

How to Remix “Taroko Gorge”

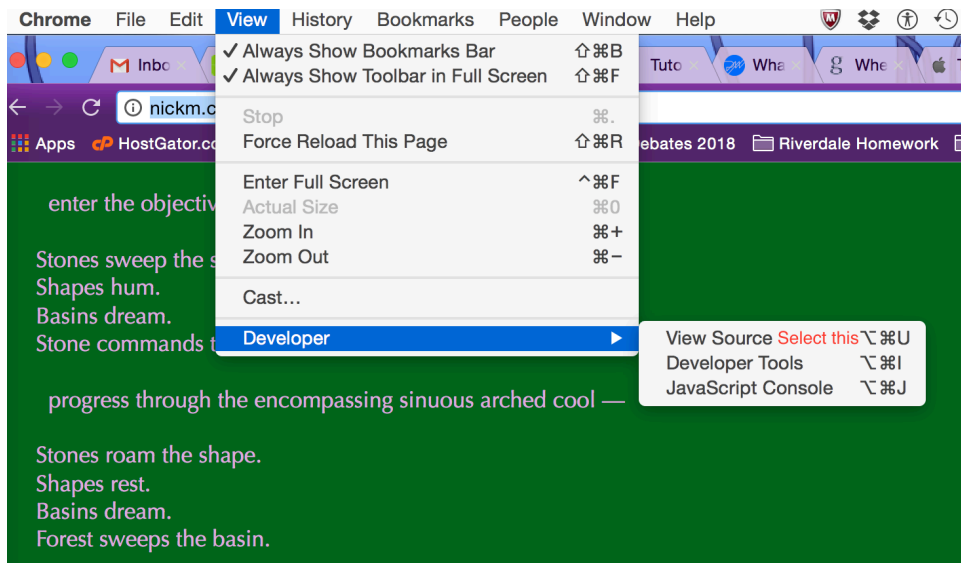
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1. Load “Taroko Gorge” poem in a browser: http://nickm.com/taroko_gorge/
2. View the poem’s source code. Here’s how to do it in Chrome:



This is what the code looks like:

```
<!--
Nick Montfort
Original Python program:
8 January 2009, Taroko Gorge National Park, Taiwan and Eva Air Flight 28
This JavaScript version, with links:
1 March 2016

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-->
<style type="text/css">
/*  */
body {
background: #062;
color: #dad;
margin: 0 24pt 0 24pt;
font-family: Optima, sans-serif;
font-size: 13pt;
}</pre></div>
```

3. Copy the source code.
4. Paste the source code into a text editor. On Mac, I use TextWrangler. On PC, I use Notepad++.
5. Edit any element of the poem except the “OK to copy with attribution” notice at the top of the document. Note that lines 5-27 are “code comments”: these are remarks that are not part of the executable code. Code comments are encased by <!-- [in line 6] and --> [in line 27].
6. The simplest edits are to change the words that will “print” (meaning, display) on the screen. These are lines 50-57.
7. You can experiment with editing the JavaScript, too, to see what it does. I recommend editing one line at a time and checking how it runs before you modify other lines. A good place to start modifying is line 125. This will change the rate at which a line prints. “1200” is milliseconds, or 1.2 seconds.
8. When you’re ready to see how your poem looks on the screen, save the text file as “index.html” to your desktop.
9. Open index.html to see it run! It will open in a new tab of your browser.
10. When you edit your text file to make other modifications, save changes before reloading your Taroko remix.
11. Check out the many remixes Nick Montfort lists on the right side of the original “Taroko Gorge” webpage. View source on these to see how others have remixed. Copy and modify: that’s how you learn.
12. To load your Taroko remix to the Internet, you’ll load it to a server via an FTP client. Many universities and schools allocate free web space to students. Visit the webpage of your school’s office or department of information technology to learn more.