice with Python and JavaScript functions in the following activity.

Let's take a closer look at basic functions in JavaScript.